



Priory News

November 2009

NEWSLETTER OF THE PRIORY LLAMAS



Editor's Intro...

Welcome to the November Issue of the Priory News. Seems a long time since the Twenty20 National Finals Day at the end of September! A "Road to Derby" document is attached separately for you all to read. Also attached is a Surrey Championship League Dinner questionnaire - please take your time to complete this (reponses to Batesy at chris.bates@rbs.com)

Lots to read from the President, Chairman and Director of Cricket.

This newsletter is colour coded so you know who writes what. The Chairman is in Red, the President in black, The Director of Cricket in Blue and the rest of the club in cyber space.

Have also added a bit of fun at the end of the Newsletter.

If you have anything you'd like to add to the Priory News - please don't hesitate in emailing me on toby@tobybriggs.co.uk

Enjoy the read ☺

twm solicitors



Chairman's Words of Wisdom...

Your Chairman, Jim Harmer, writes about **YOUR CLUB**.

Most club members will know that, aside from the work that is put in by the captains in drawing together their sides and leading the team on the field of play, much much more goes on behind the scenes to make the club the success it is today. Andy Packham has driven our club forward with dedication and efficiency for over two decades, Treasurer David Robinson handles finances the equivalent of a small business, Simon Wickham's remit is far too great for one man and the same can be said for Jim Harmer's lot. There are, of course, a number of other members already making significant contributions to the running of the club, but the list of jobs falling on these four is unreasonably long. This note hopes to make a first stab to put that right.

The Committee has been looking to spread the load resting on the shoulders of these volunteers and that target is, in fact, Objective 1 in our Club Development Plan. Many other advances and improvements within the club cannot happen whilst senior committee members are so burdened with the day to day tasks currently on their plates. We are in the process of undertaking a thorough review of the roles covered in the 'job descriptions' of these four, with a view to matching some of those roles to new volunteers. But here we partly anticipate the results of that process and identify a few important areas where new volunteers could take on a manageable volume of our work. The alternative to spreading the load across more volunteers is to consider employing extra help, which clearly could put our costs up and

lead to members paying more for using the facilities that the club offers.

To cut to the chase we are looking for members to volunteer for these areas of our work:

Finance: to work with David dealing with receipts and payments and book keeping of those items.

Fund raising: to take from Wicksy the reviewing and applying for grants and to work with him to increase sponsorship.

Clubhouse: to take from Packers the task of clubhouse manager - monitoring our cleaners, managing maintenance.

Ground hirings: Liaising with interested parties, checking dates, ensuring bar/catering provided

Maintaining databases: recording senior player and social membership lists

Catering co-ordinator: not necessarily making teas, but ensuring that we have a caterer for each required occasion.

Youth Section: overseeing training nights/coach deployment. Administrating the Academy. Arranging fixtures and grounds. Maintain Clubmark standards. Club rep at junior league meetings/ District Development Group/Reigate & Banstead Sports Council. Winter training arrangements. Website and newsletter input. Arrange awards night.

Groundsmanship help: Assist St Albans Road groundsman (mowing/rolling)

Do any of these jobs sound like areas where you have the skills to help? Would you anyway like to offer some time to help the club in some other area to be agreed? Please do not just leave others to do it all otherwise there may come a time when they will do none of it! Please contact Jim with your offers of help: 07736 064888 or hjharmer@aol.com

CURRYING FAVOUR WITH THE 6TH XI

The 6th XI are so keen to "hit their straps running" in the 2010 season that they gathered to plan their strategy for next season over a curry in Reigate recently. Chris Hannigan was organiser in chief and it would appear from the amount of Cobra consumed that another record season beckons for the mighty 6s.

ECB Alters Fast Bowling Directives

Parents and anyone who captains or manages a cricket match involving young players should be aware of some changes to the guidelines for maximum overs in a spell and cumulative maxima for young fast bowlers. Younger lads are given an extra over whereas older lads have had their daily maximum cut. The match restrictions for younger lads playing in club junior games are closely controlled as the rules in the leagues do not allow a bowler to bowl long spells. However, lads playing in senior games need proper control by captains. Please see this extract from the ECB website which should serve as a reminder to all of us of the potential dangers of over-bowling.

http://www.ecb.co.uk/ecb/about-ecb/media-releases/ecb-alters-fast-bowling-directives_308221_EN.html

My view on the monitoring of the cumulative maximum is that this can only effectively be achieved by the individual/parents. Lads might play in matches for the club, for school, for county and others. They may also practice at club/school/county as well as going off with mates for some 'unofficial' sessions. All these would count towards the cumulative guideline figures.

Now, I'm sure there could be great debate about the 'nanny state' and 'it never did me any harm' etc. I'm not going to say that, however, as you just have to see how wobbly my ankles, knees, hips and back are! As a club, however, we should be coaching correct bowling actions, checking the mechanics are safely repeatable, and sticking to the match guidelines. Parents must take a role in monitoring the overall workload and reporting any first signs of injury.

