

CHAIRMAN`S ANNUAL REVIEW 2021

Sad news to report that Cyril Adams passed away in April of this year. Apart from his football, football refereeing and indoor bowls exploits Cyril was a mainstay of Ingham Cricket Club, keeping wicket and scoring a number of hundreds and playing in virtually all available games. After retirement he became Chairman of the newly constituted Norwich Cricket Club and his company, Adams and Howling, became (and still are) main sponsors of our cricket club. This support, and all the additional money he raised running the 100 Club, have been a vital lifeline for the club over many years.

Cyril was a fixture spectator at all games, home and away, and he has been dearly missed by everyone in the club. The turnout at a memorial match in August was a testament to how much he will be missed.

RIP Cyril.

Cricket

We held an annual awards event at the Oaklands Hotel in October which was attended by almost 100 guests. Awards and prizes were given out to senior and junior members followed by a buffet and music. Many thanks to Simon and Nikki Brister and Chris Borrett for organising this event which was a tremendous success.

Apart from the players awards which are set out below congratulations also to the following members;

Honorary Lifetime Members

**Mal and Connie Watson
Jo Borrett**

Club Person of the Season

Bobby Parks

Endeavour Award

Luc Brister

Performance of the Season

Steven Clarke

Young Player of the Season

Max Brister

Mid Norfolk Sunday League

We finished third in the Burgess Shield Division1. This league is an important stepping stone for juniors to enter adult cricket and we played a lot of juniors during the season. Much appreciation goes to Colin Whurr, Freddy Kemp and Aaron Watson who between them captained the side and managed all those youngsters with patience and care.

Colin Whurr writes;

Enjoyable season for all.

Team selection handled by Chris and then Simon (youth connection), which enabled the youth to continue their progression. A good first step into senior cricket. The team was captained during the season at times by myself, Freddy or Aaron.

The approach for the team was for the progression of the youth and it was not always about success but of being aware of how to approach and conduct themselves during a game of cricket. Also participation- it was always a case of involving everybody in the game which is not always possible on a Saturday. No outstanding club player performances but consistent throughout the season.

Possible mention of Ethan Metcalf (loanee from Horsford) who scored at least two hundreds and other good scores.

Most Runs- Ethan Metcalf-437 runs at an average of 87.40

Most Wickets-Luc Brister-13 wickets at an average of 14.69

Player of the Season-Will Bowman

Youth Cricket

Another very successful year on the youth front and proceeds from coaching fees contributed to club funds and enabled us to retain our clubmark status. We now have a brilliant youth set up with some youngsters with excellent prospects of playing for the club at the most senior levels. We played in the South Norfolk Cricket League as well as the Alliance at all four junior levels, plus U17`s, with nearly 60 fixtures. Simon and Nikki Brister and Steven and Rachel Clarke helped enormously with the significant administration associated with youth cricket and I must give particular thanks to them and quite a few of the senior juniors for all the work that they carried out in this arena. The Friday night All Stars for junior juniors was also a brilliant success and contributed significantly to bar and food takings-many thanks to Chris Borrett for organising these events.

Simon Brister writes;

Great to return to full season of training and matches for all age groups. We were able to field teams in all age groups available from under 9s to 19s.

We now have over 100 members in the youth section, which is fantastic to be able to offer opportunities to so many.

Many from the u15s upwards now represent the club across all three Senior Saturday teams and we were able to introduce more youth members into Senior cricket through our Sunday league side, as well as fielding a fourth team on a Saturday this season.

We thank everyone for their support and special mention to the Coaches and volunteers who have helped over the season.

Congratulations to the Following Award winners;

**U9 - Player of Season - Ben Rochester
U11 - Player of Season - Joe Dwyer
U13 - Player of Season - Anish Kantam
U15 - Player of Season - Lucas Innis
U17 - Player of Season - Will Bowman
U9 - Most Improved - Tekshan Malempati
U11 - Most Improved - Henry Hall
U13 - Most Improved - Jasper Valpied
U15 - Most Improved - George Terry**

Women and Girls Cricket

For the first time in a number of years we were able to field a number of teams in Women and Girls Cricket and particular thanks must go to Simon and Nikki Brister and Chris Borrett for enabling this re-incarnation.

