



ANNUAL REPORT 2007

Once again, it is my pleasure to present this Annual Report at the end of my second year of office. Much has happened over the last 12 months and I would like to take this opportunity of thanking the President, John Nelson, my Vice Chairman, Peter Noakes, and all members of the committee for their unstinting efforts in what has become an increasingly complex organisation to run. That all give of their time so freely is a boon to a successful club. The membership of the club has increased slightly including players and 'social members'. However, the level of membership remains relatively small and it would be nicer to have many more people involved, not least the parents of the hordes of youngsters who receive a high level of coaching each weekend of the summer season.

On the field, season 2007 was marred by the worst weather that anyone can remember. In all, the 1st X1 had almost 30% of its playing programme abandoned, either without a ball being bowled or a short way into the match. This meant that the 1st X1 was only able to obtain a total of 30 points out of a potential of 125 points. That the 1st X1 was able to survive in the Premiership of the Home Counties Premier League was largely due to the game v Radlett being played at the Oratory School. A win in that game helped to ensure our survival as the game could not have been played on our home ground. It is perhaps pertinent to note that some other clubs only had two games abandoned. As it was, the 1st X1 had a fine season overall, particularly in the Cockspur Cup (National KO), where they reached the quarter-finals losing narrowly to St Just CC. Notable performances were produced throughout the season with Captain Bjorn Mordt averaging a fraction under 50.0 runs per innings, Tom Lambert taking 33 wickets, and Paul Carter and Adrian Greyvenstein producing high quality all round performances. Indeed, Pau Carter finished with a phenomenal average of 170 in the Cockspur Cup.

Most notable was the team effort and spirit throughout the course of a frustrating season. Credit should also be given to the work of all captains and Chris Ellison as club coach whose unflinching enthusiasm has helped to gel together all sides of the club.

The 2nd, 3rd and 4th X1s have all performed well. After a slow start, the 2nd X1 finished a creditable mid-table in the Thames Valley 3rd Division, with the Captain, Paul Smith, Andy White and Danny Poulson performing particularly well on a number of occasions. In fact, the former finished with a very creditable batting average of over 40 and a more settled X1 would have undoubtedly have brought greater success.



“Title” success was pursued with some vigour and both the 3rd and 4th X1s won their respective leagues. They and their Captains, Sean Taylor and Chris Johnson, are to be congratulated for their efforts throughout the season. I noted in last year’s report that the most important feature of these two X1s was the work they undertook with the development of young cricketers. This continues and I have no doubt that some of these players will soon become available for cricket at a higher level. In this regard, I would hope that for season 2008 that the Captains of the 3rd and 4th X1 would liaise carefully with the 1st and 2nd X1 Captains in order to ensure that appropriate players are given experience at a higher level. The experience of those X1s playing in the Thames Valley Cricket League has sometimes not been of an appropriate quality, not least the quality of some of the grounds and facilities used in the lower divisions. It is hoped that further honours will lead to promotion and to the X1s involved playing in better surroundings.

Once again, a notable feature of the provision at Henley Cricket Club is the youth cricket under the able leadership of David Cumming. Although it has been a frustrating season for the Junior Section, largely because of the inclement weather, much success has been achieved, including success at the Under 13 level and in the fielding of the first Girls team. The work undertaken in various schools is much appreciated locally as is the work with some 200+ youngsters throughout the season. Steps are being taken to ensure that further appropriate facilities are provided for these youngsters and David has once again agreed to take the leading role with the Junior Section for season 2008, assisted by Steven Downes.

No organisation nowadays would be complete without the necessity of organising various fund raising events. The club continues to pay off the loan to Henley Town Council and it is anticipated that a further significant sum will reduce this loan to around £130,000 in the near future. This is a tremendous effort by all concerned and I am particularly grateful to the likes of John Nelson, David Winter, Danny Hall and others for their efforts in this regard. I would also like to express the Club’s indebtedness to various local organisations which have helped us throughout the year, in particular Invesco Perpetual who have been particularly generous on a number of fronts. We will have a new electronic score box for season 2008, again largely because of the help and support from Invesco Perpetual. Other priorities for the future include the need for a new or substantially refurbished pavilion. The present facilities are not sufficient for a club of Henley’s size or stature and the wear and tear on the present pavilion will make it necessary for action to be taken in the near future.



What of the future? Firstly, I would hope that 2008 brings us much better weather than 2007. Further, as we continue recruiting players of 1st X1 calibre, I would hope that our League position will improve next season. I also hope that the other X1s have continued success. Such success is essential for the wellbeing of the Club and for the promotion of young players to the 1st and 2nd X1s. This is also essential for their individual development. In particular, I would once again like to draw attention to the excellent spirit which has pervaded the Club throughout the season. This is a credit to all captains and players and to the work of people like JC Satin, Kirsty, John Grout and Rita. Let us make sure that we have the same atmosphere again next season - with better weather!

Finally, once again may I offer my thanks to the Committee and all those associated with the Club.

Paul Bradbury, Chairman Henley CC

October 2007