

Chairman's Report 2006

At the end of the 2005 season the wicket was re-surfaced with loam and re-seeded. The problems was a mild winter and the prospect of a water shortage being forecast for the summer, so there was some concern about the forthcoming season.

In May the weather took a hand and a number of matches were cancelled, but with the arrival of June, the sun came out, and the hose pipe ban arrived. With this hot, dry weather, this seemed to inspire the batsmen to get on with the job of scoring plenty of runs, unfortunately the opposing batsmen seemed to have received the same message, and we saw some large scores by both sides. A quick flip through the scorebook showed that in 10 matches, over 200 runs were scored by at least one side in 16 innings, which under normal circumstances would have been enough to win the match. Against Ashford Hill we scored 205 and still lost by 9 wickets.

The season was also marked with two unfortunate incidents – the match with Englefield did not take place due to problems with the fixture – this had been arranged with them, but somehow there was a mess up and the match did not take place. The second incident was against Wargrave where there was a disagreement between the two captains, which lead to a few words being passed between them. It is unlikely that we shall be playing this fixture again.

A pre-season meal was held at the Hind's Head and this was well supported and everyone enjoyed themselves. Since the season ended, we have a anew landlord in the Hind's Head and the pub has undergone a major change in the restaurant area.

A race night was due to be held in October, but this was cancelled due to lack of support with about 20 tickets being sold. These Race Nights are a major fund raising event and we need all the support we can get, especially as we have large expenditure coming up within the next two years, when we will have to replace the gang mowers, the cost of which will run into thousands of pounds. We hope to re-organise this event towards the end of the season.

Once again, many thanks to all the ladies, who have worked so hard in arranging the teas.

Congratulations to Gary and his wife on the arrival of their son and another future cricketer.

At the end of the season a strange rumour went around to the effect that Les had decided to retire, but as he has been at this for a few years it could well be true. To record all of the work Les has done for the club would fill a book or two, as there is much he has not done, from working on the ground / club house during the week and then on Saturday and Sunday mornings to prepare the wicket. In the afternoon he would be back bowling out the opposition and then knocking off the runs (hopefully). In the club house, Helen would be found helping out with the teas, truly a family effort. Yes, Les and Helen, this club owes you both a large debt of gratitude for all you have done for the club. Despite Les' best intention I would not be surprised to see him out in the middle, playing cricket sometime during the season.

N Hogg
Chairman
13/02/2007