

Cricket club report for JFUG 28/9/22

It's been a monumental year in the club's history! The first team made their debut in the SPCL, all league teams finishing in their highest ever position, we had another full and busy colts' season with excellent performances on the field and top level coaching, and the women's squad enjoyed a highly successful season of softball cricket.

Off the field

Having won promotion to the SPCL we were required to meet their demanding standards to be accepted. This included modification of the pavilion (adding an umpires' room and more showers) and improving the condition of the outfield. All conditions were met in time for the first SPCL home game of the season.

Supported by an ECB Welcoming Places grant the pavilion changes went far beyond the minimum requirements with a major upgrade to the social, bar and kitchen area. Thank you also to all who contributed to the amazing transformation.

Under the care of James Dapper Howard and the Ground-work team the square and outfield were in magnificent condition throughout earning top place in the Division 3 ground markings. Congratulations and huge thanks to James and the team.

Finances

Unsurprisingly, given the above, it has been a very expensive year with greater spending on ground, facilities and coaching than ever before. Thanks to magnificent fundraising efforts we remain in good financial position. Many thanks to Derek Seward who will present the accounts

Many thanks to Hugh Barnard and helpers for arranging the Spring Ball and to President Chris Noble for organising the sponsored walk. These two events raised over £4000.

Additional thanks to Will Millard and Steve How who attracted a record number of sponsors –decorating the outside of the pavilion and nets with banners.

Thank you sponsors – we are enormously grateful – see the full list below

Huge thanks to Will Millard for overseeing the running of the bar and to his committee of helpers. The bar has been very popular, successful and profitable.

Lottery. The 200 club lottery continues to be a great success. Thank you to Derek who again managed to sell all 200 tickets for this year.

Thank you also to Derek for preparing the accounts which he will present.

Future projects: there are also a number of project we need or would like to undertake - these include:

- replacing and moving the nets
- enlarging and improving access to the scorer's hut – possibly to include storage for ground equipment
- purchasing new ground care equipment ? fairway mower

- improving the patio area in front of the pavilion
- improving drainage behind the umpires' room.
- Frog-box / camera – to be presented by Dave Steadman

Membership and match fees. The registration process and collection of fees has always been rather haphazard resulting in extra work and significant loss of income to the club. We are considering adopting a fully on-line system - Spond - Will Millard will present at the AGM.

We had fully intended to increase membership and match fees for next year but, given the current financial situation are hesitating. Dave Marshall proposes a reduction instead – to keep and encourage players. To be discussed at the AGM.

CASC – we are planning to apply for Community Amateur Sports Club status which will improve our tax status including allowing us to reclaim gift aid on some donations.

This necessitates a minor change in our constitution which will require a vote at the AGM.

On the field

Indoors / winter: we fielded four junior teams; U10, U11, U12 and U14, one senior team and one women's team. Results were mixed with many fine performances, a lot of fun but no silverware.

Outdoors /summer – a very successful season; enhanced by great weather. We lost only one (U9s) to the weather

- 45-50 AllStars and Dynamos (aged U5-U9) every Saturday morning. The future of the club – thank you to Will and all helpers!
- Juniors / Colts – a busy junior and colts programme with all aged groups fielding competitive teams.

Under 15 matches were played but the squad trained together and most played in mixed aged league sides.

- The Women's squad successfully recruited several new players and entered 3 soft ball tournaments (one at Ageas Bowl) and played a home match. Overall they 7 won of 8 games and played some very high quality cricket played.
- We fielded four mixed aged league sides. All finished in their highest ever league position

1st XI – SPCL Division 3.

played 18, won 11, tied 1. finished 4th

of 18	2 nd XI – Hampshire Div 3 South	played 17 won 6	finished 14 th
of 17	3 rd XI - Hampshire Div 5 SW	played 17, won 12	finished 4 th .
of 17	4 th XI - Hampshire Div 6 SW	played 16 won 6	finished 10 th

Fair play! The first team won the SPCL division 3 Fair Play award. Many congratulations Tim and team!

- Hampshire Slam tournament – a new T20 competition open to all players who play outside SPCL. Won 3 of 6 league games. Knocked out in quarter finals.
- Stone Cup – knocked out in round-robin stage – only one game played
- SPCL T20 competition – 2 games played – lost both but good preparation for next year.
- Friendly matches – several mid-week T20s and a handful of Sunday fixtures. Thank you to Hanni for his excellent organisation

Coaching.

Huge thanks to all who have been involved in coaching. Your energy, enthusiasm, skill and time is the reason for the club's on-field success and a major contribution to the whole vibrancy major contribution to the club's success

Particularly thanks to Dave Marshall who has lead junior and colts' coaching at the club for many years inspiring a generations of young cricketers to high levels of skill and knowledge of the game, high levels of achievement and nurturing many of those currently plying in the adult sides. While reducing the breadth of his remit he will remain involved in 2023 focussing on the U13s and the mixed age 3rd team.

