

DEVON COUNTY SENIORS CRICKET CLUB

Annual General Meeting

Secretary's Report 2016

Our year began with an excellent tour to Sri Lanka with 42 players, partners, officials and supporters making the trip. We visited new places and played on some lovely grounds and stayed in lovely hotels with great food. We met some interesting people, learnt some of the language and songs. Our first match, once the number of overs was sorted out, was played in extreme heat and 330 bottles of water were drunk during the game. This became a recurring necessity during the matches. Our last game was a great win over sides with evenly match ages a great finish to the tour. Our thanks go to Sport Arabia and Mark Steer who ensured a smoothly run 17 days. Who knows, perhaps in 2018 another tour!! These are club tours and we do seek to get some younger players and partners to come along. These tours are great fun.

Domestically the summer of 2016 will be remembered as a season of mixed fortunes the Over 50's 1st XI and the Over 60's 2nd XI making it through to the National Knockout stages, the 50's being knocked out by Staffordshire and the 60's losing to Wales in the semi-final. Whilst the 50's had a fairly uneventful season the 60's was far from that. Unfortunately Stuart Munday was unable to captain the side and our thanks go to Gerry Keen for taking over and doing well. We all wish Stuart a swift and lasting recovery. The over 60 1st XI had a dramatic match against Hampshire and thanks to some sterling efforts by players from both sides they were able to deal with Nick Rogers collapse. We thank Julian Page for filling the breach as captain. It does put cricket into perspective. The sudden focus on the wellbeing of players was sharply put into practice with the use of Hampshire's defibrillator. Happily Nick is a quick healer and was back playing in about 6 weeks!!

I am happy to say that now all the current sides are in possession of a defibrillator, courtesy of the Devon Cricket Board, donors and club funds. Your committee are actively seeking an avenue where the majority of players can get some basic training in the use of these lifesaving machines. I assure you that once shown the basic teaching video, it is easier than you think.

Our congratulations go to Dave Gambie who was selected for the England Over 70's versus Australia at Radlett Cricket Club. This after a strenuous net session for selection a few months earlier. Nick Rogers also was selected to attend net training for the England Over 60's and selection for the tour of Australia later this year. Nick unfortunately just missed out.

We will have a new fixture secretary for 2017 and I wish to thank Danny Daniels for his good work in the role over the past few years. We need succession planning and as a club we would very much like some of the younger members to apply for the committee. With about four meetings a year it is not onerous and will see the club go from strength to strength. If you think you have any ideas to enhance the club please speak to the Chairman or President.

In 2017 new disciplinary rules come into force whereby the captains will be cited for any misbehaviour at matches by members of their teams. I ask all captains to speak to their sides prior to matches and enforce what is expected of them when playing all types of cricket and especially when representing Devon Seniors teams.

I wish to thank all of our umpires and scorers that have contributed to this season. Chris Dove reached his 100th match as scorer for the 50's and was presented with a tankard and polo shirt by Graham Munday. Thank you Chris and we hope there be many more seasons.

I wish to thank all the clubs that have hosted out matches in Devon, the groundsmen and the tea ladies. A special thanks go to Rob Phillips at the Dolphin Inn at Bovey Tracey for allowing us to have tour and committee meetings in his premises.

I would also like to thank all those that have helped the club financially. Our main sponser Michael Spiers in the form of Keith White MBE also Rob McIver our website maestro and also our supporters who come to watch our matches throughout the season.

This is my last report as secretary as I have decided that I am retiring from cricket (at this time) I wish to thank everybody that I have played with and can look back on some memorable cricketing moments both home and abroad and great friends made playing the game that I love.

I wish my successor well.

Stuart LOTT
Secretary