Chairman Reports

From Colin Greetham
Outgoing Chairman
Sutton Coldfield Cricket Club

By recent standards this past season has been very disappointing. To arrive at this conclusion is relatively easy, by analysing the stats and finding ourselves playing in Division Two in 2017 emphasises the point. The First Eleven were not good enough! But before we come to believe that, consider circumstances prevailing...........team squad members were the same as in 2015, but no one who has been a long standing member here can remember the number of serious injuries to players as in 2016. This had a knock on effect not only to the First Eleven but also to the other sides.

Other factors affected team performance.......loss of form......poor attendance at practice.......inconsistent availability.......unfortunate personal circumstances.

Undoubtedly the team members failed to gel as in past. The breakdown of effective communication between teams and Management, which undoubtedly affected team moral and ethos. Trying to analyse the situation in great depth is a waste of energy which can be put to more effective use, but the mistakes must be recognised and acted upon if we are to pick up again. We have talented players, good coaches and strategies which have brought success.....why try to fix what isn't broken?

The Club should play at the highest level possible, provide coaching to develop players at every level and bring youngsters through to enable them to challenge for first team cricket. BDPCL is due for reorganisation in the very near future...to play in that League must be a main objective. Surviving at that level depends on the Junior section developing our youngsters and providing talented cricketers to supply a feeder stream into the senior sides. Also the senior players must be mentally prepared and talented enough to compete at that level.

I am pleased to say that the Club is generally in good shape.....we have very good facilities due to be enhanced by the addition of a new ground store (the removal of the containers will tidy up the surrounds) . A sound bank balance, group of enthusiastic sponsors, committee structure which is effective (given all posts are filled), good social and changing facilities, training facilities both winter and summer and a development plan which gives good direction. The junior section has increased numbers attending Friday training, suppling the Club with a steady flow of youngsters who are eager to learn to play and funds which enhance the bank balance. Sides are regularly playing in the Warwickshire Leagues often challenging, as this year in the play offs for County titles.
Chairman Reports

To move the Club forward our communication at all levels must improve. That is why it is pleasing to see a new committee position which will bring aspects of communication closer together and hopefully be more effective. It is challenging but not beyond our means to organise communication systems which embrace all levels of membership and regularly update on important issues. Players, Coaches, Committee Members and others, must maintain an open dialogue so that important issues can be fully discussed.

In order to continue the process of developing the Club, providing a sporting and social facility to be proud of and encouraging the community to recognise and become part of what we do, personnel are always required to help manage the organisation. Fresh, young, enthusiastic people with new ideas are needed to keep the Club moving forward. This is no more necessary than at the present time when playing the game....although most important....is only part of what is required to keep a Club such as ours functioning. I ask you all to consider giving some of your valuable time to help in this way.

There are number of volunteers who give valuable service to the Club in many areas.....preparing teas.....Friday. BBQ and admin.....helping on the ground.....coaching and managing Junior sides. All these folk work very hard and our sincere thanks go to them. There is always room for others to come on board and lend a hand.

Since becoming a member over 25 years ago, I have always held a position of some responsibility. I wish to remain a member of the Club and help wherever possible but without the responsibilities of being a committee member. It is time for me to hand the baton over, so with effect from the AGM on 7th November 2016, I have resigned as Chairman of Sutton Coldfield Cricket. I have done my best to move the Club forward. By and large we have been very successful over the past five years. I am confident this can and will continue.

I wish the Club all the very best for the future and express sincere thanks to those who have worked closely with me and supported the developments which have brought the Club to its present position. There is plenty more to come and look forward to seeing the Club becoming an even greater force in local cricket.

Best wishes,
Colin Greetham
Chairman Reports

From Steve Russell
Chairman, Sutton Coldfield Cricket Club

I am extremely proud to have been elected as Chairman of Sutton Coldfield Cricket Club and hope to carry on the excellent work of Colin Greetham. I would personally like to thank Colin for all of his hard work and excellent leadership over the past 5 years as Chairman. I am fortunate to be supported by an excellent and experienced committee who are all committed to continuing the development of Sutton Coldfield as a place where all with a love of cricket are welcome and to providing a high quality venue to both play and watch the game.

Over the coming weeks I am meeting with all my colleagues to agree our priorities for moving the club forward. Even though it is the closed season, much work needs to be done to ensure the ground is prepared for next season, captains are appointed, winter practice arrangements are finalised and so forth. In particular Roy Hopwood our Communications Manager and I will be sitting down to review how we communicate effectively to all our players and supporters. We are keen that communications are a two-way process, and I would be pleased to hear from any of you who have ideas on how we are operating as a club. As a committee we are here to represent you, our members. I hope over the coming months to meet as many of you as possible to hear what you have to say about the way the club should be run.

We are keen to involve more people in the running of the club. We have several committee roles that remain unfilled but I am also keen to hear from anyone who is happy to be involved on an ad-hoc/more informal basis. If you are prepared to help in any capacity, in the first instance, please contact me via the club email address.

Kind regards,
Steve Russell