Thanks also to

Will Millard - for leading the AllStars and Dynamos – and to his many helpers!

Chris Davis, Lynsey Davis and John Grasham – U9's and U11s.

Chris Davis and team for running sports summer camps.

Chris Noble – enhanced by a new hip – has been extremely active coaching and making huge contributions to all adult teams

Hugh Barnard for one-to one lessons for all ages, for his particular fast bowling expertise and for his first summer camps. We hope that he'll be able to increase the number to fill the gap Chris Davis's departure will leave.

Committee

My heartfelt thanks to all committee members for their ongoing dedication, hard work and wisdom. I'm delighted to report that all have indicated their willingness to continue for

the next year if elected. We are all conscious however that the club is getting larger, busier and more successful and that new blood in the committee would be welcome and positive. If you would like to be considered for any post, or indeed feel that a new position could and should be created for you/ someone please contact me chris.baughan.sway@gmail.com or Rick richard_how@btinternet.com .

The field;

Ground.

Huge thanks and many congratulations to Dapper and all of the groundforce team who have worked poured hours of labour, sweat and wisdom into further improving our beautiful village ground.

In April SPCL inspectors pronounced that our outfield was dangerous and that we should look to play home fixtures elsewhere the team worked tirelessly producing a miraculous transformation, not only satisfying the SPCL when they revisited 3 weeks later but providing fantastic playing conditions throughout the season and winning the best ground scores (awarded by visiting captains and umpires) for the division. The team continue to work (at lesser intensity) over the winter and will be flat out again in the spring. Additional hands will be greatly appreciated – no previous experience needed just goodwill and energy! When you see work in progress please just go and offer to help.

Pennington – the square again played very well. The secretary and chairman, with expert input from Dapper, continue to care for the square and would welcome help.

We are engaging with Lymington Council to secure a long-term lease.

Nets.

The existing nets are 20 years old and in need of replacement. Their current position necessitates a shortened and indented boundary which will fail to meet the criteria for playing in SPCL Div 1. We are looking at re-siting them behind the grass mound between the senior football pitch and the road (east-side). This will require planning permission and funding – probably £30-40k

Scorer's Hut – Graham, our wonderful and invaluable first team scorer is struggling with access to the current hut. We are looking to replace / enlarge it. Ideally we would like to create space to store a new fairway mower and other ground equipment. This may also require planning permission.

Eco grant. We understand there is going to be an ECB grant (?up to £10000) help clubs reduce their carbon impact and cope with the effects of climate change. We are considering water harvesting and solar panels. We are keen to find someone with specialist environmental knowledge / interest to help with this project.

Teas.

The SPCL has formally voted that homes teams will continue providing teas for all matches.

At present the Hampshire ricket League approach is to leave it at the discretion of the home team. Last season Sway were one of very few sides to provide teas for all league matches. We plan to continue this policy unless there is a move to change it – can be raised at AGM

2023 Dates for your diaries:

Early January – indoor nets begin. Time and venue tbc

Spring Ball. 11th March, South Lawns Hotel, Milford on Sea

Sponsored walk – to be announced

1st game of season Saturday 6th may – NB this clashes with the king's coronation

Workdays – there will be a number of work days in April - dates will be confirmed but please make every effort to attend and help prepare for the new season

Dave Hurrell cup – provisionally Sunday 18th June

President's vs Chairman's match – Sunday 27th August – President out for revenge.

Final thoughts.

In his wonderful winter newsletter last December Dave Marshall summarised the club's ethos – to develop, to be competitive, but to maintain our “village” roots and feel – and to always play and act within the Spirit of Cricket. I feel we've met those goals this year – along with all the numerous challenges thrown at us.

Obviously there are many more challenges ahead. We are blessed with many wonderful volunteers. The club is carried by their energy, devotion, work, wisdom and endurance – but inevitably some will leave, some will retire and all will get older – so we need new blood to keep us going – we're particularly looking for help with managing the junior and colts teams, for help with ground maintenance, for first aiders, umpires and coaching – the club will pay for training courses – and, as always for more players.

We also need money to meet our escalating bills and to allow us to develop the club. Next year will be particularly difficult. We will discuss options at the AGM and need your thoughts. **Please attend and give us your view.**

We wish the Davis family – Lynsey, Chris Max and Ben, all very best wishes for their time in Australia. We'll miss you! We have no doubt you'll be busy, active and will have fun but we really hope you'll return to Sway! Thank you all for your many and varied contributions to the club.

This year's AGM is on Thursday 1/12/22 at 20.00 in the main (brick) pavilion at Jubilee Field. There is much to discuss. Please attend.

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