

## Secretary's report 2010

Mr President, members

While England were victorious in the Ashes, 2009 was another year of consolidation for the 1<sup>st</sup> XI and 2<sup>nd</sup> XI, promotion for the 3<sup>rd</sup> XI and relegation for the 4<sup>th</sup> XI, while off the field the club continued to progress on a sound financial footing against the background of the current recession. Furthermore, we were again involved in the ECB's 'Chance to Shine' project, developed our own academy, staged Minor County games for Cambridgeshire and organised an excellent 3-day cricket festival.

Chris Ringham, who led the first team to sixth place in the Cambs League and third place in the Rutland League, deservedly won the 1<sup>st</sup> XI Player of the Year award - taking 65 wickets in total, 49 in the Cambridgeshire Premier League. Chris has now been captain since 2006 and we are fortunate as a club that he is continuing in the role for 2010. Captaining the side on both days is a challenging and tiring role, as the club's opening bowler and we should value the importance of being in Tucker League Division 1.

However, we must not forget the superb performances of the Aussie, Steve Seymour who in his second summer took a total of 53 wickets, 44 in the Cambs League and scored a total of 1,244 league runs, 676 on Saturdays. His run tally included five centuries in all matches as he often opened the innings alongside the dependable Andrew Mills, who also reached the 1,000 run milestone and scored four three-figure scores.

Andrew scored a total of 1,229 runs and again represented the full county side. He also took 36 wickets with his off spin and in fact won the Rutland League Division 2 bowling award. Younger brother Stuart showed some promising end of season performances in the Tucker League to take 25 wickets to become the Most Improved Player of the Year.

The other 1<sup>st</sup> XI century maker was Shardul Brahabhatt, who on his first weekend back from India scored successive scores of 136 and 127 - the former against eventual champions Burwell. Rob Tombs provided middle order support scoring nearly 600 runs in total for the senior side.

Vice-captain John Gilson maintained his fine glovework and along with Stuart Arnold and Pat Ringham played for the Cambs Over 50s – Pat, in fact, leading the county for the second successive season.

It was deja vu for the Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> XI as they finished third in CCA Senior League Division 2 for the second successive season and but for the presence of Histon, who were clearly in the wrong division, they would have earned promotion.

Skipper John Wallis was their leading scorer with 296 runs, often sacrificing his own position in the order to help the development of the younger players. Of those younger players Jake Wenman, 272 runs, Andrew Wright 192 runs and Andy Bryan, who topped the averages with 212 runs assisted the experienced captain in their belated promotion chase.

Their Player of the Year was all rounder Richard Green who took 35 CCA wickets and scored 277 runs, including the second team's individual top score of 80 against champions Histon. Richard's enthusiasm for the game is unquestioned and he remains a key player for the 2<sup>nd</sup> XI on both days.

The other leading wicket takers on Saturdays were youngsters Callum Young and Andrew Wright with 21 and 12 wickets respectively. Callum also took 11 wickets for the 1st XI in the Rutland League.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> XI's had very diverse seasons with the former under the reign of the elder statesman Pat Ringham - winning Junior League Division 3A, while the 4<sup>th</sup> XI were relegated on the last Saturday of the season.

The overwhelming - and we are not talking about his appetite or size - star of the third team was Nick Peck. The burly opener struck 624 runs at an average of 78, that included three centuries and a top score of 126 not out against Cottenham. Not surprisingly Nick took the 3<sup>rd</sup> XI Player of the Year trophy. Let's hope he continues in the same vein of form this summer.

Young David Haslegrave provided solid support with 264 runs, alongside James Hilliard 181 runs, Pat Ringham 181 and Jamie Stimpson 179 runs. James Hilliard's tally was helped by a blistering 130 against Ely to clinch promotion on the final day.

Perhaps the best decision the skipper made was to persuade the experienced off-spinner Stuart Fox back to play as he took 30 wickets and topped the averages at 7.57. He was part of a very useful third team bowling attack where the wickets were shared between Josh Jackman and Stuart Arnold 19 wickets each and Matt Hubbard with 17 victims.

Unfortunately the 4<sup>th</sup> XI were unable to hold their position in Junior League Division 3B, despite the hard work by captain and vice captain Glenn Hulley and Bill Hillard, who we are pleased to see are continuing their roles in 2010.

Their Player of the Year was opening bowler, Manuj Patel with 25 wickets and 306 runs. He was supported on the bowling front by the dependable John Haslegrave with 25 wickets, while their batting relied upon Dennis Furnell who scored 255 runs

The Sunday second team after a difficult early season finished a respectable third in the Fenland Trophy and reached the final of the Ernie Wool Trophy.