These guidelines are only in respect of bowling fast deliveries and need not effect attendance at practices where fielding, batting or slow bowling can be undertaken without restriction.

Living With Llamaland...

(The President's Ramblings)

EDITORIAL

It's a brave new world and I am able to confirm that I am re-branding myself and after some 15 years or more of writing loads of whining comments in the newsletter under the heading of "Old Farts Corner" that column has been consigned to the history books. The whines will still be there in abundance for no better reason that many members deserve to be whined about and if attention isn't paid to many of the messages put over your club will gradually slide down the slippery slope to mediocrity or worse.

For those that have not realised it over all these years everything in Old Farts Corner was written by your President, Andy Packham, and whilst I try to get some level of humour into what is written there are many messages, that I consider to be important, that club members need to consider and address.

Jim Harmer has opened this newsletter with wise words about our need for more volunteers to take on roles within the club so I will not labour this point except to say that **Living with Llamaland**, or running Reigate Priory Cricket Club, is now pretty much a full time job, as we have become a reasonable sized business. A few unpaid volunteers work incredibly long hours to make the club a success but more volunteers fulfilling meaningful roles within the club are needed if we are not to change direction significantly. A change of direction could well mean moving away from being a traditional cricket club and becoming more of a sports and social club with paid stewards and helpers. This is not a route I would prefer but it is a route that is looking pretty inevitable to me in a year or two's time as I cannot see the handful of people who do so much work being prepared to carry on **Living with Llamaland**.

Anyway the 2009 season was another success, batteries are being re-charged in the winter and we

will now move forward positively in planning for 2010 and try to create a newsletter that interests and provokes reaction. Henceforth the stuff that I write will be known as **Living with Llamaland**, will appear in a different colour to the rest, as will any match reports that I write and you need to know that everything I write is my personal opinion and not some official line put out by the Reigate Priory committee so don't blame "The Club" for articles that cause offence or with which you disagree, blame me. So here we go.

TOBY BRIGGS IS NEWSLETTER EDITOR

If you wonder who actually pulls the newsletter together and receives copy and sends the newsletter out then the man to thank is Toby Briggs. Toby has done this for years and we owe him a debt of thanks for all his hard work and one of his hardest jobs is getting match reports and other material submitted in a timely manner so the newsletter can go out and reach members before the following Saturday. You are only receiving this newsletter because Toby has encouraged it by asking the usual suspects (actually me) if we had any messages for the membership, like the 2009 averages, which he specifically mentioned. I personally am swanning off round the world for a few weeks on Monday and was not feeling inclined to generate a newsletter but if Toby is keen for one to happen he should be supported so I've asked others to contribute and we'll see what happens or maybe we've just got nothing to tell you. So my first request to the membership is to **support the people who are trying to make things happen for your enjoyment**, even if you feel it should be done differently

2009 AVERAGES

The 2009 averages for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd XIs you can find by going to our website www.reigatepriorycc.co.uk. You go to "Facts and Figures" and click on whichever team you wish to see. These averages have been created by me and sent to James Brickley who is now in charge of the website. Jim Harmer has done the 6th XI averages and Joel Miller has done the averages for the Cavaliers and these have been sent to James so should be up very shortly, if not up by the time you receive this newsletter.

Praise should be heaped on Joel and the Cavaliers who historically handle all their administration impeccably and are role models for the rest of the club. Don't expect to find averages for the 4th XI, 5th XI, Trust league or Ladies section. Go on prove me wrong - there's the challenge.

ALLTIME GREATS

Another job that I do because I am clearly a bit of an anorak is to create the historical statistics and I enjoy doing this and it amuses me and one or two fellow anoraks. Actually it amuses a lot more members who do not remotely consider themselves as anoraks, but fashion trendsetters and movers and shakers, but the fact is that they like to see their names up in lights and becoming historical legends of Reigate Priory. They'll deny it but I bet they are logging on to the website as you read this. On the website under "Facts and Figures - All Time Greats" are the leading performers at 1st, 2nd and 3rd XI level since records began and, yes you've guessed it, don't expect to find records for all the other sides although once Joel reads this I bet he will have all the Cavaliers records since they began some 27 or so years ago downloaded to James Brickley within the week. The Cavaliers have maintained fantastically detailed records. Let's see them on the website within two weeks please.

Anyway whilst you can see the Greats for the first three sides let me tell you the main changes generated in 2009. One newcomer to achieve the 1000 run qualification in 2009 was our skipper, Ian Hewett who comes in in 5th position (it goes by average) with 1074 runs in 3 seasons at the tidy average of 39.78. Chris Murtagh's sublime 2009 (over 600 runs at 76) moves him up to 7th place and Eccles still tops the charts with a 54.59 average. Chris Murtagh and Brett Forsyth created a new record second wicket partnership of 202* at Sutton and there are no newcomers in the bowling, although Ian Hewett cemented his place at the top of the bowling and even managed to improve his average. 120 wickets in 3 seasons at 13.16 is a quite phenomenal performance.

