Stoke D'Abernon Cricket Club

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

Chairman Letter – January 2026

Dear Members,

As we are well on our way into the new year it is time to start thinking about the 2026 season ahead. Following the conclusion of last season, the committee has held a number of meetings and gathered feedback from parents, players, and long-standing members. As a result, several changes will be implemented ahead of the 2026 season.

Junior Preseason Training:

Firstly and to start immediately, we have secured the following pre-season training sessions for Stoke Junior age groups (U9 Hard Ball, U10/U11 and U12/13). Please visit the links below:

U9 (Hard Ball)
https://bookwhen.com/powerplaycricket/e/ev-sbwrk-20260110143500

U10/11
https://bookwhen.com/powerplaycricket/e/ev-s6msp-20260118163000

U12/U13
https://bookwhen.com/powerplaycricket/e/ev-s9dgf-20260116180500

Junior 2026 Season Training (Girls & Boys)

Powerplay Cricket Coaching will continue to be the exclusive coaching provider for the Junior section. Following honest feedback from managers, parents and after consulting the Powerplay team, the committee have decided to split training for the 2026 season as follows:

Thursday Evenings:

- Girls - 5pm - 6:30pm
- U14s - 6:30pm - 8pm

Friday Evenings:

- U8, U9, U10 – 5pm - 6:30pm
- U11, U12 and U13 - 6:30pm - 8pm

Sunday Mornings:

- U5 - U7 – 9:00am – 10:00am

Training for all age groups will commence **w/c 20th April 2026**. There will be **no sessions during half term from 25th May – 1st June 2026**.
To support the needs of all age groups and to strengthen the player pathway (Junior players into Senior League players, as well as representing County age groups), coaching for each age group will comprise of:

1 x Dedicated Senior Powerplay Coach
1 x Junior Powerplay Coach

Along with the Managers/Coaches and other parent volunteers.

New for 2026: Additional Friday Night Training and Stoke Academy

We are offering an optional **additional 5-week Friday Night Training program,** with all age groups being consolidated to Friday nights. These sessions will be coached by Powerplay, run throughout July and conclude on the 7th August 2026.

As well as the additional 5-week training offer for all, we are pleased to announce the **relaunch of the STOKE ACADEMY** in 2026. This Academy aims to further develop our talented young cricketers (U9-U13), supporting both personal goals and the club's long-term aim of having them progress into both representative and Senior Club cricket.

The Stoke Academy will take place on Saturday afternoons at the Club and;

- Be run by Powerplay
- Be strictly invite only, with Powerplay Coaches selecting this (this is not an age group managerial decision)
- There is no maximum or minimum number of children per age group, but the focus will be on specialised high performance training

There will be an additional cost to this that will be purchased through Powerplay should your child be selected and you wish for them to attend.

Membership:

After a year of frozen membership prices, the committee has taken the difficult decision to increase memberships for the 2026 season. Despite this, we are **offering a £30 kit voucher on all subs which are paid in full before the 28th February 2026.** Should you take up this fantastic offer, you will receive your voucher in early March, to then use towards ordering kit ahead of the season.

Following the updated training structure outlined above, there are two membership options with each age group band:

1. including the **10 week** coaching
2. Including the **15 week** coaching

Please note that members on the 10 week option will not be able to attend the additional training sessions.

Please purchase your membership through **Pitchero** online or through the app. As with last season, we will send a membership request out, then you should see it in your account, in the shopping basket or payment section of the app, or alternatively they are available to purchase now through the app. Please also make sure all your personal details are up to date and that you have filled in the correct consent forms under your account details, including for your children. For any questions relating to membership, please contact Dan Risk (danrisk32@hotmail.co.uk - Seniors) or Mike Phillips (mikep@mikeuk.com - Juniors).

Kit

As advised last year, all Junior Section (Girls and Boys) are required to purchase a coloured shirt for the 2026 season, and to wear this for both training and matches.

A link to the club shop can be found here: https://www.seriousssport.co.uk/teamstores/stoke-dabernon

The ECB have issued guidance around the use of headguards attached to helmets. While not mandatory, the club strongly advises all junior and senior players to use neck guards, but the decision is at each player and parents own risk.

New Senior Captains:

For those who haven't seen our Instagram announcement, I am delighted to confirm, that we have three new Senior captains for the 2026 Season as all three sides look to secure three promotions in 2026.

1st XI: Jamie Sones
2nd XI: Dan Risk
3rd XI: Ollie Bailey

Senior Training:

All senior training (1st, 2nd, 3rd, Over 40's, and U15 – U18s) will continue to take place on **Wednesday evenings 6 - 8pm** and will be run by Senior Head Coach - Ian Hopton.

Sunday Cricket:

We are actively promoting our Sunday XI and already have a strong fixture list in place. Whether you are new to the club, new to the game, returning after time away, or a long-standing member, Sunday Cricket offers a relaxed, friendly and enjoyable environment. Our Senior Colts are encouraged to provide their availability for these games too, as it is a great way to be introduced into Senior cricket. Please contact stokecc@hotmail.com if you are interested.

Other Updates Ahead of the season

New Non Turf Pitch (New Astro)

We are in the final stages of submitting planning for the new Non-Turf Pitch. Once this is approved then we will instruct Slatters to put the pitch in. We are aiming to have this in place for the forthcoming coming season.

Sponsorship:

I am delighted to announce that we have a new sponsor in JobLogic for the 2026 season - https://www.joblogic.com/

We as a committee, also thank **Altus Investment Management Ltd, Parkside School** and **Powerplay Cricket** for their continued to support the club.

John D Wood (Cobham) are once again offering a £500 cash back to the club if you sell your house through them! Please just say you're a member and they will donate this!

For those that don't know the club heavily rely on sponsorship to manage day to day rising costs and are actively looking for new sponsors for this season and beyond. We have boards available at the front of the clubhouse and space on the shirt. If you are interested, please contact James Trower - sdccfundraising-sponsorship@outlook.com

Social Events – Dates for the Diary:

Please follow us on Instagram for all updates but we have the following dates for the diary!

21st February – Senior Nets and Six Nations at the Clubhouse
18th April – Club Day and Outdoor Senior Nets
9th May – Senior League Opening and Darts Night
17th June – Senior Nets and then England Vs Croatia
26th June – Stoke Smash!
27th June – Senior League Match and then, England Vs Panama
11th July – Club Social
22nd August – Club Social
4th September – Provisional Colts Evening Awards
5th September – Senior Awards Evening
28th November – Christmas Party

The AGM details will be shared in the coming weeks once a date has been confirmed.

On behalf of myself and the entire committee, we look forward to welcoming you back to the Rec over the coming months.

Many thanks,

James Trower
Chairman
Stoke D'Abernon Cricket Club