BANGOR CRICKET CLUB ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

THURSDAY 8TH NOVEMBER 2018

AGENDA

1. Review of 2018 Season and Report
2. Election of Officers 2018/2019
3. AOB

BANGOR CRICKET CLUB 2018

1st XI

The 2018 season has proven to be one of rejuvenation for the 1st XI. As a team we have found our form and with that our passion for the game that we all love.

The formation of a 1st XI “committee” proved to be a highly successful formula both on and off the field with Chris Burns as Captain, Andy Nixon and Nicky McCollum taking charge on the field, Adam McCusker marshalling the troops at practice, Andy showing hidden talents as a writer of match reports for the Spectator and Beachy English diligently completing the NCU reports. Thanks to all.

Our season got off to a strong start with a number of wins in the early part of the season. Our batting line up which had failed us in seasons previous began to show some backbone, piling on the runs each weekend in a mix of controlled aggression and gutsy application. A measure of this success with the bat was the fact that 3 of the top 5 scored

over 700 runs for the season including 5 centuries including Taimur Khan’s first ton for BCC.

Our bowling attack placed the opposition under pressure from ball one, bowling an extremely tight line and length in the first 15 over period. Although we still struggled to bowl teams out, we managed to restrict most teams to below par targets that we were confident in chasing. New man Josh Bates was a welcome addition to the bowling attack and indeed proved handy with the bat when he got the opportunity.

We set an extremely high standard in the field all season, showing energy and a determination to get on top of the batting side early in the innings.

Throughout the season we were in the top 4 and seriously challenging for league honours. This challenge ultimately came to an end following the voided Derriaghy game with a 3rd place finish a most credible outcome for the season. Played 18 Won 12 Lost 5 Void 1.

The cup campaigns enjoyed mixed fortunes, falling at the 1st round stage in the Challenge Cup to Downpatrick following a convincing preliminary round win against Laurelvale. The T20 Trophy was a competition that we really fancied winning however following the most bizarre finish to the semi final against local rivals Holywood, regrettably, it wasn’t to be.

Thanks also go to our Scorer and Facebook administrator, Paddy Dixon and to Team Manager, Stephen Burns who both made sure off field requirements ran smoothly.

Throughout the course of the season we have formed an extremely strong unit and we all view the 2018 season as a launch pad for what could be a very exciting period of time for a team that has a huge amount of potential.

Chris Burns

2nd XI

The Seconds had a somewhat erratic but ultimately successful season finishing a creditable third in Junior League 2 win 7 wins.

The season started slowly with  postponements and losses before bursting into life with an impressive midweek win at a scorching Woodvale. In this match Andy Wood announced himself to the club with a brutal 72 that set up a platform for a tight match.  Terrific "death" bowling by Prince and Kwelu and excellent fielding squeezed the life out of the hosts.  This was followed by the massacre of a hapless Ballymena team led by McMillan's magnificent 146 and a fifer from Prince.  Next up was the most thrilling match of the season. Chasing Donaghcloney's 113 off 20 overs Bangor competed to the end with Miller placing the ball through a fielders legs for a four to seal the victory off the last ball.

Heavy losses at North Down and Academy were then followed by another tight game at Donaghcloney; with the skipper hitting boundaries of the last two balls to win after Boyd had earlier hit a marvellous 79.

Armagh failed to travel to Bangor thus presenting a further win before a loss to run-away champions North Down. A further exciting midweek game saw Bangor comfortably chase down  CSNI's 119 with a marvellous partnership from Kwelu (52) and Kerr (45).  Miller had earlier achieved a hattrick in his 4-14. Woodvale exacted some revenge at Upritchard before Bangor completed the double at relegated Ballymena with McMillan (61) and Kerr (39) starring with the bat. This result ensured that the Seconds were safe in Junior 2 before the end of August.

