



Report to the Members – 9th December 2020

Chairmans Report

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Chairman's report.

We are obliged by our constitution to hold an AGM each year. The current circumstances render that impossible so we have to resort to the written word.

We always start our meetings by holding a few moments silence to give memory to those lost to us in the last twelve months. In that regard we give specific thanks to our late president Rodney Fray. 'Roddies' had been a great supporter of the club for the five years he was in post and a particular fan of all junior cricket. We miss him not being here – even if he was catching forty winks in the corner!

Covid certainly disrupted many of our plans and undid the great progress we have made. The bar was shut for all but ten weeks in over six months to September. The playing season was re-formatted but ultimately rendered unviable in early September. Three months on we remain closed with no immediate prospect of change. Thankfully we went into the second limbo period with a good team ethic on the playing front and in financial good order. I am sure we all wish to return to a level of normality sooner rather than later.

The committee worked hard during the year and I am grateful to each and every one of them. Our recent investment in the playing facilities continued to give us the best ground in The League. Our grounds man Mike Davies continued his first class work and gave his services for free while we could not play. This was a noble gesture and the least we can do is to make him a life member. This has already been approved.

Our cricket coordinators Andy Ball and Simon Lightbown did a magnificent job to ensure we turned out teams for all our fixtures, not something all clubs can say! They each had their back up teams and I wish to record my thanks to them and the team captains. It's onward to the GMCL for 2021 and I look forward to our continued progress.

Our bar staff and cleaners performed admirably both pre and post Covid and I put on record my specific thanks to steward Stuart Marsh. Our brewers Carlsberg Tetley were hugely supportive of us and we will need to work closely with them when business resumes.

And finally I wish to thank all our members for their continued support. Our working relationships with the community continue to grow. We are truly a sports club now covering our friends at Moss Bank and our very own Heaton FC team, rounders table tennis and darts.

There is no doubt that things will not be easy when business starts again. There will be significant rebuilding to do and we will need every bit of support to put things back on an even keel. We still have robust plans for the future and will continue to work to achieving the best of standards for everybody in the club.

Graham McGreavy Chair – 9th December 2020

Treasurer's report.

The financial reports are attached.

Given the volatility of the year I am going to report at a higher level than normal and avoid being over analytical. I am sure this will be acceptable.

As far as the bar is concerned I can break this into four distinct areas. In quarter one our volumes were up over thirty percent on the previous year. Quarter two was up by about seven percent on last year and then we went into lockdown.

At this stage we were clearly looking forward to a good outcome for the year. Future bookings were positive and there was a good array of televised sporting events to bring business in. When we did reopen under tier one regulations, bar activity was as good as we could have hoped for. We all worked hard to ensure we were compliant to protect our members. There is no doubt that our ongoing payroll costs would have been substantially increased, but we felt that it was important to not restart the business from a 'nil' point.

The first imperative was to tighten up on the membership and ensure that all patrons were fully paid up. This was embraced and minimised business risk. It also gave us a nice cash flow boost and ensured we upgrade our database. We intend to keep a better reign on this going forward but were pleased with the support given by everybody.

I am grateful for the change of duties performed by Stuart Marsh who effectively became compliance officer in addition to his other duties. We weren't able to bring back all our staff but kept the ones we could not on the furlough scheme. Once again I must give thanks to the support of everybody who has worked hard for us.

The business benefitted from the £10k one off Government grant and furlough support. We are just one small entity but central support amounted to £27k to the year end.

The shortened season and the absence of a professional significantly reduced our costs without damaging the on field performance. I also wish to thank Mike Davies for his continued professionalism and support. All the coaches and team managers did a first class job in the most testing of circumstances

It seems strange to report that in this period of unrest we managed to produce a profit but re-establishing the trading for the future will be a significant task. We had made significant progress with investment across all aspects of the club. We had reduced our brewery borrowings to the stage we could reasonably foresee being free from debt. After the year end we converted £9k of our trading balance with Carlsberg to our loan account to ensure we had sufficient liquidity during this situation. They recognise that we are in this together. The market will be different when things restart. I have no doubt that there will be less drinking outlets so it is up to us to be ready and we will be.