Simon writes;

It is with pride that we have been able to re introduce a Women and Girls section this last season. This is great news for the club to be able to include and create opportunities into cricket for Women and Girls. The take up has been good and all are supportive of each other and keen to have fun and improve.

We were able to take part in several Festivals of cricket and be extremely competitive. We are looking to continue to grow this coming season and continue offering softball festival opportunities and hopefully introduce some hard ball practice and friendlies.

Thank you to everyone behind this initiative and the support it has received across the club.

**Ladies Bowler of Season - Ella Borrett
Ladies Batswomen of Season - Izzy Florence**

3rd Team

Division 5 of the Alliance

Played 16-won 6- lost 6 with 3 matches abandoned or cancelled and one tied match.

Alex Larter writes;

This season started out with a brilliant win at Thetford, a game marked with swirling winds and hailstorms. That was to be a theme, with a number of games called off without a ball being bowled.

We started with the ambition of promotion, and ended up a very respectable 4th. I look forward to going for promotion next season and I believe we have our chances as the future looks very bright.

This season was marked with varying availability for players, with some first choice 3rd XI players, on paper at least, spending the entire season in the 2s.

However, the young players are a credit to this club, and always stand up when called upon. We used 33 different players in the 3s this season, which is incredible as we only played 13 games!

Player of the season is a difficult decision, as so many players performed at different moments – and a lot of personnel changes.

My choice is for Matthew Whitty. Although he only played in 6 games (!) he managed 191 runs at an average of 47.75, top score 91 not out, with two fifties and a 40, he also took 7 wickets in only 24 overs at an average of 14.

He was run VERY close by the following players who deserve a mention for their efforts:

- Nathan Whitty, 8 games, 142 runs at 28.4 (top score 88) and 8 wickets at 21.63.

- Luc Brister: 70 overs, 9 wickets at 36 but a much improved season, often being the only spinner and bowling the bulk of the middle overs in difficult

conditions – very pleased to see his brilliant performance for the 2s at the end of the season with 6 for 23!

- Rishik Kantam – breakthrough season, 9 wickets at 20.67. Well done!
- Emma Thompson: amazing season both with gloves and bat. Congrats on first 50!
- Ollie White – amazing season with the gloves, some promising innings with the bat to build on, and a deserved call up to the twos at the end of the season.
- Simon Brister – keeping us in games with the bat and being the steady senior player we needed. And helping me along the way with captaincy.
- Graeme Talbot: played in the twos when it wasn't necessarily his plan this season, and performed admirably. When in the 3s his experience bodes well for promotion next season.

Overall I feel we have a promising group of youngsters and some really good seniors. The priority next year will rightly be on the 2nd team, but it will be equally key to keep having the 3s in a winning mentality and pushing also, to keep the momentum for players switching between the two teams.

I would be happy to continue as captain and drive this group of youngster, hopefully to division 4, where they will be exposed to better cricket and be able to push on into the 2s and 1st team.

I wish to thank Beezy and Alex for their support throughout the season, and Simon for help with selecting/contacting juniors. Much appreciated.

Thanks to Bobby for coaching. The players have gained a lot from you, and it shows!

And to our unsung heroes Beezy Snr and Colin for the tireless work on the grounds – it's been a wet and challenging summer but you've delivered great wickets to play on, we're lucky to have you.

Well done to the following award winners;

Most Runs- Simon Brister-248 runs-average 24.80

Most Wickets-Alex Larter-11 wickets-average 24.27

Player of the Season-Matthew Witty

2nd Team

Division 2 Alliance

Played 18-won 3, lost 13, cancelled 2

Steven Clarke writes;

From a results perspective it was a very disappointing season which ultimately finished with the team being relegated to Division 3. A season where we were only able to win 3 of our 16 games played shows that throughout the season we did not play consistently good enough cricket, a number of games could have gone either way which may have been good enough to stay up but ultimately it was not to be. The team were hampered by many changes and availability, losing captain Alex Mhandu and bowler Max Brister up to the first XI for the vast majority of the season did not help, however these players proved their worth establishing themselves as first team regulars.