The team mainly consisted of under 17 players and the old stalwarts, skipper Stephen Wallis and all-rounder Richard Green, although we must not forget the considerable efforts of the many parents who helped with transport during the season.

The achievement in reaching their cup final was by far their greatest achievement as it featured a group victory against St Ives, the eventual Fenland Trophy winners. This was mainly due to an excellent spell of bowling by the Sunday side's most potent bowler, Jordan Morgan who took five wickets on the day. Jordan took 25 wickets and looks a most exciting prospect, while Richard Green 29, and James Beresford and

Andrew Wright took 19 each. The runs were shared between skipper Stephen Wallis 388 runs, Richard Green 362 and Andrew Stone 310. Andrew also starred with the ball against Elmdon where he took three wickets in the last over to earn the side a tie.

The fruits of the Sunday side, third and fourth elevens' is being shown by the number of players who have moved up to the 1<sup>st</sup> XI on Sundays and the 2<sup>nd</sup> XI on Saturdays over recent seasons and it is very important to the club's future that this is maintained.

The Young Player of the Year award went to Josh Jackman, who made valuable all round contributions for the Sunday seconds, 3<sup>rd</sup> XI and at the end of the season took two four wicket hauls for the Rutland League side.

The club again fielded teams at Under 11, 13 and 15 for boys and the girls competed in the 4 Counties women's and girl's league. The girls finished a very respectable fourth in their league and five members of the team all played for the county side at under 15 level.

Their respective players of the year were as follows;

Under 11 –Samuel Clarke and Curtis Oldroyd

Under 13 -Toby Nulty and Max Ransome

Under 15 -Sam Mason and Thomas Dunn

Girl Players of the Year – Fran Plitsch

However, the above is once again down to the dedication of all the coaches Andrew and Stuart Mills Steve Seymour, Bill Adamson, Kurt Cunningham, Jamie Stimpson, Alan and James Beresford, Caren Hyne, Ollie Burton, Jake Wenman, Callum Young, David Hodson, Brodie Adamson, Jenny Lowe, Josh Jackman, Nick Peck, and the band of helpers who umpire and help with the travelling. A special mention this year to Andrew Mills, who set up the Academy to provide additional coaching to some of the club's talented young players.

An excellent Ground Committee chaired by John West ensured the usual high standard of wickets were prepared. Gary Nicholls, Barry Short, Richard Green and Matthew Vail being other members of the Ground Committee. We also welcomed a new grounds assistant in Brian Wright, who has proved an invaluable new signing to John's team. Thanks to an ECB grant a new artificial wicket has been fitted on the square.

Greg Ward deserves special mention for scoring regularly for the Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> XI and the Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> XI, while Norman Topliss joined the scoring ranks to help out with the Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> XI.

The club formally established the role of membership secretary this year and Graham Smart has transformed the vagaries of the previous system of collection and as a result generated more income.

A highly successful 3-day cricket festival was organised by Andrew Mills, Mandy Haslegrave and Roz English, plus a number of other coaches/assistants, where over 100 children attended each day.

On the Social side Mandy Haslegrave and Les Mills were the principal organisers of events and staged a successful racenight, a 200 club draw, Barbecue, Twenty20 match against some former players and vice-president's evening. They also introduced Sunday lunches for the members and several entertainment evenings.

The club continues to support the community by playing host to the local Age Concern group every Tuesday and a local disabilities group use the club for their monthly discos. Furthermore, we hosted a well attended New Year's Eve function which helped the Breast Cancer charity raise over £600 for their worthy cause.

In these difficult economic times it is important to recognise and thank all the club's sponsors, Grounds and Co, the main sponsor, those businesses that have sponsored 1<sup>st</sup> XI Cambs league matches, advertising boards and match balls.

On a sad note former fixture secretary and Sunday captain, Des Ruse and vice-president Neville Blackwell passed away

The lifeblood of the club - the bar - remains in the very capable hands of Bar Chairman, Nick Lowe, Nigel and Lea Read and a band of other unpaid staff, one of which Norman Alerton, who makes a weekly trip to the cash and carry all for the love of the club. We are continually indebted to this small band as we are to the Treasurer Alan Day, who has now been in his role since the late 1970s.

The years ahead for local club's will I believe be forever challenging especially off the field with the rising costs, pressures of everyone's working lives and the other options now available to young people. However, the results this year emphasise that we have the individuals within to maintain our standards and grow this club in the future.

Finally, may I wish President Mel Pooley the very best in his last year in the role.