

## HHCC Committee Report; 2024

For most clubs a season of three relegations would probably be described as a disaster or leave a club in crisis; whilst it's clearly not the result we wanted, 2024 actually leaves us in good shape to regroup and push on once again.

We went into 2024 knowing that we would need to reset our senior sides and knowing that a series of circumstances and life events, would likely mean we'd be without a host of regular faces as the season progressed, in reality this turned out to be more of an issue than hoped.

Most clubs face moments like this on an almost periodic basis as teams grow and change, but very few can accommodate a similar loss or absence of players without a dip in performance and we certainly felt it throughout our top teams and ultimately in our league positions.

However, three key pillars of our club provide us with plenty to be proud about, as well as lots of reasons to be positive for 2025 and beyond.

1 - the club is in good shape financially and socially and we retain our inclusive, family focussed outlook. Membership fees, sponsorship, lettings and a very successful and busy bar are allowing us to continue to invest in our future and specifically in our playing facilities.

2 - Senior numbers have never been so high and this year we ran 13 separate senior teams, including our first formal womens matches and first Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> XI. We need to recruit and grow quality at the top of the club, but the positive performances of our 4th & 5th XI league sides and specifically our u21 team bodes well for the coming seasons. In addition, we have a committee, captains and a selection team set on taking the club forward.

3 - Meanwhile our junior and pathway age groups now run from u4 to u21 and this season we registered over 500 boys and girls and, unlike many local clubs, our junior section retains inclusion at its heart, with a focus on trying to make sure all our kids are engaged and given chances to perform. Over the years this approach has sometimes been questioned, but the results say that we are getting things right. In 2024 we saw:

- Our new U8 side go unbeaten all year
- Our U13s make the Middx plate final
- The U12s and U14s win their Middx Plate competitions
- Our U15 As, Bs and Girls teams all claim 2nd place finishes in their respective leagues
- And we watched our U17s win their MDL competition

Additionally over 40 of our u18s are now playing senior cricket and a number of them featured in our end of season senior awards. Aditi Sahoo led the Hill charge in representative cricket making both the Middx Girls EPP squad and being offered a slot in the u17 Surrey's Girls set up.

Huge thanks goes to all involved in running the club; the committee remain focused on ensuring long term success and all put in a great deal of time, energy and passion to drive HHCC forward, as do all our coaches, captains and volunteers without whom we would be lost.

Unbelievably, we now have over 100 volunteer coaches and helpers running junior cricket, all DBS certified thanks to Ria and our Welfare team who run sessions for all new and existing volunteers to share and reinforce HHCC safeguarding policies and processes. We had no significant welfare issues in 2024 and no incidents were escalated to the cricket board, whilst

all necessary reporting on coaches and volunteers has been successfully submitted and maintained via the ECB Clubmark system.

Moving forward we have two things to focus on that will help us build on our current position and get our top senior sides back to winning ways.

Firstly, we must nurture, develop and champion our youngsters within our framework and ensure as many as possible transition successfully through the club. This includes investing in coaching and recruiting players into our senior sides to ensure we provide the right environment for all and are as competitive in the reformed Surrey leagues as possible.

Secondly, we must continue to invest in our playing facilities to ensure we attract and maintain cricketing talent and keep pace with our growth in numbers in a sustainable and positive fashion.

To this end there are a series of activities being taken forward that will account for the reinvestment of club funds and these are:

1 - winter nets; whilst not a capital investment, the cost of providing these continues to climb so we continue to have to find new and more cost-efficient ways of providing winter training for all.

2 - Bushy Park; work continues on our home ground. The levelling work has improved the outfield and Steve has further plans to continue to improve the number and consistency of the pitches produced.

3. Carlisle Park; the planning saga rolls on, but it remains our intention to invest c.£15k in the net replacement project at Carlisle Park in return for priority use of the new facility. We are currently awaiting the output of the latest consultation round and hope 2025 will see both a reopened/refurbished clubhouse and new nets. A new Astro strip was laid last summer.

4 - TRFC; we have invested time this winter in a project that will hopefully see cricket introduced at Twickenham RFC's ground in Hampton. Talks are at an advanced stage, but still subject to a final agreement and further planning permission, but the two clubs are joined in the desire to lay a non turf pitch and give us another ground close to HQ for training and matches.

5 - Coaching; we are exploring options and opportunities to introduce more coaching for our pathway juniors (and wider) as they transition into senior cricket and hope to take some initial steps on this in time for the 2025 season.

6. - Other Projects; we have a series of other investments on our wish list from new clubhouse furniture to introducing live match streaming, but anything outside of our initial priority list will be subject to funding, either through specific sponsorship or fundraising activity or through general club funds as our financial performance dictates.

So another busy year awaits in 2025, when we hope the financial and cricketing investments we are making will maintain the impressive performances of our youngsters, whilst also driving an upturn in the fortunes of our top senior sides.

Thanks again to all who support and drive the club; your efforts are noted and very much appreciated and are what help to keep our club the very special place it is.

## **2023 Items for Noting:**

### **A. Overall Junior Award Winners, 2023:**

Bill Haunting Colt of the Year: Will Exworth  
Chairmans Cup for Batting: Josh Moss  
Mike Crane Bowling Award: Aditi Sahoo  
Coaches All Rounder Award: Aditi Sahoo  
Doug Hill Most Improved Colt: Daisy Goodwin  
Fielder of the Year: Louis Juniper  
Best Junior Performance: Ben Porter  
Outstanding Contribution to Female Cricket: Connie Stevenson

### **B. Main Senior Award Winners 2023:**

Hall Edwards Batting: Jake Wood  
Nigel Coates League Batting: Neel Dhokia  
Skim Carroll Bowling: James Boulton  
Mike Crane League Bowling: James Boulton  
Pete Cullinan Best Bowling: Joe Ayley  
Carr Hurst All Rounder: James Boulton  
Udal Raine Young Performance: Nathan Aimer  
Ian Greenaway Team Player: Daniel Beadle  
Ian Exworth Player of the Year: James Boulton  
Johnson Merit Shield: TBA @ AGM

### **C. Membership Numbers 2024:**

#### Senior Members

Players: 103  
VP: 20  
Club: 380  
Hon VP: 13  
Life: 13  
Total: 529

#### Junior Members

Softball: 293  
Hard ball: 222  
Total: 515