**Bangor Cricket Club – Annual Report 2019**

**1st XI Report**
This past season has been one of huge disappointment for myself and the rest of the team. After what had been an incredibly positive season in 2018, we were unable to reach the high standards we had set ourselves this season. Our commitment to training must be questioned. The numbers at training throughout the Summer was not consistent enough in order for us to play cricket to the level we are capable. This will be something we will endeavour to change moving forward. Obviously relegation wasn’t a season outcome any of us had considered at the start of the season, however, our lack of consistency in both availability and performance have resulted in this outcome. That being said, I believe we can bounce back and find the form from 2018. There is no doubt in my mind we can get back to winning ways and gain promotion to section 1. We did see glimpses of what we are capable of this season with some great team efforts and superb individual performances with both bat and ball. In conclusion, we must remain positive. There is no point in feeling sorry for ourselves. This is now a huge opportunity to show what we are really made of by playing excellent cricket week in week out next Summer.

 **Chris Burns 1st XI Captain**

**2nd XI Report**

The Seconds had a frustrating and ultimately disappointing season. Early defeats at home to strong Donaghcloney and Armagh teams set the tone for the season. Then followed a series of postponements, irritatingly when “stronger” teams were available. The losing run continued until the end of July when a tense last ball victory provided a much deserved bout of joy at Armagh. However, further victories proved elusive and the team were ultimately relegated from Junior League 2 in mid - August. In total 6 matches were postponed through the season.

The statistics probably best reflect the difficulties for this season: 12 matches completed with 38 players used, only 6 of whom completed half of the games. Only 4 batsmen scored more than a 100 runs and only 51 wickets were taken. So, strong performances were rare and achieving consistency of selection was a real difficulty.

That said there were several notable performances; King‘s impressive 75 and A Pyper (3-19) both in the solitary win at Armagh, Garrett’s belligerent 60 v Ballymena in the Cup and Kerrs aggressive knocks of 40 and 75\* on his return. Escott’s 46 at Lisburn and M English with typically assured knocks of 60 and 44. Prince’s 3-36 v Armagh, Escott’s 2-10 at Armagh and Baskaran’s 3-26 at Lisburn were all worthy of mention.

It was pleasing to see the development of several young players; Ben Escott, Andrew White, Michael Skelly and Morgan Paulin all showed real enthusiasm and promise.
A big thanks must go to Stuart Johnstone, James Griffin and Kris King for standing in as skipper as the Teams Captain experienced a complicated summer!

**Ian Fletcher 2nd XI Captain**

**3rd XI Report**

With relegation out of Junior League 5 it’s fair to say the overall season was a disappointment.  The team failed to have a true identity with many players rotating between the seconds and thirds on a regular basis as we tried to balance availability and getting everyone a game on the weekend.  Whilst the team only won 4 of their 14 league matches there were some stand out performances with Stephen Cumper’s 5 for 15 against Lisburn allowing us to win by 2 wickets in an extremely tense finish.  On the batting side Callum Houstoun came into form in the last game of the season where he carried his bat for 75 against Muckamore again setting up a rare victory.

It was particularly good to have four new juniors Morgan Paulin, Adam Purce, Michael Skelly and  Matthew Turpitt make their debuts in the year with Michael Skelly winning young player of the year at the recent annual dinner. We need to look to combine this new vein of youth with core of senior players as a number of previous junior players look to perform more regularly in the 2s.

**Paul Houstoun 3rdXI Captain**

**Bangor CC Youth season overview 2017**

**Under 11**

This section continues to grow in terms of numbers and skill set.

We put out 2 teams from this age group, one playing hard ball and the other playing in a soft ball league and various cricket blitzes. The majority of this group got to play in some competitive cricket this year. The number of girls in this group is also growing.

**Under 13**

Most of this group have come through the under 11 group and the progression continues to improve, a number of this group gained experience at the under 15 level this year.

**Under 15**

This age group put in probably the most consistent performances of the age groups, winning all their league games. This groups focus on improvement and teamwork was particularly noticeable in the play-offs where they beat 2 very good sides to win the league championship.

The season was very pleasing across all age groups. As a section we continue to grow the numbers and improve performance levels.

 **Allen Cox – Youth Convenor**

**Bangor Cricket Club – Grounds Report 2019**

Pre-season work on the ground included 30 hours of cross rolling using our newly acquired roller, our previous roller having given up the ghost at the end of the 2018 season after many years of service. Ground breaking and sanding was also completed by Haffeys as part of our pre-season works given the favourable spring weather conditions.

This effort paid dividends as week after week, hard and true pitches were produced making for some excellent cricket playing conditions, allowing the majority of our senior matches to be played at Upritchard. It was pleasing to note that most if not all visitors to Upritchard remarked on the excellent presentation of the ground.

This high standard of pitch and presentation was maintained throughout the season and our thanks go to Andy Cousins for his efforts. Thanks also to Chris Harte and the number of other volunteers for helping with the labour intensive task of rolling and to Wilson McCloskey for his invaluable support throughout the year.

**Stephen Burns – Grounds Convenor**

**Social**

The Year began well with another successful Cricket Club Quiz with the ever popular Quizmaster Patrick Disxon controlling proceedings. Throughout the year the year regular events such as the Club Lunch and Prize giving Diner all took place at Upritchard Park and were well attended. Going forward the Cricket Section needs to look to add to this to this to both bring money to the Bar and to the Section but also help increase the interaction of Players and families within the Section.