



The Philanderers CC

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What with a very bleak winter and the atrocious showing of the England team in the Ashes, not to mention the ECB seemingly unable to manage the game at the top end, I have found it difficult to garner enthusiasm for producing the first Newsletter of the year. However, now that I have started, I assume that my spirit will improve as I stroll through various aspects of the club I wish to bring to your attention. Well, either that or I shall start crying!!!

So let me start with the fixture list which is somewhat reduced for the coming season and which is primarily due to availability problems last year and my feeling that I was perhaps expecting too much on that front. Therefore, I have reduced the Sunday fixtures by four to 10 and the midweek games by the same number to 5. Clubs "dropped", who comprised our newest opponents, all received emails of explanation. Hopefully fewer matches will concentrate minds and lead to greater availability. May I add that this reduction was carried out with a heavy heart and that I will be happy to increase fixtures in the future if it is warranted. The fixture list is shown in full on the website.

On the fixture front, and having nothing better to do, I determined the XI which so carelessly took part in our most recent Sunday defeat versus Flycatchers on 28th June, 2015. Naming and shaming, these comprised George Pearson (captain), Ben Cassels, Rory Davidson, George Dean, Jack Dillon, Nat Gimson, Rob Hammond, Stuart Harris, Richard Hesketh, Jamie Rutt & Guy Skinner. Despite that aberration 2015 was an active year with 28 fixtures and well attended Barbeque and 2 Dinners. However, on the Sunday front only Chippenham and Flycatchers remain on the fixture list which represents quite a turnaround in opponents.

As regards tours, this will be another fallow year although I did put in a few weeks of effort to organise one but met with too many difficulties for the project to take place. However, that effort should result in a journey to North Devon next year whilst it is my intention arrange a Netherlands tour in 2024. I should now mention that subsequent to writing this paragraph I received an email from Will Hammond suggesting that a trip to Kigali in Rwanda might be considered. I await membership views in due course.

Should you stay onto the fixture list on the website you will see that both the Golf Championship & Real Tennis Tournament are again scheduled to take place this year but each will require sufficient support from the membership to actually happen. The golf in particular has a requirement from Royal Worlington for 12 to participate so please put the date in your diaries otherwise we will lose the privilege of playing there.

Socially the club is sadly moribund by general acclaim. This is at odds with the original concept which I had and indeed at variance with the programme for most of the club's history, as exhibited by mention of 2015 above. Never the less the Elders maintain this somewhat lost ethos by meeting for lunch every couple of months, as shown by the recently taken photograph at the foot of the Newsletter. Indeed, I have now added a Christmas lunch in December for the Elders and their Eldresses and to which anyone of a younger faith is most welcome to come along.

Inertia has to date prevented me from dealing with membership matters. Thus, I have nothing to report on that front although my loins will be girded in the very near future. However, we have already received a body blow in losing two gifted players for at least next season. Mihir Chandraker is on a 2- year work secondment in Singapore whilst, as you are all aware, Will Hammond has taken up the position of Director of Cricket Builds Hope in Rwanda. I am certain that everyone will join me in wishing them both every success in their ventures whilst of-course eagerly awaiting their return to the fold.

My chosen charity for 2022 is the Royal National Lifeboat Institution and which I hope meets with everyone's approval. The extremely vital work carried out by the RNLI, which is entirely charity funded, has been viewed for some years now in the TV documentary series showing the bravery and fortitude of the almost entirely volunteer lifeboat men and women.

I am pleased to report that the Chestnut Group, now renamed simply as Chestnut, has kindly agreed to once again be the club's website sponsor. The support is most appreciated.

The conclusion of this communique is, I feel, virtually upon me. Doubtless some readers had that very same feeling somewhat earlier! I am not totally convinced that my spirit has been greatly lifted but I have at least got a few things off my chest and brought you all up to date with the current position at the club. A positive outcome to my forthcoming membership and playing

availability drive will undoubtedly bring joy to the Bunker. I may even get the Christmas decorations out once more. That aside I have this feeling at the back of my mind that the 2022 season will have a formative affect on the club's future. Whether we retain the current high-level opposition and maybe even progress from there, and perhaps get at least one Dinner back on the menu, or take another step in a reverse direction are the options. Obviously, I would much prefer the former but I have the feeling that 2022 will be a definitive year. End of sermon. However, please rest assured that I remain generally modestly optimistic!

Phil

8th March, 2022

www.thephilandererscc.net



Elders bravely socialising in the depths of winter