



Stoke D'Abernon Cricket Club

The Recreation Ground, Stoke D'Abernon, Surrey KT11 3PS

February 2017

Dear Member

Happy New Year – I hope that 2017 will be a successful one for you and your family.

This newsletter provides some important information about the 2017 season and asks for your help.

1. **Annual General Meeting**

The annual renewal of our status as a Community Amateur Sports Club (CASC) together with the renewal of our licence to sell alcohol, requires us to have an annual general meeting, the purpose of which is to elect the club officers and approve the club accounts. Previous AGM's have traditionally taken place at noon on a Sunday in February or March and have rarely taken longer than 45 minutes to complete. Our constitution requires at least 10 members to be in attendance to approve the various items on the agenda. Typically, the same 10-15 people have made the annual trek down to the clubhouse to do the necessary. *So, we are going to try something different this year by combining the AGM with a social event...*

This year's AGM will be held at 600pm on Saturday March 11th, followed by our second 'Clear the Beer' event. Asahi will be sold at a bargain price of £2.50 per pint and food will be available (curry or fish and chips). Please try and attend – our first 'Clear the Beer' event was held during the Christmas holiday and we raised more than £500 from bar sales alone.

2. **Volunteers**

We have a couple of vacancies and we urgently need your help. Neither role demands much time – my best guess is a couple of hours a month between May and August in any given year. Ideally, we need a Colts parent for each role:

- ***Club Secretary:*** Running the relationship with Elmbridge Borough Council, taking minutes at committee meetings and ensuring the club is compliant with the licensing laws.
- ***Clubmark and Welfare Officer:*** Being the accredited signatory for DBS certificates that every volunteer requires if they are coaching or managing colts. Plus maintenance of the Clubmark file that is a requirement of playing in the Surrey Championship.

In both cases, there will be an appropriate handover of duties from the previous incumbents to the new ones. Please give these vacancies some serious thought. The club relies on volunteers to keep it in good shape! Please email me if you are interested in helping andrew.patrick@btconnect.com

3. **Subscriptions**

We have decided not to increase our membership fees for 2017 and these will remain set at the 2016 level. Sarah Trower and Shannon Clinton will soon be sending out membership forms for the upcoming season and I ask you all to complete and return your forms as quickly as possible, preferably settling your fees via online banking.

4. **Sponsors**

Cricket clubs are notoriously expensive to run. It now costs approximately £15,000 per annum just to maintain the square and there are plenty of other maintenance and running costs to keep the show on the road. Our club breaks even at best and loses a few thousand pounds at worst in most financial years. We rely on the goodwill of individual donors and sponsors, plus the support of the ECB and the National Lottery to finance the 'extras' in any given year. So, I am delighted to confirm that we have secured two sponsors for this year:

SyBlue have kindly agreed to renew their arrangement as the club's main sponsor and will pay us £10,000 in March so that we will be able to refurbish and relay the nets at the recreation ground.

Our Trust League and T30 teams will be sponsored by **Fred Perry**, with a donation of £1,000 to cover the cost of new coloured tops.

5. **Loan Repayment**

Many of you will recall the massive effort that went into raising £250,000 to extend and refurbish our Clubhouse. Members raised approximately £120,000, the ECB and the National Lottery (Sport England) donated another £100,000 and the funding was completed by a 7 year interest free loan of £35,000 from the ECB. Loan repayments cost the club £5,000 per annum and the outstanding balance at the end of 2016 was £26,500. We cope with the repayments, but it would be great to clear this debt as soon as possible. With this in mind, we will be hosting a few special fund-raising events during the season, including a colts and seniors Sunday fun day in the summer.

Another very easy way to help is to go on line at stokecc.co.uk to make a donation. The site is linked to 'Just Giving' and we reclaim an extra 25 pence of Gift Aid on every pound that is donated.

Finally, thank you for your ongoing support. We have a very special club. We are often described by various officials at Surrey CCC as a 'role model' for other clubs in the county and we'd like to maintain this reputation.

Best wishes



Andrew Patrick
Chairman