

# **DEVON COUNTY SENIORS CRICKET CLUB**

## **Annual General Meeting 2015**

### **Secretary's Report**

Another season has drawn to a close and once again our sides performed well and three progressed through to the National Knockout stages. The Over 50's had a stunning win over Warwickshire but were beaten in the next round by ex-professional batsman Kim Barnett (Shropshire). Then our problems started.

The Over 60's 1<sup>st</sup> XI were drawn away against Kent and due to a rain cancellation the day before they were unable to select a team to play them the following day. We had to concede. This was due to a series of injuries and unavailability. However, we must congratulate Somerset, from our group, who won the National Championship beating Yorkshire. The Over 60's 2<sup>nd</sup> XI after being beaten by Surrey were unable to select a side, by consensus, to travel to Horsham to play Sussex in the Plate final, when Sussex refused to meet half way. This will be taken up with the National Seevent Committee.

We will also see three sides with new captains next season as Phil Bees, the over 50's 2<sup>nd</sup> XI captain and Chris Theedom and Peter Shephard have stood down from their respective over 60 sides. We thank them for the unstinting part they have taken to take our club forward under their captaincies. We wish their successors all the best for the 2016 season.

May I ask all captains and players to ensure that we play within the Spirit of Cricket. I know that the vast majority of us are determined, focused and play to win but everybody should respect those that manage our matches even though decisions may go against you. After all we are senior cricketers and should be setting an example.

As a club we now have our own developing website and this should be used by all members. I would like to thank Peter Shephard and Rob McIver for their hard work in establishing this web site. I would also like to thank Graham Peach who was initially involved and also to thank the donors who have assisted tremendously with financial assistance. I know there have been some problems in updating but your committee is working to smooth these problems out.

Next year will be my last as secretary and I know that Danny Daniels is relinquishing his post as fixture secretary. I do ask that members consider taking on roles within the club and make themselves known. We need to look at a seamless transition as some have been doing executive roles for some years now and the club needs to go forward.

As one of the tourists, may I thank Chris and Jackie Theedom for their, as usual, impeccable organisation of the tour to Canada in June. Superb weather good company and lots of laughs were enjoyed by those who visited Vancouver and the trip to Calgary. Glorious scenery, hard hitting batsmen on artificial wickets but winning the series 3 matches to 2 was exhilarating. Remembering the tour and stories will linger on for years.

A tour to Sri Lanka is currently being organised for Easter 2016 where 42 tourists will be travelling. I do urge you to support should there be any future tours as you have done with others. It does build camaraderie and friendships in some beautiful parts of the world.

In time honoured tradition and as usual we look to encourage more and more players to join and if members know of players who have now attained seniors age please get them to make contact. The overs 50's now play against counties that are beginning to introduce ex professional players and the competition is really excellent.

Again, may I make my annual plea on behalf of the Committee to members to try and find a sponsor to include their adverts in our club hand-book. A sum of £40.00 will secure a whole page advert and £25.00 will secure a half page advert. There is also scope for sponsorship and advertising space on our website.

I would like to thank all the clubs in Devon that have welcomed us to their grounds, mostly without charge. It is greatly appreciated by the club and especially the players.

The club thanks all the scorers, the umpires and tea ladies for giving up their time during the 2015 season.

To the President, the Chairman, the captains and the committee for their unsung and voluntary hard work during the 2015 season. Also to Rob Phillips at the Dolphin Inn at Bovey Tracey for allowing us the use of space for the meetings.

Lastly the club thank all those sponsors, advertisers and vice presidents that assist the club and especially Keith WHITE MBE of MICHAEL SPIERS, the Jewellers who so generously are the main sponsors of the Club.

Stuart LOTT  
Secretary