On the positive side, we were able to give many younger players the opportunity to play 2nd XI cricket and they did themselves and the club proud, always playing their hardest for the club and whilst the results didn't go our way the younger players coming through did show good promise and it bodes well for the club in future seasons. In total we used 33 players over the course of the season with 16 of them being 19 or under and all coming through our youth system.

I would like to thank the team captains, Chris Borrett, Alex Mhandu & Alex Larter for their hard work in getting the teams selected and organised each week. I'd also like to thank the groundsman of both Postwick (Colin) and Ingham (Paul) and all helpers who work hard during the week to get the grounds in great condition. Finally a special mention to Don Gyton for scoring the 2nd XI games every week. It's a job that can go unnoticed but is very much appreciated by the whole team.

Special Mention – Luc Brister 6 for 23 vs Swaffham

Finally a thank you the committee for continuing to work hard on developing the club.

Well done to the following award winners;

Most Runs-Steven Clarke-392 runs at an average of 26.13

Most Wickets-Graham Talbot-18 wickets at an average of 19.67

Player of the Season- Max Brister

1st Team-Premier League Alliance

Played 18-won 8, Lost 7 with 3 abandoned or cancelled

Chris Borrett writes;

We set out at the start of the season to compete for a top 3 finish and ended up 4th, but there was a bigger background story to the season.

We lost one of our opening bowlers due to a shoulder injury after the first game and other injuries and availability hampered the squad which made it hard to get a consistent team early on. Half way through the year we were just outside the relegation zone but were only 25 points away from 3rd with more players available.

A hard fought win away at Runcton was the catalyst which changed the season. Three wins on the run afterwards completed the season and made our league position respectable.

Next season we need to compete better against the top teams and realise that every player can have a big impact on the team performance. Running between the wickets was Bobby's big coaching point this year and it showed what a difference it can make to the momentum of the batting innings. Younger members of the squad stepped up and made match winning performances; something we will expect more of next season.

Thank you to Bobby for the time he spent with us at coaching nights and match days, and as always thanks to Andrew for scoring the games.

Most Runs- Chris Borrett-443 runs at an average of 40.27

Most Wickets-Aaron Watson-34 wickets at an average of 13.29

Player of the Season-Will Bowman

Fund Raising

Sponsorship and fundraising is the financial lifeblood of the club and I would like to pay particular tribute to the following;

Nick Bowler who arranges all the VP and Handbook sponsorship and advertising.

Steven Clarke for organising an on line fund raising event which enabled the club to buy mobile netting.

We are hoping that we can retain all existing sponsors in 2022 and we will also be pursuing all appropriate grant funding offers in order to maintain and improve all our cricketing facilities.

Ground Facilities

Many thanks to Paul and Alan for all the work they have carried out at Ingham and many thanks also to Colin Whurr for all the work carried out at Postwick including all those junior games and Norfolk junior matches. Both grounds are a testament to quality groundsmanship.

We are looking at obtaining grant funding for a refurbishment of the Postwick pavilion and following liaison with an ECB facilities manager we have a number of funding options to pursue.

St Andrews have expressed a wish to continue ground sharing for next season.

Cricket Committee and helpers

Finally I would like to commend the committee and all the club helpers for all the work they have put in over the season, particularly Mal and Connie Watson. Also many thanks to our two scorers Andrew Borrett and Don Guyton.

We have a very strong and active management committee and it is amazing how many others outside the committee give up their time towards ensuring that the grounds and cricket facilities are second to none. The club has a fine tradition of playing cricket as it should be played and in providing wickets and facilities that are a credit to all the club members and the envy of a lot of clubs in the area.

Thank you.

David