

Collingbourne CC Chairman's Report

This will be my last report as chairman and for some very obvious reasons will be quite brief. You will hear about the successes on the field from the captains; they are all to be thanked and congratulated. Next season will bring its own challenges with the addition of a 2nd XI, the 1st XI in a higher league and two midweek teams.

The Women's section is rapidly approaching a crossroads in their development. The progress into hard ball cricket will start soon and as such we have stopped referring to the weekend and midweek teams as 'Men's' teams. Rather they are simply Collingbourne teams.

It also should be noted that the club now has two qualified women umpires, Julie Sinclair Stage 1 and Izzy Nuttall Stage 2. I hope the club continues to encourage their involvement.

When I started I said I was only doing three years. Of course no one saw what was to come as Covid interrupted all our lives. The club was shrinking and had nearly reached the point from which there would be no return. The fact that we are still here is due to the tenacity of your committee. I have spent pretty much all my adult life on cricket club committees and I can tell you this one has been the most innovative and energetic of them all.

Our position in relative terms regarding finance, membership and the way we are viewed in the wider community would be the envy of many bigger clubs.

My only concern for the club moving forward is the development of future players. I feel you should pursue the subject of recreating a youth section at least to U13 level.

Finally a massive thank you to everyone who had contributed to the survival of the club. I'm not mentioning names they and you know who they are.

I'll still be around and hope to umpire a few games for you next year.

Best wishes to all.