

Exmouth Cricket Club AGM Thursday 17th November 2016

Secretary's report for 2016 on behalf of the Executive Committee

I cannot write this report without expressing my personal sadness at the untimely passing of Richard Butler, who sadly died just a few days after the last AGM. Not only has the club lost a dear and dedicated Chairman but his commitment to the club has made a tremendous hole to try and fill. We all miss Richard! The committee, assisted by President Jim were fortunate to encourage Ashton to return to the Chairman's position as his experience would help the committee moving forward. We are so grateful to Ashton, and it is over the first few months that we found out just how much Richard did in the background! Under Ashton's Chairmanship we have moved on and we look forward to many years with him at the helm.

This year has again been a busy one for the Committee in ensuring that not only is the Club in a good and stable condition but that it remains in a creditable position for the future.

Finances have been much better this year, largely because of the better weather which improved the number of cars paying to park during the summer. This was aided by the committee decision to comply with the lease requirement to not to charge less than EDDC charge in their car park. Thus increasing the charge from £3 to £5 helped, as did the so many volunteers who manned the gate to whom we have to be eternally grateful.

The continued lack of a Social Member on the committee has meant that we have been less able to organise social events which would help bar profits. However the bar profits this year are certainly up on last year largely due to Alan Schaufler taking on the Estate Managers rôle and not only cleaning the building but assisting in manning the bar. We hope that the coming year will see more jobs being undertaken to improve our facilities.

We sadly lost Sandy Allen as our Groundsman during the year due to his commitments to Devon Cricket Coaching and Exeter University, the club of course wish to thank Sandy for all his hard work over the years and hope to still see him continue as our 1st Team Wicket Keeper. However we have been fortunate to appoint Noel Westlake who comes well recommended and has already started improving the ground and intends trying to eradicate the Fairy ring over the Winter, thus recovering some of the lost wickets.

We also received the resignation of our long standing Fixture Secretary Bryon Fishlock and we are all grateful for his many years in that rôle. We are pleased to advise that Jennie Ames has agreed to undertake the duties next year.

Debbie Austen took over the role of Colts Co-ordinator at the beginning of the season as well as continuing as Welfare Officer for which the club is very grateful. The increased numbers and the return of the BBQ has made the Colts evening more successful and profitable.

We had a very successful NatWest CricketForce weekend this year and were able to erect the Marquee and get the club ready for the season. This year we decided to have our own CricketForce weekend to end the season and that was very satisfactory with fine weather to assist us actually completing the jobs on the Saturday. The Marquee however had shown over the year that it was 'past its 'sell by' with holes regularly appearing (some by stray balls) so it has been scrapped. The frame was also rotting with welds failing so really would not have been safe to re-erect. The committee has found a very reasonable replacement, however are considering whether an all together better marquee might be beneficial in attracting other functions. This is being kept under review, however a decision will be made later this year so that a new marquee is available for next season. Next years **NatWest CricketForce weekend is April 1st and 2nd**.

As always we are extremely grateful to our sponsors for their continued support and also our trustees. Especial thanks must go to Jo Watson who cajoled and badgered local businesses to support us to a greater level than ever before. This has supplied greatly needed funds.

Our Grounds hosted the Exmouth T20 Charity Match on August Bank Holiday Sunday which raised a large amount of money for The Brain Tumour Charity and Cots for Tots Appeal.

The club in conjunction with an ECB initiative and assisted by Waitrose had a very successful Community and Open Day on Sunday July 17th. This was a super event that we hope to repeat annually as a way of encouraging more young players and parents to become involved.

The Committee urgently requests however that any member who feels able to assist the Club in either the Social Member Rôle that they please contact either myself or our Chairman.

We are unsure whether the parking arrangement with Madeira Bowls will continue next year. This is because they obtained planning permission to make the grass verge beside the footpath on their side of the hedge into a dedicated parking area for their

members, however the committee are actively pursuing other sources of revenue should they not require the parking area they currently rent from us. When this new car park is in use, we will need to take great care when exiting the club, as EDDC failed to take into account our concerns regarding the dangerous blind corner when reclassifying the footpath as a vehicular access to Madeira Bowls.

Membership support is extremely important to us and we thank all who consistently turn out to support our teams. However membership is reducing and we need to try to encourage new members.

The weekly Friday Colts coaching evenings and the Awards evening go a long way in giving a true reflection of everyone's continuing engagement with the club. We are extremely grateful to everyone who continues to give their time in order to make the Colts an ongoing outstanding success. The Colts are the Clubs future and I am sure that I speak on behalf of Debbie Austen, Dickie Davies and Sandy Allen in thanking everyone who have made the Friday Nights Colts sessions so great!

Over the next few years maybe our greatest challenge for many years could present itself. That comes in the form of the EDDC Splash Project. Access to the club for ourselves and our visitors and spectators will be demanding as the proposed development proceeds, not the least from the relocation of Queens Drive.