The team this season has benefited from the addition of Wood and the ongoing development of young Simpson and Pyper to add to the core of Kerr, Cox, Quinn and Houstoun which gives great hope for the future. Old hands Hamilton, Houstoun, Chapman and Fletcher have done their bit whilst the midweek availability of Prince, Griffin, Miller and Kwelu was definitely significant in achieving notable victories as well.  The occasional appearance of legends, Yeates, McMillan, Stewart and Cumper has also been important to the team's success.

3rd XI

The season got off to a great start with five victories coming in the first five games of the season putting the team in a comfortable position early on.  During this run the third victory, away to Armagh, stands out following a selection process that saw the welcome return of Stephen Cumper into the team together with an onslaught at the crease by Andy Hare, supported by Ben Escott, to swing the match Bangor's way. The thirds have built up a solid core of senior players which combined with the enthusiasm of the more youthful players gives a good balance to the team.  This season only saw one new member, Jack Irwin, introduced to senior cricket so we'll need to look to bring a few more players up into the senior ranks in the 2019 season.  The middle part of the season saw some close matches but a streak of losses that removed any real hope of promotion.  The season ended with a great final day  in September with back to back T20 matches against Lisburn at Upritchard with the spoils shared in matches that both went down to the last over.  Overall the team finished joint 4th on points in Junior League 5 and are well position for the 2019 season.

Youth

The U11 section continues to thrive. With the large numbers of kids we were able to put out 2 teams from this age group, one playing hard ball and the other playing in a soft ball league.

The U13 group has benefited from our focus on under 11 cricket, with a good number moving up to this group. Performances from this group were strong, even if the results might not reflect this. A number of this group “played up” in the under 15 group.

The U15s put in probably the most consistent performances of the age groups, winning all their league games and reached the semi final stages but unfortunately they could not replicate this in their semi final.

Overall a good season for junior cricket with an increase in the number of kids, boys and girls attending the sessions. Moving forward into 2019, we are looking to improve on this strong base with a focused coaching programme but will need more coaches and volunteers to help develop the players and the future of the club is very much dependent on attracting kids to and developing our youth section.

Grounds

The 2018 season was undoubtedly the most challenging one for groundsmen across the country and Upritchard Park was right up there.

Unprecedented levels of rainfall from July to March saw the ground in as bad a state as anyone can remember with any likelihood of cricket a mere dream.

Work eventually got underway in early April with pre season rolling and even this mundane task wasn’t without incident as our roller came to grief in the quagmare that was the outfield, no naming and shaming, you know who you are! Thanks to all who helped with pre-season rolling duties.

Home fixtures against Woodvale and Derriaghy were postponed and prospects of any play still weren’t great. Against the odds however (and opinion of the umpires) play did eventually get underway on bank holiday Monday 7th May with the aid of a shortened boundary and use of No1 wicket which was being used for a competitive match for the first time that I can remember.

This saw the start of a Upritchard Park run fest as one road after another were produced and finally some dry weather helped dry out the outfield allowing the ground breaking and sanding to be completed by the end of May. This heralded the drought with little or no rain for the next couple of months. This led to 2 issues, the ground breaking slits opened to dangerous levels and the square required watering, yes watering, what a crazy country we live in! It did however provide the opportunity to sand the problem part of the outfield and a further 40 tonnes of sand arrived days before we were due to host the Intermediate Cup Final. Notwithstanding this, the ground looked picture perfect as it had looked for the majority of the season.

A fine addition to our facilities was the arrival of our new sight screens and after some initial teething problems, are now a welcome addition. A special thanks to our Platinum sponsors, Legacy Private Wealth for their invaluable support in funding this purchase.

Thanks to Andy Cousins for his work throughout the year and to Chris Harte for regular rolling duties.

In summary a very enjoyable 2018 with all teams performing well in their relevant sections. It would be remiss not to mention the sterling efforts of our chairman, Chris Escott, who has worked tirelessly during the season to ensure the section operates successfully and and Steven Burns, NCU Clubman of the Year, who has manicured every blade of grass to ensure Upritchard Park remains one of the best places to play cricket.