



Pre Season News – March 2015

Well, it hardly seems like any time since the kit was shoved into the garage and we said a fond(?) farewell to the 2014 season. However, time flies as it always does and, before we know what has happened, the new season is nearly upon us. However, there has been no chance for the club to hibernate as preparations for this, our 160th anniversary year, have been made a plenty. As you will see from the Handbook, there will be no shortage of activity during the year.

The Committee took the decision to mark the 160th year with a series of events all designed to increase the profile of the club, engage the local community and raise money for our chosen charity partners for the year: [Princess Alice Hospice](#) and [Motor Neurone Disease Association](#).

The various events will all have mail shots and advertising campaigns of their own so I won't go into too much detail here but some of the key events for your diary are:

- March 28th/ 29th [Nat West Cricket Force pre season preparation weekend at the club](#)
There are lots of tasks needing to be done such as: sight screen repairs and repainting, installing new netting, getting the boundary ropes and covers out of storage, repairing the 2nd square scorehut, litter picking etc.....
Please don't leave this to someone else. Any time you can spare over the weekend will be really helpful. Many hands really do make light work.
Saturday 9:00am onwards; Sunday 10:00 am onwards.
- April 1st to 30th Online Charity Auction via www.jumblebee.co.uk/ashfordcc160th
Click on the link to have a look on the website to see the various lots that are already in place: tickets for some major sporting events, fourball at Wentworth, £150 voucher for a Michelin star restaurant.... If you have anything you can add to the lots to be auctioned, please contact [Paul Frost](#)
- Friday 10th April Signing on night and pre season get together. We will also be holding an EGM in order that we can add an extra line "the provision of facilities for the promotion of participation in cricket" to the Aims and Objectives section of our club rules in order to satisfy the requirement for being a [Community Amateur Sports Club](#) (CASC), which will have many benefits including being able to claim tax back on any donations made to the club
- Sunday 3rd May Charity Fun Run at the Club. Please contact [Keith Manning](#) for more details.
- July 22nd to 26th Cricket Week including match v MCC, junior competitions and culminating in the Finals Day of the Surrey Championship T20 Competition. It's a great honour for the club to be chosen to hold this prestigious event and it will be a great day for showcasing everything good about [Ashford Cricket Club](#) and hopefully there will be a bumper, captive audience for our fundraising efforts.

Ashford Cricket Club

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Aug 30 th & 31 st	Bank Holiday Family Fun Weekend. It's all in the title!! Events planned include the inaugural Ashford Beer Festival, lots of Children's Entertainment, a variety of food and drink, ladies 8 a side and men's 6 a side competitions
Sat 12 th September	President's Day with an exhibition match v an Invitation XI, Drinks Reception for past and present members and a Gala Dinner with guest speaker in a marquee at the club in the evening. It should be a great day for rounding off our anniversary celebrations.

As you will see, this is a varied and ambitious set of plans and the success of this will be dependent on as much voluntary help and support from you, the members, as possible. So PLEASE do anything you can to help YOUR club.

You can keep up to date with all the plans for the season on the club's website: www.ashfordcc.co.uk

Apart from the above, there is also the usual happenings on and off the pitch and a full fixture list during the season. The 1st XI and the 4th XI are both in higher divisions having been promoted in 2014 and all the teams will be under the same captaincy as last year. Thanks and good luck to all the captains and their teams. Friendly fixtures start on the weekend of 18th/19th April, the ladies [Southern Cricket League](#) on Sunday 28th April and all the [Surrey Championship](#) campaigns start on Saturday 9th May. We also have our first round SC T20 cup match away to Chertsey on Sunday 26th April. The road to the ACG starts there!!

Volunteers for Junior Managers required...

There is a full set of junior fixtures for teams from under 10s through to under 15s. The club is always looking to volunteers to help run the junior section and, in particular, we are looking for managers for the under 10s and under 11s groups. The main requisites would be your time and enthusiasm rather than cricketing expertise. There are fully qualified coaches to help run the Friday evening training sessions so it's the organising of the teams for matches where the help is really needed. If you can help, please contact [Mark Doggett](#). First junior practices start on Friday 10th April from 6.15 pm.

Younger Cricketers – Staying in the Game....

