

The 12th Man Welcome 2005

Welcome to the new look Andover Cricket Club. The pavilion and ground have had a considerable make over thanks to the efforts of more than thirty club members who turned up on the first week end of April to paint, scrub, rebuild and generally breathe new life into the old building.

This was part of the Cricket Force initiative created by the English and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) the aim of which was to get local businesses involved in helping out cricket clubs in the community.

We have every reason to thank the many companies who so generously assisted us: The Powell's Group, CMS Downs, S.C.R.A.T.C.H., and Stannah Lifts.

We live in interesting times and none more so than for community sports clubs who have to attract youngsters to their sports



in face of competition from computers, TVs and many other leisure activities. We at Andover Cricket Club are doing our best to ensure that the future of the club is a rosy one.

In the meantime it will be good to meet so many friends of the Club and we wish to remind everyone that you are always welcome here on any match day to come along, enjoy the cricket and a drink in the bar after the game.

The toast is, "Andover C.C."

Sunday 17th April
2005

New season launch cheese

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Please Note
Next week end is the annual inter club match on Saturday. Sunday games are: 1st XI vs, and 2nd XI vs Newton Tony.



Message From the President

It was a year with a lot of activity and some progress both on and off the field. On the field we had two sides promoted. The 2nds finally reached the Premier 3rd Division after coming very close in the last two seasons and the 5ths sneaked home in the Regional Division. Elsewhere the other three league teams struggled but managed to retain their current status for another season. The Sunday Border League teams saw our indifferent form and difficult availability continue, while the Colts had another good season, culminating in a successful tour of South Africa in February.

Off the field our move to a new site continues to stumble along in a frustrating manner. It must be remembered that the new pavilion saga and now the pending move have been muted since September 1999. Nearly 6 years have elapsed and very little progress seems to have been made. I would ask all our members to be patient as I am sure more definite details will be available soon. In the meantime we have to maintain our current playing status and keep our existing premises up to scratch. We need to ensure that the wicket and outfield meet the criteria laid down by the league which is even harder now that the 2nds have been promoted, as our ground will be under scrutiny every week. This means every member must be prepared to pull their weight either on the ground, or on the bar rota, or assisting with the coaching of the Colts, or in maintaining the pavilion. If you are asked to help in any way please just take your turn, it will help your Club to be even greater than it is today. We have a great team spirit permeating throughout the Club, a fantastic feeling of togetherness and long may it continue.

Good luck to all the teams for the coming season

Andy Hooper

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Outlook For 2005

The new season promises to be the most challenging season so far as we now have both our top two XIs in the Premier League. Maintaining that will be a wonderful achievement. Elsewhere we will have the 3rd XI still competing in the dizzy heights of Hants Div. 2. The problems we face are positive problems when one considers the difficulties being presented elsewhere as cricket clubs seem to fold with alarming regularity.

Our playing strength has been depleted with the forced retirement of some senior players but no doubt those who step up into these vacant slots will be doing their best to make sure that we keep to the high standards that have already been set.

There are many promising young players who seem set to make their mark during 2005 following on from their performances of last year. Look out for Martin Roberts making an impact both as a bowler and batsman. Both Chris and Jonty Hadfield will be looking to consolidate their positions in the senior men's teams. Luke Andrews will now have the opportunity to fully realise his potential. To them and many others who will come through we wish all the very best.

Among the senior players Roger Miller will be leading the 1st XI again and one thing you can be sure of is that 'Dodge' will be leading from the front. Ian Gardner has charge of the 2nds for the second year and he too is under no illusion about the challenges that lie ahead. Last season Andy McMahon took a very young side with him throughout the season in the 3rds he will have learned a great deal about the standard of the opposition he faces and the quality of the players available to him and these lessons will be invaluable to him. The two lower XIs are in the hands of John Baxter and Phil Knight. Both will be looking to bring on youngsters as appropriate whilst bolstering the side from the senior members. On Sundays Andy Hooper is to be 1st XI manager and Alan Ellwood will be running the Sunday 2nd XI again.

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Andover Cricket Club

Communication

We live in an age of instant communication. Text messages, email, fax, mobile 'phones, have all altered our lives out of all recognition. Communication within a cricket club of our size is of paramount importance. The lines of communication have to go many directions: captains to players, players to captains, committee to members and members to committee. It is the life blood of our club. In my first season for Andover, 1975, I lived in a flat which had no telephone and was told of my selection by postcard. A situation which seems utterly absurd to us now.

To help this communication we have several outlets. We have a web site at www.andovercricketclub.co.uk. This web site carries all the latest news, results team selections as well as a large archive of club photographs. The 12th Man Match Day Magazine comes out on the seventeen Saturdays during the season when the whole club is involved in league action. It carries items of general interest results as well as all the day's teams. During the close season quarterly newsletter goes out to members with details of social events, indoor nets and other club developments. In short we are doing our best one way and another. You can help this process by making sure that all the information you give regarding contact details and availability etc is accurate and up to date.

Yep, that's it for the 1st 12th Man of 2005. The next will be on 7th May when all the teams will be involved in league action. All comments would be gratefully received either in writing, verbally or e-mail to info@andovercricketclub.co.uk If you've been missed off or offended you probably deserved it.

12th Man has been edited by: John Baxter. Deadline for any comments articles is the Wednesday prior to publication. For up to date news of Andover Cricket Club visit www.andovercricketclub.co.uk Cheers

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