



Chester Boughton Hall Cricket Club: March 2014 Newsletter

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Welcome from the chairman.....

With the season only three weeks away the club are gearing up for a very hectic summer as we seek to repeat the successes we had, on and off of the field in 2013. Winter nets have been attended in the sort of numbers not seen in many years, with us looking to welcome a number of new additions to the senior playing personnel. This year we have held senior nets on three evenings, covering all four men's and the ladies team, with a comprehensive junior programme that has run on Sunday mornings since Christmas under the watchful eye of Lee Dixon. A huge thank you goes out to those volunteer coaches/parents/players that have supported Lee by giving their time to coach.

Off the field the committee has worked hard to respond to the tough financial climate we find ourselves in and have established the environment where all players regardless of ability can play their cricket on the very best facility in the county for a very competitive price. Our membership and levies remain among the lowest on the county, and our investments among the highest, therefore we need to keep working hard to attract sponsors, social events and fill the bar.

We are actively seeking sponsors at numerous levels, from match ball sponsors, to advertising banners around the ground, from attending social functions organised by the club to booking the club (free of charge for paid up members) for private functions (including christenings, weddings, birthdays etc) – please contact Phil Thomas at the club for further details and availability.

This year the clubs directors have introduced a membership discount card, meaning that all those members who have paid their annual subscriptions by the last day of May will be entitled to a 10% discount on all drinks purchased at the bar. We are hoping in particular to attract parents of junior members to become social members so that these discounts can be received by more people and a greater number of adults will be become aware of our fantastic facility, supporting the desire to create a long term legacy for CBHCC.

Please visit the website for full membership details www.chesterboughtonhallcc.co.uk

Changes at the club.....

Loic has moved on!

After 7 years as our grounds man Loic Gresty has resigned to take up new challenges in his career. All of us will agree that the ground has looked fantastic throughout Loic's tenure and has received outstanding feedback from all who have played at the club, including the Cheshire County team. We wish Loic every success and thank him for his tireless effort at our club.

Chairman of Directors, Jeremy Jordan takes over (after 25 years) from Brian Gresty as ground chairman. Brian has selflessly served the club over an exceptionally long period of time and will continue in his role of membership secretary and Director to the limited Company.

Alex Kegg, former grounds man has stepped onto the grounds committee along with Derek Joynson who is enjoying his retirement offering his time alongside the new grounds maintenance company GM Grounds, under the management of Jim Gillson.

After two seasons as chairman of selectors Lee Dixon hands over the role to Phil Evans, our ex-chairman and long serving director and committee member. Phil will be looking to build on the success of the progress made by our junior player's in playing senior cricket. This crucial pathway will remain open as we look to develop our best youngsters into senior cricketers, as well as ensuring senior players take the lead in ensuring cricket is played in the right spirit at Boughton Hall.

Appeal for help.....

Damaged sightscreen

In the recent storms that hit Chester we unfortunately lost one of the sightscreens from the third team pitch. Despite our best efforts to repair the screen, the damage was too severe and we are now one down for the season.

In order to fund the screen replacement we are holding a Grand National draw – two packs of tickets went out to each club member on their renewal packs last recently. It is essential that all of these ticket books are sold if we are to raise the funds needed to pay for the replacement screen.

If your booklets are on the sideboard, pinned to the noticeboard or at the bottom in the in tray – please dig them out and get involved by this weekend!

Volunteers wanted.....

If you find yourself able to volunteer any time to assist with work on and around the ground we would welcome you contacting us to become involved. Previous experience is not essential, just a willingness to help the club form a volunteer group to assist in numerous areas at the club. Please contact me at james@gmhomeservices.co.uk or on 07852 303082 should you like to get involved.

Dates for the diary.....

Cricket Force day.....

On Saturday 5 April we are looking for another fantastic turnout from players, parents, officials etc as we rally to undertake the sort of preparation work the club needs to complete before the season begins. Last year it was a fantastic day.

The day runs from 9:30 – 12:30, with free bacon butties on offer for all those who participate.

Simply role up in old clothes and get stuck in. For the record there is no truth in the rumour that Jeremy Jordan will be painting the windows this season!!

