



Annual Report - 2017

This is the first annual report of the incorporated charity Leamington Cricket Club which commenced trading on 1 January 2017, the charity took over the activity of the former club at that point. The accounting period for the club and its trading subsidiary on the advice of our accountants has been changed to the calendar year. Therefore it is likely that all future AGMs will be in April or May giving us time to have the accounts prepared.

As the club is now a charity its accounts are in a very different format and for this year there are unfortunately no comparable figures. There are now two sets of accounts one for the club (the charity) and one for the wholly owned trading subsidiary (Leamington Cricket Club Trading) which operates the bar.

2017 was I am pleased to report a year of stability both on and off the field. The first XI finished the season in the same league as they started for the first time in eight seasons! All other senior teams the third XI excepted performed as hoped for including a late October promotion for our fourth XI.

Off the field our finances are continuing the relatively strong position reported last year and have allowed us for the 2018 season to recruit an overseas player /coach for the full season for the first time in many years. William Mashinge a young Zimbabwean international joined us in April and has already been given a warm Arlington Avenue welcome. This appointment is particularly important this year with the Birmingham league restructure as it is the club's view that it is essential that we remain in our division to retain Birmingham league status. William's role is very much as a club coach and hopefully all players young and old will be able to benefit from his experience and talent.

I am pleased to report that we have retained all our existing sponsors for 2018 and are working on a number of new opportunities. We are very grateful for the continued support of our sponsors, in particular the Wigley Group, BPS and Handles Property. Their support allows us to provide what we hope are the best cricket facilities in the county and an opportunity for as many people as possible to play cricket.

Many will hopefully have seen the now level Flavells Ground, this was a major work over the last close season with grant support and should be a great improvement, sadly the weather has been so wet in the last few months that we have only now been able to cut the grass properly, things should hopefully improve! We continue to invest in ground improvements and cricket equipment and further initiatives will hopefully be announced during the coming months.

We are now almost at capacity in terms of the cricket we can offer with adult, youth, women and girls cricket being offered on virtually every day of the week between April and September.

Turning to women's cricket, in June 2017 we were lucky enough to host the first ever women's 'Prosecco Cricket' soft ball festival this was a great success and has been used as a model for other such festivals across England. Last year we reported on a women's initiative with Kenilworth wardens which sadly didn't work as we would have wished and for 2018 we have a joint-venture with Berkswell which is already looking promising, we have a girls only all-stars hub and our 8 to 13-

year-old girls coaching section is full. We have also been fortunate to secure sponsorship for our women and girls cricket from local solicitors Blythe Liggins.

Youth cricket continues to flourish under the stewardship of Mark Davison with a now excellent winter programme complementing our oversubscribed summer coaching. There were a number of great league wins for age groups last season but particular mention must go to our under 15's who won the under 15 Premier league for the first time. This was quite an achievement considering the teams involved and is testament to the fantastic team spirit engendered by Paul Glover.

Thank you to our president Paul Wilson whose initiative to create a cricket working party to focus on player recruitment and all things cricket over the 2017 winter period seems to have borne early fruit with a number of winter recruits already putting in match-winning early-season performances. This was the first time that we have ever had such a working party and it is definitely a model which will be repeated in coming seasons.

Finally I would like to thank the very many volunteers who give so much of their time and efforts to the club whether as coaches, committee members, barmen, burger flippers, supporters or gardeners! Your ongoing support allows us to be the success which we are. I wish all involved with Leamington Cricket Club a very successful 2018 season

Kevin Mitchell
Chairman
May 2018