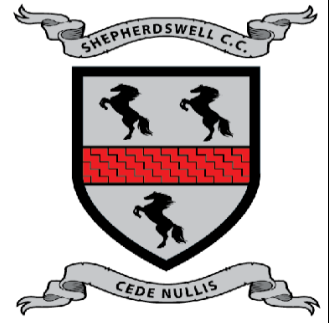


Won, Drawn & Quartered



The Official, Quarterly News Publication of Shepherdswell Cricket Club.

Issue: 9

View from the Chair

Our former Chairman, Wicketkeeper-Batsman & Groundsman, Dr Richard Webster, offers his musings on cricket and life.

Happy New Year to you all. Let's hope that it is better than last year.

The view from the chair this morning is of a frozen pond and frost everywhere. Hardly ideal cricket weather. It feels a long time ago that the cricket season ended and much has happened since then. But first let's reflect on last season. Some good results for the club, excellent youth sessions and matches and new blood coming in to the first team. What looked like an enjoyable presentation night and end of season 'putting the square to bed' – how I miss shifting 50 odd bags of loam around!

On a personal note the highlight of last season was being at Edgbaston to see Kent win the T20 Blast final. A great day out.

The closed season seems to have been dominated by a number of gates in the village; 'tree gate', 'pavilion gate', 'recreation ground gate'. There are times that I wish that I hadn't succumbed to Facebook. Viewed from afar it is a pity that issues that could easily have been resolved get blown out of all proportion on social media when a simple conversation could have solved the matter.

Perhaps more serious is 'Yorkshire gate' (if I can call it that). It is good that players have been able to speak out about racism as there is clearly

no place for any discrimination in any sport. As a club, Shepherdswell CC has embraced allcomers and I have had the privilege of playing cricket with and against a whole range of different people.

Enough of that – let's focus on the cricket. The 4th Ashes test is on as I write and it's not good viewing. Actually, I am not viewing it at all as it's in the middle of the night and I like to sleep. The T20 series against the West Indies is at a more acceptable time so I will see if I can squeeze those into the diary.

And so to next season...what can we look forward to? Firstly, let's hope that Covid levels reduce significantly so that teas are reintroduced. Surely, we can't let this tradition slip away. Personally, I am looking forward to playing a few more games than last year – moving house in the middle of the season is not to be recommended. I am looking forward to meeting up with my new team again and getting to know them better. I am looking forward to watching a lot more live cricket, but the dilemma is where? From where we live now, we can get to Leicester, Birmingham, Northants, Middlesex quite easily but will probably keep our Kent membership. It would seem churlish to relinquish that given how well they finished last season.

To everyone involved in Shepherdswell Cricket Club I hope that you enjoy the rest of the closed season and that you are looking forward to a new and better season in 2022.

Richard, Ex-Chairman Shepherdswell Cricket Club.

Sponsorship

Shepherdswell Cricket Club are looking for sponsors for our fixture card ahead of the 2022 season.

Our fixture card has a distribution of at least 1,000, with every junior and senior member being given a card, and cards are located at key village locations such as the T42 Community Cafe and The Bell Inn. Cards are also left at every away ground we visit.

Sponsorship costs are:

£30 for a half page advert
£50 for a full page advert

This price also includes digital advertising produced by the club. This includes:

- 3 Facebook posts featuring an image and key information about your service/ business (one to welcome you to club, a second during the season and a third thanking you for your support at the end of the season). Each of our Facebook posts has a reach of around 500.

- Your details, logo and information will be located on our club website (<http://shepherdswellcricket.club/sponsorship/>), which has traffic of over 1,000 views per season.

For more information please contact the club by messaging our Facebook page or contact Ben Spurgeon (07934405852 or bspurgeon@btinternet.com).

Platinum Duck

A View from the non-striker's end. Our erstwhile, 2018 Man of the Season, Dmitri Lugthart, offers his latest thoughts.

January. Probably the most objectionable word in any village cricketer's vocabulary. We sit largely blanketed in grim darkness, surveying the latest abject efforts of an England touring team, as they manfully recover to make half a game of it in a dead rubber. We are tired. The time zones that England play in don't tie in very well with the hours the boss wants me to work. The phone keeps going off. Is this the opportunity I need to fill that troublesome fixture in August, which we will probably have to call off anyway because most of the oppo have gone on holiday without mentioning it to the skipper? What cricketer worth their salt would go on holiday in the Summer anyway? Madness.

January. It's an awfully long time ago that we took that sparkling 3-71, trapping their gun batsman at deep cow in a cunningly thought out trap. He didn't even make it to 80. Ha. It seems an equally long time ago that we battled the gloom and the opposition spinners for a gallant 7 not out in 45 balls to scramble a draw. Sometimes the timed game is our friend even if Dickie has stomped off in a strop because we didn't try to make a game of it. I'm telling you, Dickie, if your fixture Secretary doesn't ring our fixture secretary, then you don't have to play us.

January. It's cold. A long way from when the mercury nudges a giddy twenty degrees and the erstwhile skipper starts moaning about how he has to field at slip, because he can't possibly be expected to move in this insane heat. It's wet, but we don't have to check the weather radar on our whizzy weather app because it doesn't really matter if it stops raining or not and tea will be taken regardless and it will actually include some tea rather than half a gallon of enamel peeling squash. It's windy. Not the sort of wind that will help the "away swinger", or the sort of wind where the slow bowler chortles when given the ball and drops in the quip about not reaching the other end.

January. Not long before it's February. Then March. Hang on. We start next month.

Fundraising

Dover District Community Lottery

The club continues to be registered with Dover District Council's Community Lottery Scheme. Tickets are available at a cost £1, of which the club receives 50%. There a wide range of excellent prizes available, if your ticket features the lucky numbers! Draws continue to happen weekly so it's definitely not too late to get involved! Please follow the link below to purchase tickets and support the club and Dover community!

<https://www.doverlotto.com/suppo.../shepherdswell-cricket-club>

Easyfundraising

An incredibly "easy" way to support the club is to register with Easyfundraising (for more details please watch this clip https://youtu.be/Sn2dsQGAe_w). The club have currently raised almost £60 through this means, it is completely free to use! All monies raised through Easyfundraising will be spent on purchasing coaching equipment for our Youth Coaching Sessions. Follow the link below to find out more and sign up!

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/.../shepherdswellcricketc.../>



Youth Section Update

2021 was another fantastic year for our Youth Section, here are some of our highlights:

- 5 Development XI fixtures fulfilled, with 8 players making their debut at that level this season and showing fantastic enthusiasm. All the players showed great spirit and everyone scored runs, claimed wickets and took catches this year!

- Record attendance for our under 9s softball group, with 26 players our record attendance at one session for that age group!

- Some of our more experienced Development XI players have made their debuts for the Sunday XI and are contributing regularly, with one of them scoring their first 50 this season and another claiming regular wickets!

- Being awarded over £2,000 in grant funding from the England Cricket Board and Dover District Council to support the continued growth of our Youth Section!

- Most importantly, the positive attitude and enthusiasm of every single youth member makes it a pleasure for all of our coaches to work with them and it's great to see them improving their skills so much!

Ambition Sports

We are proud to have our own Kit Supplier, local sportswear manufacturer Ambition Sports. This range of kit includes whites (from the Surrige Range) and training kit (from the Blade Range) for Junior and Senior Members, which can also be personalised with initials. Please follow the link here to purchase:

http://www.ambitionsport.com/cricket-clubs-shepherdswell-cricket-club-c-315_12_474.html