Season opening.....

On Sunday 6 April Lee Dixon and Dan Riley will be taking two teams up to Upton on the Wirral for pre-season friendly matches, with the first fixtures at the club taking place the following weekend.

Junior registration.....

Friday 11 April 6:00 until 7:00 pm

Dave Killoran will be once again leading the junior committee and has set registration a week earlier this year to get even more cricket in the diary for our youngsters. Whilst Dave is happy that team managers are in place for teams from Under 9 through to Under 18, he always welcomes parents and players as volunteers, relying heavily on input from parents as assistant coaches, scorers, umpires, drivers etc throughout the season. Please feel free to come forward – you will not be turned away!

Practice for players in years 7,8,9 and 10 are on Monday evenings, starting 14 April – 6-7:30pm.

Practice for players in years reception, 1 and 2 are on Friday evenings, starting 18 April 5-6pm.

Practice for players in years 3,4,5 and 6 are on Friday evenings, starting 18 April 6.15 – 7.30pm.

Saturday 13 April

We welcome local rivals and great friends Oulton Park, as they bring their first eleven to Filkins Lane. We hope to see Rick Moore and his young side as they commence their push back to the highest division. Please keep up to date with team selection, match day start times and lots more on the clubs website. Dan Riley will confirm the opposition for his second eleven side on the same day at the club.

Sunday 14 April

Champagne Reception and two matches.....

Under the management of Roger Milne we welcome all to the traditional curtain raising social event at the club. The fizz will be opened by 1pm before the draw takes place. Please feel free to come along to this lovely afternoon at the club.

On the same day we are hosting two matches on the ground.

Our all-conquering ladies team welcome the Cheshire County team in the curtain raiser to the season on the main square in recognition of the outstanding achievements of 2013.

On the back pitch we are welcoming Weaverham CC who have made outstanding progress in recent seasons and will provide a real challenge to the club. Lee Dixon will captain the club eleven.

Saturday 20 April

The league season starts in anger, with the mouth-watering opening first eleven fixture of CBHCC V Neston, our challengers down to the wire for last year's Premier League title. The clubhouse will be busy for the game as we aim to welcome anybody who wishes to watch two of the strongest teams in action.

Dan Rileys second eleven make the reverse journey along the Wirral to Neston, while Dave Fishers thirds entertain Macclesfield and Phil Evans' fourth eleven travel to Irby.

Please visit the website for team selections and match details.

Sponsorship.....

The success of Boughton Hall on and off the field relies on numerous factors. The hard work of its directors and management committee members, the profits from the bar revenue which provides the life blood of our income, the clubs members in paying their fee's and match levies are the basic foundations of financial success/stability.

What gives us the extra edge is the effect of our sponsors.

Sponsorship can come in many forms – match balls, shirt advertising, website links, and advertising banners around the ground, these all provide essential support to the work of the club in affording the finest facilities like all-weather pitches, improved drainage to keep games played and coaches for junior and senior sides.

Below is a link to those companies who are currently sponsoring the club for either a banner or a link to the website. Thank you for your support if your name appears below.

If you would like to become a sponsor or can think of a company or an individual who would like to get involved, please contact me at james@gmhomeservices.co.uk or call me on 07852 303082.

And finally.....

Golf

At a recent golf day event between Neston and Boughton Hall, first eleven Captain Lee Dixon led his side to what will hopefully be the only defeat of his season. The result wasn't helped by the departure of club captain Chris Fleet and his playing partner Alex Kegg, who left the course after 6 holes complaining about being cold! Aahh.

A great day and a real success - despite the defeat!

Baby watch

There must be something in the water on the Wirral! Mark Rowlands and his girlfriend Amy have announced they are due to welcome their first child into the world in August. Further news just broken over the weekend is that Ian Linwood and his wife Emma are due to do the same in October.

Congratulations from all at the club!

There was a word of warning however from the club dating expert Jonty Hedgecoe:

“Please be careful if planning a romantic weekend in Heswell.”

I am looking forward to seeing you at the club in the very near future.

Jim Gillson

Chairman

Thanks to all our sponsors for their continued support.



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