

North Enfield Cricket Club

Chairman and Fixtures report - 2022 AGM

Before setting out some words to reflect on the 2021 season and the year ahead, I will get the most important task done upfront; thank you to everyone who made the last two years since we last held an AGM in person such a success, in the most challenging circumstances. Many contributed days and weeks of their 'free' time. Or, time spent when they actually choose to do stuff for North Enfield when I'm sure other options were available. The most difficult award to decide is the Club member of the Year! However, over the last two years and actually before that, the administration of the club really has taken enormous strides to meet the ever-growing burden of directives, plans and competition admin we have to wade through. That we have a functioning and thriving club off the field is a tribute to Steve's enormous time and energy. There are semi-professional sports clubs and businesses that I don't think are as well set up as we are. Steve - your contribution to NECC has been immense and I know you will soon find something else to put your administration skills to work on, if you haven't already.

The finances of our club and indeed most cricket clubs were supplemented once again by winter and spring covid payments from Mr Sunak. While we never want to be in such circumstances ever again, it got us through the months with otherwise no income. It gives us some stability, and the confidence to have funded some investment which otherwise would have been piecemeal at best. The finance report speaks for itself but I would highlight the major investment in ground equipment and end-season professional work which will benefit us this season and for several years to come. In the last few years we have replaced almost every item of kit with new or very good second-hand equipment, and with the hard work put into using it, the ground looks fantastic. Thank you, as always, to those who have prepared the ground (Del, Colonel, Garry, Jack, and others) for play, and all those who came before, after and during the season to keep it tidy, plant flowers, litter pick and so on.

The pavilion continues to be amongst the best on the circuit for a club of our size and even those larger ones. It is neat, tidy, well-equipped and maintained, and welcoming. Thank you to Phil J and Kim for all their hard work, to Andy and Nick for fixing stuff, and to Bernie, Josh and Fred for their painting work at the end of the season in the changing rooms. The Bar continues to do really well courtesy of Jack's professional eye, and on the social/hire booking front we have done remarkably well. Well done to Del and Kate for the musical evenings which were such a success last year, and thank you Ken for keeping the hires on track.

Given the circumstances and uncertainty at the time, a fantastic Dinner-Dance and Awards Night was held at the start of December - thanks once again to Kathryn and James, and Stuart for all they did to bring it together. I thoroughly enjoyed it (being the last to leave at well past my usual bedtime). Well done to the award winners, including the very special achievement for Garry in 2021 - passing 20,000 runs for NECC.

Let's look forward to the cricket, and the company and enjoyment it gives us whether playing, spectating or just sitting on a bench in the sun.

Important dates to note for the first half of the season (Junior information to follow from Nick).

- pre-season work party - 9th & 16th April
- first game and Club Open Morning - 23rd April
- first League game - 7th May
- Club Day and NECC v Chairman's XI - 3rd July

Fixtures:

2021 was the busiest season that I can remember as a member of this club since 2000. From the Junior section we had Wednesday nights practice, games throughout the week and weekends, and a game that Nick M will I am sure not remember a single ball of. The U19s had a terrific season with Middlesex Cup matches and friendlies, often dodging the weather and various excuses put out by oppositions. Quite why clubs do this I don't know - the point is to play the game. The older juniors started to play some Sunday cricket which gave us our busiest Sunday and Mid week season for decades - the grand total of extra fixtures played was well into double figures, and we filled all our pre/post-League games on Saturdays as well. I have renewed with most oppositions, and hope to fill in a few more games by the time the season starts, including (maybe) a mini-tour to Norfolk in August. The extra Sunday games are planned to be from June to late July onwards, but if there is demand for more throughout the season I will do my best to find suitable opposition.

With best wishes and here's to a great 137th North Enfield CC season.

David Malleson