

Chairman's Report

Well what a year 2022 was. After several near misses we managed to pip Dorchester and Wimborne to the Dorset Premier League title. Dook would have been so proud. Dave Miller has decided that now is the time to hand over the captaincy to somebody younger – the Club owes Dave an enormous vote of thanks for everything that he done for the Club, in particular as 1st XI captain.

The 1st XI were not the only side to enjoy a successful season. The 2nd XI, having been promoted to County 1, managed to finish 3rd – so we effectively had the 1st and 13th best teams in the County. The 3^{rds}, who also moved up a division, briefly flirted with the possibility of being promoted from Division 3, despite losing the first three games of the season, whilst the 4^{ths} (also promoted) survived the threat of relegation on the last day of the season and the brand new 5th team more than held their own. The WEL side also managed to stay up despite going through a challenging period in the middle of the season. Thank you to Joe (who is an excellent club captain), Kev, Craig, Aaron, Matt, Jordy and Jordan for everything that you did.

Our Hardball Ladies won every game they played but poor availability for a couple of matches cost them the chance to win the league title.

Remarkably our juniors won the County Cup at U10, U11, U12 and U13 as well as the U11 League. We have a remarkably talented crop of young talent coming through, in greater numbers than before so we need to handle their progression through the teams carefully. Thank you to everybody involved in running the junior section in particular Matt and Joey.

I have said on several occasions that I cannot remember a time when so many people have been working so hard for the benefit of the Club and this continued in 2022. We are very lucky to have so many conscientious committee members and I would like to thank Andy, Nick, Craig, George, John, Lizzie and Teresa for the various (and in some cases numerous) roles which they undertake.

We face an interesting year which will include:

- Negotiating the BCP Council to potentially take over responsibility for the pavilion and the square in Poole Park – this is likely to be for 2024 not 2023;
- Contributing towards and helping the Grammar School to secure the funding which will be needed to build new outdoor nets;
- Finding a path through the Council's spending cuts which potentially represents a threat to our ability to play on grass wickets at Branksome this season (there is a meeting between the Council and the Dorset Cricket Board a few days before the AGM to discuss this);
- If building work finishes on time to starting practicing in Poole Grammar School's new sports hall from September. This gives us an opportunity to rethink what we offer in terms of men's, women's and junior practices as well as Academy sessions. We have been asked by the School to give an indication of how many hours we would like and when;
- Rebuilding the Women's and Girls Section which has suffered from a high number of drop outs and low levels of recruitment in the last year. There are various initiatives being planned to address this;
- Plus we need to continue doing all of the good things which resulted in so much success in 2022.

These initiatives should keep the committee busy over the next year. It would be fantastic if a few more volunteers could come forward to lend a hand as there will be a lot going on.

Nick Williams, Chairman