We're not running an under 17s team this season mainly because of the school exam commitments but we are hoping to organise some 20:20 fixtures or similar for our under 19s. In order to promote cricket in this age group, [Keith Manning](#) has taken on the role of Younger Persons Rep so, again, if you can assist or have some ideas (they don't have to be traditional!) about what the club should be providing for this age range then please talk to Keith or his son Liam.

New Club Captain, Ladies Rep and Membership Secretary.....

With regards to the management of the club, the main changes from last year are: [Trevor Langworth](#) taking over as Club Captain – this is a very onerous position within the club overseeing the playing section and Trevor will be looking on all the members for their support during the year; [Katie Butler](#) is the new Ladies Rep and [Jim Berressem](#) is taking over the role of Membership Secretary.

These girls can....

Our ladies indoor team have continued their winning form this winter by becoming Surrey Indoor Cricket champions and subsequently reached the semi finals of the Southern Regional Finals. Yet another success for the ladies who go from strength to strength due to committed practice and coaching, enthusiasm and a great team spirit – role models for anyone playing sport – well done!!!
[Click here for a detailed report of the tournament is on the website.](#)

Subs....

This year all the membership information is being kept securely on the club's website and we are asking [all members to pay their subs online via the GoCardless direct debit payment portal on the website](#). This will only take you a couple of minutes to set up and will ease the administrative burden on the club immeasurably. A payment reminder email will be sent directly to all the members in the next few days with details of how to pay. It should direct you to the required link within the [Payment](#) of our website and then just follow the on screen instructions. Details of the various subscription rates and match fees are on the last inside page of the handbook and the payment section of the website will also take you to the various payment products. There is also, you will note, the opportunity to make [donations to the club with Gift Aid](#), which would turn a £10 donation into £12.50 for the club with the tax claimed back if you are a UK taxpayer. Feel free to make as many donations as you want!!! Please pay your annual subscription promptly and also make sure you have sufficient money on you to pay your match fees whenever you are playing – it all helps!!

New kit supplier....

This year there is a new range of club kit available from our new kit supplier [Kalibazar](#). The new range includes some commemorative items for the 160th anniversary, of which there will be a £1 charity donation for any item purchased. Samples of the new kit will be available on the signing on evening (10th April). The club shop link on the website is due to go live very soon but you can click on this link <https://shop.kalibazar.co.uk/club/ashfordcc> for a sneak preview. As you will see there is an extensive range of playing and leisure wear and the opportunity to buy gift vouchers: So birthday, Christmas and, for those who like to live life dangerously, anniversary presents all sorted!

Time for tea.....

Unfortunately, Nev has retired from doing the teas, which is a great shame to say the least and I'm sure we all wish to thank Nev for her efforts over the last few years. The teas have really been the envy of every other club. However, on a positive note, it will probably mean leaner cricketers wearing the Ashford colours this summer and maybe less lethargic fielding after tea. Although the club has a couple of avenues it is still exploring for this year's teas, we would still welcome anyone who may volunteer to take on the role during the season. Just contact [myself](#) or [Paul Frost](#) and we can discuss accordingly what is required and, of course, the payment terms!

Sponsorship....

One of the key issues surrounding the club is its financial stability. Generally, the club has been funded by the income it raises from subscriptions and match fees. However, if it is to thrive, it really needs external sponsorship. This can be in various forms from paying for a match ball, having an advert in the handbook or an advertising banner at the club through to sponsoring a team or a whole section of the club. The club has various sponsorship packages available and it is a great way for a company to show its community and social awareness as well as advertising itself and what it does. If you know of any individual or company who may wish to sponsor the club, especially in this anniversary season, please let [Paul Frost](#) know.

200 Club.....

This is a great way of supporting the club financially and possibly winning some money at the same time. Tickets are £12 each and can be paid by cash, cheque or, preferably, by bank standing order. Currently we have 64 members owing a total of 270 tickets. Half of the total collected goes on prizes and the other half is donated back to the Club. Last year's donation was £1683. Draws for prizes of £100, £50 and £25 are held every other month during the year with annual bonus prizes of £500 and £250 drawn in November. [Click on this link to download a standing order form for completion](#). First draw of 2015 / 16 will be in April. Be in it to win it – much better odds than the lottery!

Lastly, have a great season, enjoy your cricket and, please, do everything you can to support YOUR Club.

[Chris White](#), Chairman