I also wish to place on record my personal thanks to Joanne Meaney who undertakes the day to day financial tasks and keeps me and the rest of the team firmly on our toes.

I will close by thanking everybody who has supported us, patrons, friends and committee alike. We look forward to a return to some level of normality and enjoying each other's company. It's been a long time!

Cricket report.

Senior Cricket

As I write this summary of the 2020 Season the first COVID-19 vaccines are being administered and with it, fingers crossed, real light at the end of what has been a long tunnel. Cricket is only a game so the disappointment encountered in trying to play the 2020 Season in the middle of a Pandemic needs some perspective.

COVID badly affected most aspects of the season and meant that ultimately the Season was voided by the League. Nevertheless there were a lot of positives to take out of the shortened season we did enjoy. Heavily sanitised and safely socially distant we managed to net 3 times a week for the best part of 10 weeks in the glorious sunshine of May and June. My thanks to Neil McGivern and Mick Fletcher for their considerable efforts in maintaining the enthusiasm whilst everybody waited for the season to start and their ongoing commitment throughout the year.

Once we did start both 1st and 2nd XL's performed extremely well and gave good accounts of themselves. Only 2 defeats out of 13 games between the 2 senior sides. Both were captained very positively and I pay tribute to Ollie Sutcliffe and Jake Whittaker for their leadership in difficult circumstances. Both teams demonstrated increasing maturity and the confidence that only comes from winning games. The momentum gained from 2019 was maintained.

The 1st XL only played 3 league games because of adverse weather. But what games they were!; 2 victories secured in the last over and a tie off the last ball at Westhoughton! In the T20 competition 5 consecutive and comprehensive victories were only slightly spoiled by a narrow defeat in what turned out to be our last game of the season. Good performances were spread right around the team with just about everybody in the squad making at least one definitive contribution in the games played.

The 2nd XL lost only 1 of their 5 league games played and were looking forward to a crunch title deciding game against Farnworth SC when the curtain was brought down on their season. As with the 1sts good performances were spread around the side.

Our 3rd XL made their debut in the GMCL and performed well in their matches, eventually topping their division in another shortened season. My thanks go to Jake Corrigan for his work mentoring the Junior players who debut into Senior Cricket via the 3rd XL. For 2020 we intend to introduce a 4th XL to provide another pathway into Senior Cricket for our Junior players.

The whole club is now looking forward to 2021 and hopefully a more normal summer. It will be our first season as full members of the GMCL. We are very much looking forward to the new challenges that will bring. We are planning to bring to the league competitive teams capable of progressing within the GMCL's structure.

Andy Ball

Junior Cricket

Despite Covid restrictions we were pleased to offer an array of coaching and practice opportunities thanks to the commitment of all the junior managers. We managed to retain children at all age groups and I am grateful for the support shown by parents under trying circumstances.

With the passing of our President, Rodney Fray we lost the greatest supporter of the junior section, he will be sadly missed.

Our younger age groups development continued with the U9's topping their league and the exciting U11's team performing impressively. Our youth policy continues to pay dividends with 8 boys from the older age groups regularly representing the senior teams this season.

We look forward to an exciting first season in the GMCL which will provide a competitive standard of cricket for all teams. With the increased coaching options we intend to offer this season the future of junior cricket remains bright.

Simon Lightbown

AGM Notes

It is proposed that due to the difficulties experienced this year, All committee positions currently held, shall remain in place for the following year until the AGM in Nov/Dec 2021. Should anybody wish to join the committee please make your intention known by email

The vacant Presidents position will be fulfilled until further notice

by

Mr. Warwick Milne Esq

Should anybody have questions/comments regarding the above,

please contact the club by email

Kind Regards and please stay safe & Well

Mr. Graham McGreavy Esq (Chair)

9th December 2020