

REFLECTION ON 2020:

2020 has been many different things to many different people. For many it has meant loss, loss of freedom, loss of jobs or opportunities, loss of loved ones. For Eversley cricket club it meant loss of roughly half the season and almost all use of the bar, indoor centre and all the social functions that would normally mark the summer. It meant the loss of sponsorship, the loss of the PCA day fixture and the delay of a number of initiatives that were hoping to drive the club forward. Through all that loss however showed the spirit and character of our community. You the members of the club embraced the changes and turned up in your hundreds to support each other and enable some sport to take place. All of our thanks need to go to those hardworking dedicated volunteers to hurriedly threw together a season with only a few weeks notice back in June/July. My personal thanks go to the club committee, the colts coaching team and the grounds volunteers for their wonderful efforts setting up Cross Green and Fox Lane as well as the copious amount of paperwork needed to get going, you are all superstars. As the year has gone on we have had further challenges and I'm sure they are not done yet so I am very grateful to every member for their loyalty and patience over these troubled times. As a result of these troubled times we have also awarded no trophies for this year, either playing of club. As the months progress and we get a clearer picture of what 2021 will look like I will address this to ensure those who deserve to be honoured are at a ceremony perhaps at the beginning of the season.

Tonight we will hear from a few key individuals who represent the 6 pillars of the Club: Adults Cricket, Colts Cricket, Financial Stability and Investment, Grounds and Facilities, Club in the Community and Membership. Tonight we will cover these in varying amounts of detail but if at any point you feel something hasn't been raised then of course we will be fielding questions near the end of the evening. If there is anything we cant answer this evening then Lawrence will make a note and we will follow it up in the next month.

I will begin with Membership and the people at the club.

I would like to acknowledge the contributions to some very loyal servants from over the years.

Another two people I had in mind for this speech earlier in the year were Mick Slater and Alan Budge with both of them standing down from their respective roles on the ESA. Mick Slater has handed over the chairmanship of the ESA to Derek Craston, a member of Yateley Hockey Club who is been excellent in post so far. Mick has become the first President of the ESA which is befitting considering he has led the committee for years being there at its inception. Mick's efforts along with Alan Budge, Gary Ford, Doug Bradley and a number of others created all that we have on Fox Lane so as a club we say thank you so very much to Mick for all his service over the years. Next year when I take Mick's place on the ESA committee as one of the cricket club representatives, I am aware of just how ridiculously big those shoes are to fill. Hopefully he will be around for the odd piece of advice...

For 2020 Alan Budge decided to hang up his cricket admin boots. I briefly mentioned and thanked Alan at last year's AGM but I wanted to say it once more just reinforce his significant efforts over the years.

Serving as almost every role on the club committee and being part of the ESA since its inception means that his blood runs maroon and gold! As he approached retirement we hope to still see him gracing the benches outside watching the first team, that is of course if he isn't at Lords, the Oval, Twickenham, the MCG, the SCG, Barbados, Jamaica or some other exotic location...

Standing down from his role as membership secretary this year is Mark Kirby. Mark has served the role expertly and diligently for many years whilst Ruben made his way through the colts section. Thank you Mark for doing such a great job and making everything so easy for all the parents out there. His replacement as membership secretary is James "Jimmy" Forsythe, please welcome Jimmy into the role and help him become as organised and efficient as Mark was by returning your forms in good time.

As part of the Clubmark accreditation and in order to receive some vital funding you might have noticed in the agenda some proposed changes to the rules to be implemented later on, these are relatively simple changes but ones that bring the constitution closer to the modern times. Having achieved these small changes I along with a separate sub-committee intend to examine the constitution over the next 12 months to see whether there are any other rules changes required to bring it more up to date. If you feel that you would like to have your say on the club constitution and rules etc by joining this sub-committee then I welcome your input, please drop me a note to say you would be interested.

A brief word on Cricket...

Tom and Scott will cover adult cricket, and Dave will cover colts cricket, later but needless to say 2020 was the season that nearly didn't happen, but then went off with a bang. Lockdown and subsequent lack of travel/events meant that we had remarkable availability and some incredible games played. Once

again the colts shone in both their own games and when they came to join the adults section and were a testament to their families and coaches who have helped them along their way.

Moving on now to Club in the Community...

This year Club in the community meant more along the lines of the club AS A community that came together to provide for each other in the times of crisis. I was very proud of all of our members and even if we didn't achieve all our goals we certainly showed a lot of grit and determination.

The PCA fixture was of course cancelled this year but it pensively still in the calendar for 2021. It would be flippant of me to try to assure everyone that it will be taking place but hopefully you will all understand that should the stars align and we do manage to host it again in 2021 then we will be absolutely calling on you our members to try and make the very most of it that we can.

Our charitable contributions were also much reduced as a result of the lack of social events but I believe we did still raise a donation for the Ruth Strauss foundation.

Moving onto Grounds and Facilities which ties in nicely with investment...

This year the memorial clock donated partly by both Derek Budd and Alan Tonks was installed proudly on the clubhouse. The club committee intends to honour these two giants of Eversley further in the future but for now, gentlemen, if you are looking down, we hope you like it.

Fixing the outfield was a significant project for the start of 2020 before the Pandemic began. It included a substantial £5000 investment organised by Chris and his team to completely renovate it. The weather once again tried to derail us being a wet winter and hot summer but the volunteer team in combination with Stu Collar and Jack Ford have done a sterling job keeping it in good shape for 2021. On the topic of grounds we also invested in a brand new roller for Fox Lane at the start of the year. Some of the 3rds and 4ths became quite intimately acquainted with this machine as we changed grounds contractors and needed a bit of extra help preparing pitches for Fox Lane. Thank you very much to everyone involved.

Other larger scale projects for the cricket club have understandably been put on hold for the minute as we look to navigate this pandemic. As you might imagine the use of the indoor centre has been significantly reduced and may well continue to be the case into the new year. With this reduced usage and investment in the centre overdue, we as its principle user will be looking to make sure the condition of the centre is maintained and this may well mean some club funds being directed at it in order to preserve its future. I assure you the committee will do this diligently and carefully looking after every penny. Certainly if you have the means and the inclination they I would strongly encourage you to contact Supersportz to book yourself some practice time. The more the centre is used the better we can secure its future.

2020 proved to be a renaissance year for our Outdoor nets on Cross Green. Particularly as we came out of the first lockdown this asset became the most prized one that the club owned and the sound of leather on willow could be heard morning noon and sometimes night as people were desperate for some sport. Inevitably as they drew attention to themselves, not all of it was good. We are indebted to our neighbour Chris Smith for offering to repair and rejuvenate the nets following vandalism on more than one occasion, Chris if you are in the meeting, thank you. If 2021 is anything like 2020 then clearly we will look very closely at what we can do to keep these nets running smoothly.

Club Development Plan

Although the grander scale projects have been put on hold we are still working on some of the smaller items on the development plan behind the scenes. The item at the forefront of my mind is that for 2021 Eversley CC is embracing technology and will be using a team/player management app. Exactly which one is being debated currently but certainly whichever one we choose it will be thoroughly tested and examined come September next year to see whether we continue with it or try another one. Fortunately there are a number of options, all of which are improving on a regular basis so I am confident we will be successful.

Having gone on for quite long enough I will say thank you and here's hoping for a very different report this time next year. I believe now we have a short update from Martin Perkin on the activities of the ESA.

Next we move onto Carol to show you the club's financial position. These are not currently audited but we are confident of having this achieved soon. For those of you who know Brian Wilson you will appreciate there have been attenuating circumstances so we thank you for your patience.

I will now hand over to Carol.