At 2nd XI level the batting qualification bar has been moved up to 750 runs, which sees Kamran Mirza, fall off his perch at the top to be replaced by David Cawthrow (Dumper to

those who recall his feats at mainly 1st team level in the 80s and 90s). Lofty and Rosey (little Dave) are snapping at his heels in 2nd and 3rd slots. On the bowling front Stephen Warner has crashed into the charts at number 4 behind legends such as Brian Swaney, Popey and Disco Llama (ask someone if you don't know).

The 3rd XI batting bar has been moved up to the still modest total of 480 runs but it has seen the RGS stalwarts of 1985, Darren Gregory and Mark Dowling, drop out. Oli Tame has come in at 4th with an average of 33 and would you believe a certain John Bramhall has entered the arena and becomes only the second batter, after Tony Cooper, to be an "All Time Great" for all 3 top teams. So you young whippersnappers show him some real respect. The 3s also set three record stands throughout the season at 1st, 2nd and 8th wickets. MacDonald and Tame, Skitt and Fieldhouse and Faal and Packham (no not me) were the main men. The bowling bar was shifted up a modest two wickets to 27, which accounted for Shazad Ali (Boomer to most of you) to be replaced by our illustrious editor Briggisy. Steve Cross, with 7-23, produced the 4th best bowling performance of all time behind Lawson, Tedstone and Packham (yes of course that's me)

HARD COPY NEWSLETTERS

We have 15 loyal long-standing, generous members who do not possess computers and receive their newsletter by mail. Our traditional route of getting the newsletter to them is no longer available to us and we need to find a new solution. I can easily supply the envelopes with address labels already on but we need some organisation or person prepared to receive the newsletter by e-mail late in the week and then to run off 15 copies and post them. As the newsletter is usually about 8 pages long this will mean about 120 sheets run off each week. The club will happily pay for the service but we need someone able to take this task on. Is anyone prepared to take on this rewarding role or got any other ideas please?

THE WEBSITE

As mentioned above James Brickley is now in charge of the club's website and has no doubts as to what we are looking for. A website in this day and age is the club's shop window, even IT dimbos like myself can see this, so it needs to be top drawer. At the moment it falls somewhat short of that, as it is in the process of being updated, but if you have any ideas or offers of help with material, or you are a genius in this field please offer your services to James. His e-mail is jamesbrickley@yahoo.com Our most recent news is surely not the Twenty20 quarter final? I feel sure I went to Derby and saw our boys on Sky TV up there. Surely someone took some photos of the day and can send them to James. Am I the only person that ever sends photos up to the website - it appears so at the moment? Come on help James to make the club's website something for us all to be really proud of.

THE CLUBHOUSE BUILDING

You will have heard me bang on about the clubhouse no longer being "fit for purpose" (there's some good management bull— it speak) and the Hockey Club usually agree. It's a very nice, traditional cricket pavilion, which nearly all visitors love, and so do most of us, including myself. Sadly however it is far and away too small for the current club, the bar's too cramped, there's no storage and beer barrels and much more are left in the kitchen, you can't hold a lunch at the same time as players eat, there are no proper toilet facilities for male supporters, one single ladies loo, no facilities for umpires to change and the list goes on. We want to retain the general ambience of the place but enlarge it and we have had some indicative plans produced of what we want to do for some time now. The trouble is that it is another job that slips down the list of priorities for those that do most of the work. This is why we are delighted that Terry Gill has stepped forward with an offer of help to try and move this major project forward and build on the plans that have been produced for us by Tim Johnson.

Now that we have our new nets up in place as far as I am concerned this is by far and away the most important challenge that the club now faces. Many people do not see it as anywhere near as important as I do but frankly, in my

opinion, if something is not done very soon to expand and improve the clubhouse we will be faced with some very serious problems. Anyway thanks to Terry for stepping forward to help and if there are any other members who feel they can assist with this major project it would be appreciated. Contact Terry on terrygill@fsmail.net