We would remind all members and players that there is always a tremendous amount of work to be done "behind the scenes" and I thank all those members and volunteers who have assisted in many ways during 2016. As we now have an Estate Manager we can ensure that those urgent little tasks are targeted. From **Friday 11th November** Trina Wood is organising a Friday Morning Coffee Club. This will start at 10.30 initially and is intended primarily as a social occasion but if anyone feels that they would like to do the odd little job whilst enjoying coffee/tea, cake & biscuits, that would be great! All are welcome.

I would invite you to continue with that help to the Committee and other members whenever possible since without you there would be no Exmouth Cricket Club.

As an advance notice, the **Club Annual Dinner and Presentation Evening will be on Saturday October 14th 2017 at the Royal Beacon Hotel**, who looked after us so well at this years great evening. Please put this date in your diaries.

We should all look forward to the 2017 season with optimism, and truly hope that we can build on our current successes.

If you play or just watch, please enjoy our wonderful game.

Happy Cricket!!

Paul Corder, Honorary Secretary

Chairman's Address – AGM 2016

Firstly I'd like to mirror Paul's opening paragraph in his Secretary's report for 2016. I was very shocked when I heard that Richard Butler had died. Richard did an enormous amount of work for this club and he will be very sadly missed.

I was contacted by the committee before Christmas, about standing again, as Chairman, and after discussions with our President, I decided that I would, and I'm happy to continue if the Club so wishes.

As you will hear later from our Treasurer the financial position of the Club has significantly improved during 2016. This has been achieved by a combination of increased income and reduced expenditure. Income wise, I would like to Sue Hurley and the volunteers, both old and young, who have substantially increased our car parking income. Also Jo Watson who has again raised considerably needed income through sponsorship, as well as managing the Bar to a profit of over £4,000. The main saving on the expenditure side was through not having an overseas player during 2016.

I would like to thank Alan Schaufler who has taken on the role of Estate's manager. It's an important role within the club due to the age of the building, and Alan has already started to improve things. It is hoped that we will be able to remove the old grandstand before the start of next season.

We are starting to look at areas of the ground that need improvement, such as the seating area and the public toilets. One of the colts' parents, Simon Lawrence, who has been helping with the demolition of the old stand, may be able to help with some of the projects. I'm also in the process of looking for possible funding streams.

We have had to dispose of the marquee, as it was basically falling to bits. The committee has yet to decide the best way forward. A replacement marque, or something more permanent, as well as where the structure should go. That doesn't need to be agreed until mid February.

As Paul has already mentioned in his report Sandy Allen stepped down as groundsman. He has been appointed to a coaching role at Exeter University and we wish him well. Geoff Mills, one of the colts' fathers put us in touch with Noel Westlake and he has taken on the job. Noel is very experienced and his labours are already starting to show fruit.

On the cricket front I'd first like to congratulate the 3rd XI and their captain Mark Davies on their promotion to 2nd XI 'B' Division East, as champions. The 1st XI held their own and were very unlucky to get knocked out of the T20 completion at Bradninch. The 2nd XI again struggled in their league, but managed to stay out of relegation. There have been some very

positive steps taken since the end of the season and I'm sure that the playing side of the club will be stronger next year.

The Ladies team completed all their fixtures this year, managing to win one of their matches. Annmarie Kain, has taken on the management of the side and we will be running the ladies tournament again in September.

Friday Colts night has been very successful this year. A big thank you to Debs Austin and all the coaches and team managers, for making the season so successful and enjoyable. We had teams in 3 age groups, Under 10's, 14's and 15's. Also a big thank you to Steve Cross, who managed both Under 10 teams. Under 14's and Under 15's were unbeaten all season, with the Under 14's winning the league and cup double. On the representative side James Horler, Louis Morison and Ollie Pugsley have all been selected for the Devon Under 14 tour of South Africa. Luke Davies, Jake Pond and Joe Hancock joined the Devon lads in the East Devon Under 14 squad, Ethan Brenton played for East Devon Under 10's and Emma Corney played for Devon Girls Under 13's

Moving forward, I'm hoping that we will continue to increase the clubs financial base through tighter control of expenditure and increased income. Ocean paid for some parking last year, which brought in around £250, not much, but that might be an area that we could increase. Car parking will again be an important area and with the potential closure of the seafront car park, the Club may well be the only public parking on the season front during 2017.

I would like to thank all the committee, as well as the volunteers, for their hard work during the year. But this is YOUR club, not mine or the committee's, we just manage it for you. Richard mentioned in his Chairman's report last year that the Club needs more volunteers and that is still the case, but I think it is improving, the Community Day, the car parking rota are examples.

Thank you.

Ashton Collinge

Chairman

Exmouth Cricket Club

17th November 2016