

CHAIRMAN'S CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR MESSAGE

The past year has been 'interesting' to say the least.

The recruiting of new players, proved successful, although when 'push came to shove' unavailability once again hindered some teams. Despite this the club enjoyed some notable success. The Over 60's 2nd X1 won the Vase competition. The Over 67's won the Friendly League and was unbeaten in nine matches. They will be playing in the National Counties Over 70's Championship next season. Our Over 50's 2nd X1 won through to the final of their Vase competition only to fall at this last hurdle facing a very strong Middlesex X1.

Sadly, our 50's and 60's 1st X1s had a disappointing season despite the best efforts of both captains. It appears that work and family pressures are impacting on our ability to field our best teams. It no longer appears to be an honour or important to represent Devon even at our age. Hopefully the new 50's 1st X1 captain, Mark Gribble, can reverse this trend next season as these younger players will form the backbone for the 60's in later years.

Losing our financial reserves dealt the club a severe blow and I must thank the players for approving the way forward to restoring financial viability into the future. My sincere thanks also go to the Devon Cricket Board for ensuring that the club can move forward into 2020 on a positive footing.

Cricket in later life provides both opportunity and benefits on and off the field.

Success on the field can lead to international honours as proven by Nigel Ashplant getting called into the England Over 60's tour of Australia. Despite his promising start, sadly, a broken arm whilst at the non-striking end curtailed his participation in the tour. However he joins the list of Devon international players that now totals 6.

There can be no doubt that continuing to play cricket provides exercise that is beneficial for both mind and body. There really is no substitute in life in partaking of a team sport and more so as we grow older. Being part of Devon County Seniors Cricket Club should be embraced for the pleasure and friendship it offers now and into the future.

I feel sure that 2020 will offer further challenges. Currently we are operating without the benefit of a chairman and this cannot continue if the club is to be progressive and cohesive. It is not an arduous or time consuming job given the continuing support given by your hard working committee. So, somebody, please step up and be assured of my continuing support whilst you get your 'feet under the table'.

In closing, I should like to place on record the club's grateful thanks to Michael Spiers Jewellers, and in particular, their Managing Director, Keith White. Despite a very difficult year for him, he and his company have continued their magnificent financial support of the club for which we are truly grateful.

Finally, I wish to thank you all for the support you have given me again in what has been a 'trying' year of late. The club is also very grateful for all the time and effort the officers, captains, officials and scorers have given to it as without you the club could not function as well as it does.

I wish you and your families the happiest of Christmas festivities and for good luck, good health and a very bright, prosperous and successful New Year.

Dave Gambie

President