

BLEDLLOW RIDGE CRICKET CLUB

Meadow Styles Sports Ground, Chinnor Road, Bledlow Ridge



Chairman's Report to the Annual General Meeting 2020

It was fifteen months ago that I was asked to become interim chairman of the Club, and a year ago when I chaired my first AGM and was re-elected. It has been busy time. Looking back on 2019 there have been a number of significant events.

We very sadly lost Hairbear in December 2018 but I doubt that anyone then would have imagined how his spirit and his memory lives on in our beautifully refurbished club house. And now a year after his untimely passing we are starting to plan stage 2 of that refurbishment. When we have an outline plan, we intend to bring it to a consultation meeting of the club so that you can all see what is planned and have input.

My main task of last year was to lead the process of achieving accreditation for Clubmark, which I am pleased to say was successful. Whilst Clubmark is largely a paper-based exercise it is extremely wide ranging and has forced us to rewrite many of the club's rules and regulations.

In particular we have had to rewrite the club constitution. The committee took the view that this was an opportunity to streamline the way we work, so now the constitution provides a broad framework governing the club, and all the details are published in regulations which cover the various facets of our activities. I understand that Clubmark accreditation will soon be a prerequisite to accessing ECB funding and for junior teams to take part in league cricket. You will be asked to approve the revised constitution at this AGM.

Other important matters to mention are that we had the services of a professional grounds man and that he has been retained for the 2020 season. We also now have an active Playing Committee dealing with all cricket related matters. Work is underway too to write up a history of the club and to record the feats of teams past on a club honours' board.

Now looking ahead to 2020, I see a number of things to tackle aside from the stage 2 refurbishment of the club house.

First we must work to increase and stabilize our income in order to give us the funds to improve the facilities and opportunities that we have. We could really do with someone to take on the role of fundraising/social activities organiser. At present those functions are largely being carried out in an ad hoc way by volunteers from within the committee. Secondly, I think that we must consider whether our legal framework as an informal association of members is appropriate to the modern age. Many if not most sports clubs are 'limited by guarantee' companies and I think that have to consider following suit. Last but not least, we must obtain a food hygiene certificate as a condition of our

third-party liability insurance policy. Again, it would be a great help to the club if someone would offer to do this on our behalf. Finally, I'd like to thank all of you for your support over the

last year and for the year to come. We can only try to get things right. Fortunately, for the most part, I'd like to think that we succeed.

Mike Beattie
Chairman

December 2019