2010 TEST MATCH TICKETS

I'm constantly amazed that out of a membership of over 500 or so nobody seems to want test match tickets or is this just a reflection of members' inability to get organised and make decisions in advance. Anyway the club, through its "Friends of Surrey" membership had the chance to acquire tickets at the Oval for next season's One Day Internationals (ODIs) against Australia and Pakistan and for all 5 days of the Pakistan test. Notes went out on the llama loop and we have had responses to take up our modest allocations for the ODI against Australia and the Friday of the Pakistan test but not a single club member is interested in going to the ODI against Pakistan or going to the Saturday or Sunday of the test in August. We have ordered our full quota of 6 tickets for the first three days of the Pakistan test, Wednesday August 18th to Friday August 20th and, at the moment have 4 spare for the Wednesday and 2 for the Thursday. They are £58-75 each (includes booking fee) and I suggest you contact Jim Harmer if you want any of these but money will be required in the next month please as the club has had to pay up front, or more to the point Jim has paid on his credit card up front. Just another job we handle between us, but as we are usually a couple of the very few interested in watching test cricket we do have an ulterior motive - perks of the job, but why not. To be serious we do our level best to make these tickets available to club members but the level of interest really seems that low that in future we either don't bother to apply or let tickets go early to non club members who many of us know who do want them. It's up to you but from where I sit there is hardly any interest, with apologies to members not on the llama loop who may not have seen the earlier note.

NEXT YEAR'S GOLF DAY

A date to put in your diary **NOW** for 2010 is Friday June 4th when the Reigate Priory Golf Day will again be held at Reigate

Heath Golf Club. It is usually just a half-day event starting after lunch so all you golfers why not book the afternoon in your diaries now.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)

Another date to quickly get in your 2010 diaries is Friday February 12th. This is the date for the Cricket Club's AGM and whilst you will be getting the mass of papers, including the annual report and accounts, in good time prior to the meeting please try and show interest in **your club** and attend the AGM.

1st XI 50 OVER START TIMES

The supporters at least will be pleased to know that the Reigate Priory lobbying machine has won the day and the start time for the 1st XI 50 over matches next season will start an hour later at 12.30 and for the last two games, when the nights start to draw in, at 12 noon. This has still to be ratified at the Surrey Championship AGM but the clubs were so overwhelmingly for it that it is a recommendation coming from the Championship Committee at the AGM. This is all down to Reigate Priory who put the formal proposal forward and is a complete turn round from the decision made by the clubs a year ago. This only goes to show just how little thought most clubs give to the decisions that affect them and how you can get most decisions you want if you pose the questions in the right way. You don't think the Irish really wanted to ratify the Lisbon Treaty or the Australians really want our Queen as their Head of State do you?

Ray we will be looking for increased bar profits next year as the supporters flood back for their early evening cricket watching with a renewed vigour and appetite.

SPONSORSHIP OF THE WHOLE SURREY CHAMPIONSHIP

Another small area I am involved in is seeking a sponsor for the whole of the 67 clubs in the Surrey Championship. Currently the Championship is sponsored by the brewer, Shepherd Neame, and that expires at the end of the 2010 season. The Surrey Championship is therefore seeking a new sponsor for 2011 onwards. I have access to a very professional presentation pack which details what is on offer and just how many people are involved in the 67 clubs. The number is close to 50,000 people who are members of the clubs at all levels, playing and non playing, or play other sports at the same grounds as the cricket clubs. The pack outlines the profile of the membership in terms of types of jobs i.e. professionals, managers, self employed, etc and covers average bar turnovers of clubs and a lot more information to help a business assess the value of the sponsorship.

There are different levels of sponsorship with the full gold package including the Surrey Twenty20 competition, adverts in the year book and at all grounds, branding on balls and stumps at all clubs, tables at the annual dinner, test match tickets at the Oval, tickets for all County games, an advertising board at the Oval and much more.

If you believe that you or your company may be interested in this sponsorship please contact me on andrew.packham1@ntlworld.com although as I am away for some time from November 16th a call to John Bramhall on jbramhall@dac.co.uk will enable you to be directed to another contact in the Surrey Championship. So you do not believe that a couple of grand will get you this sponsorship the Championship has enjoyed sums between £25-£33k per annum over the last 10 years.

Winter Indoor Nets...

[JB sends advice on senior winter nets - Early Notice](#)

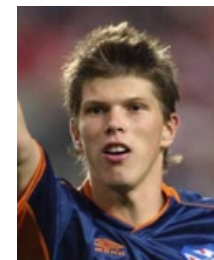
[We will be having four winter net sessions indoors at Hawthorns School in March on Sunday 7, 14, 21 and 28. The sessions will start with a half hour warm up and fielding session with the nets themselves running from 12-1pm.](#)

[Morgs is going to have an involvement this year, as is Fos, and they have some other ideas too as to how we might spice up pre-season, and indeed nets practice during the 2010 season.](#)

[Of which more in due course....](#)

Llama Look-a-likes...

The old Llama website had a section for Llama Look-a-likes. I thought I'd revive this and put in a few look-a-likes each Issue and would welcome anyone else's recommendations for Llama Look-a-likes.



Andrew Diggles



Klaas Jan Huntelaar
(AC Milan footballer)



Steve Gibson



Pat Cash
(Former Tennis player)



Robin Underwood



Gordon Ramsay
(Famous Chef)