



April 2021 Newsletter

The 2021 cricket season is nearly upon us, and following the recent Government announcement, it appears we are on the right path out of lockdown, and play should commence on Saturday 17 April at Oakworth CC.

We know that the adaptations to playing cricket will be very much as they were for last season, with sanitisation breaks, players arriving and leaving in their whites, club houses remaining out of bounds, other than for using the toilets, and teas will once again not be provided. Those are the conditions that we will start with but hopefully as the season progresses, with a fair wind the Government tests continue to be met, there will be a relaxation of these rules and the normal life in and around a cricket ground can be resumed. (Fingers crossed!) With this in mind I would remind each and everyone of us to adhere to the rules, keep your distance and work together to protect OCC and its members.

However, more immediately, preparations are well underway to ensure that once again Oakworth Cricket Club can be proud to welcome our members and guests to some of the best facilities on and off field of play. With 29 March now behind us practice in our superb permanent net facility, which has recently been enhanced by the purchase of new netting can resume. Seniors will practice as usual on Tuesday nights from 6.15pm with junior practice sessions being confirmed by your individual team managers.

Eric Ashford has been working hard all winter and spring in providing a perimeter to the ground that is the envy of all, with the walls rebuilt and the daffodils in full bloom. Thanks Eric, for everything that you do for us. Unfortunately, like many other sports grounds in the area, we suffered damage to the outfield and square over the winter following a vehicle gaining access to the pitch and joyriding around. Fortunately, the ground was solid and snow covered, so the damage wasn't as bad as could have been. With thanks to a few helpers, the damage has been forked and rolled, allowing the outfield to be cut. This has been done alongside the keeper of the hallowed turf in the centre of the field, Steve Powell, who has been hard at work preparing the square, in readiness for the season's start.

In singling out these individuals, there is a real risk of overlooking the fantastic work that is done by a whole range of individuals, who seek no reward, but without who the club would not be what it is today. To you all, the club is massively grateful, thank you.

Your club is also looking to bolster its links to the community that it serves and encourage groups and individuals to look upon the club as their club, to become members and enjoy our facilities as much as we do. One of the main events of the summer is to be an 'open day' to which the entire village is invited to attend. Early stages at present, however we are hoping to combine a day of junior cricket, senior cricket with social activities throughout. Please spread the word about what your club has to offer, and encourage everyone, whether they have an interest in cricket or not, to take in the views and enjoy our wonderful club.

The Covid pandemic curtailed much of normal life in 2020 and so far in 2021. However, we did play half a season of cricket, and one of the things we want to do, is recognise the achievements of the club and its players in 2020 at a presentation event. Details of this will follow in due course, when the Government gives the go ahead to a more general opening up of life.



In a similar vein, one of the key events of the club social calendar and an important part of its governance, is to hold an Annual General Meeting. The 2020 AGM should have taken place on March 17. However, as we all know the pandemic was by that time already taking a firm hold and the 'stay at home' message had been given out. Therefore, with great regret and for the first time since World War II, the Oakworth Cricket Club AGM was postponed. I say postponed because, again, as soon as Government rules allow, we will be holding an AGM, which will cover the period since the last one was held in March 2019 to, a date yet to be arranged but likely to be June or July. It is proposed that the AGM will be held on a Friday night and we would like everybody connected to the club to attend and to hear what the club has been doing and what it proposes to do, as it faces into the future.

It goes without saying that the Committee have not been idle. It has recently purchased a larger rain sheet cover to protect more of the square, and a new 'Bow Dry' squeegee will be purchased. Assessment of the square is to be undertaken to provide an informative view on the suitability of roll on covers with a view to purchasing three new ones. The drainage of the outfield will be enhanced by Sugden's Agricultural Contractors and the moss problem that is also impacting the drainage of the field will be treated. The fascia boarding of the club house is shortly to be renewed by David Brunskill Upvc Windows & Doors.

The fixtures for all Oakworth senior and junior teams are available on Play-Cricket and the Oakworth CC website. It would be great to see as many of you at games as possible. It goes without saying that like all team sports, we are always on the look out for playing numbers, whether that be young talent making their way in the game, or those of more senior years, who might like to return to playing, even if only on an 'as and when required' basis. Let us know if you can help us out.

Help doesn't stop with playing though, if you think you are better suited to helping off the field, whether it be through assisting with the management of the age group teams, your skills in a trade around the grounds or clubhouse, or simply serving drinks to our thirsty members, again please let us know. If you wish to get involved with the junior teams, please speak to Jane Scarborough, who will guide you through the very straightforward DBS process.

Looking further forward the club needs to consider where it wants to be in the medium to longer term. With this in mind it is intended to form a small working group to look at and consider a five-year plan for where Oakworth Cricket Club wants to be and what it needs to do to achieve this. Therefore, we are appealing to you as players, parents and spectators, if you have an interest in your club and want to help in the shaping of its future, speak up and give your name to a member of the committee. It goes without saying, your club needs you, and I, as are all of your Committee, looking forward to welcoming you back to Wide Lane.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Scarborough', written in a cursive style.

Michael Scarborough
Chair