

BRAMSHAW CRICKET CLUB

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AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2007

As September draws to a close, one realizes that another Summer Cricket Season is at an end. The seasons seem to get shorter every year, or is it just that the weather gets worse and prevents all the games being played.

2007 will go down in history as one of the seasons most affected by bad weather, and some Clubs were only able to play less than 50% of their league games which has a big impact not only on the quality and the enjoyment of a season, but on the financial stability of local cricket which relies so heavily on its membership fees, match fees and bar takings.

We have not been as badly affected as some other clubs, and we are indebted to the generous support of our Club Sponsors and supporters.

As for the games played, those in the early part of the season were almost a lottery, because each week we were playing on different types of wicket, one week hard and bouncy, and the next wet and soggy. This did not lead to any consistency and overall we are disappointed with our final League positions.

The 1st XI had many games called off at home and was in a relegation fight for most of the year, but, due to a good team spirit, and some outstanding individual performances they managed to climb to 14th place and will retain their membership of County Division 1 of the Hampshire League next year.

The 2nd XI, who were playing in County Division 4 for the first time managed to finish 8th, just above halfway, which was a very creditable performance, considering that this team is always the one that suffers when the 1st team are short and there are no experienced players available to come up from the 3rd's.

A special mention must go to Jon Wall and Ian McGill who shared an unbroken 4th wicket partnership of 333 in the first game of the season. This is an all time record for any division in the history of the Hampshire Cricket League. Jon Wall's 222 not out is also a league record individual score. (oh, not to forget Ian got 118 not out, - which I think was his first century on the Bramshaw ground).

Once again the 3rd XI provided competitive league cricket for "our experienced players" and a whole crop of new young talent. Many of these lads are still only 13 -14 years old but we have had much pleasure in seeing them growing up in stature and ability.

There were several excellent performances, including a hat trick for Tom Beresford, 4 wickets in a game for Gary Blake against the Club that he had just left because he couldn't get into the side.

Others made their first 50's or took their first wicket, and the future of the Club looks promising with this talent behind us.

The team won more games than they lost and finished 6th in their division.

The mid week Border League team had its best ever season, winning Division 1 for the 1st time, and then unfortunately losing the Cup Final to Paultons, (on the night they had one player who slogged everything thrown at him, and our score was never going to be big enough).

The midweek and Sunday friendly XI's continued to provide worthwhile cricket to many players who were not deeply involved with the Saturday league cricket.

As I said before, although the final league positions were disappointing, there is much optimism to be had about the future.

This year for the first time in years we were able to re start Colts cricket at Bramshaw, but the poor weather seriously disrupted the few games that the under 11's had scheduled. Still it was good to see so many 8 to 13 years olds, and their parents, up at the ground for the Friday training nights. Thanks and well done to Ben Arnold, Andy Hart, Jon Wall, Joel Worrall and everybody that helped to get this section up and running again. Next year we will be entering an under 11 and an under 13 side in the NFCCA leagues.

So now it is downhill to winter !!

The indoor league starts on 14th October at Lymington. Our 1st XI will play in Division 1 this year, having won their league last year, and the 2nd XI will play in Division 2. If you are interested in playing please contact Andy Hart or Tim Rogers.

The Annual Club Presentation Evening will be held on Friday 26th October at the Totton & Eling Sports Club, Ringwood Road, Totton (formerly known as the BAT Sports Club), starting at 7.30pm. The evening will include a disco and food, either a cold buffet or barbeque.

Tickets are £10 for adults, and £5 for children. Please let me know how many tickets you want, and which food when booking. Please do come along and enjoy a great night with us. You never know you might have won a trophy this year.

The Club AGM will be held at The Bell Inn. Brook on Tuesday 26th November at 7.30 pm. This is your opportunity to have your say in how this Club is run.

Nominations with a seconder for Officers of the Club, and Team Captains, must be received by the Secretary before the meeting.

We have already booked some indoor nets at Hounslow School starting in January and these will be used for Colts between 5.30 – 6.30pm and seniors up to 7.30pm. Ben Arnold will be able to confirm all the dates at the AGM.

All that remains is for me, on behalf of the Club, to pass on our thanks to everyone who has supported or helped the Club to maintain its current status, and to make progress during the last season, especially Kevin Gray for his hard work on the ground, Arthur Stickland for his umpiring skills, and Tim Rogers/Phil Curl for their hours on the telephone to ensure that the Club were able to put out complete teams each week. (not an easy job).

Finally a request from Charlotte, for final balance payments for the Xmas Dinner to be paid to her on or before the 26th October, and an even scarier one from Caroline, - if you still owe any weekly payments to the Bonus Ball Competition watch out because she is after you.

Chris Rogers