



**Wellington
Cricket Club**

Administrator's **Report 2019**

Introduction

It is a pleasure to write my eleventh such report and I hope that I capture the season that was 2019 in the pages that follow...

Operational Review

It was a season of contrasting fortunes for our three senior Saturday sides as the 1st XI, promoted as the third team out of three, finished fifth in the Somerset Division of the West of England Premier League, but the 2nd XI suffered a second relegation in two seasons and the 3rd XI had their hardest season in the seven seasons that they have been in operation and were relegated too.

1st XI

The team was promoted on the back of a third place finish in the Premier Division of the Somerset League in 2018 and the geographical needs that WEPL had for the 2019 season... A fifth place finish was a supreme achievement by Arron Campbell and his squad as they won eight of eighteen games.

In a division where only Champion side Frome were head and shoulders above everyone else (we were one of only two teams to beat them) everyone else was on a par with each other the team could have gone second with two games to go, but the narrowest of losses to Wembdon (by one run) in that game saw that going into the last game the team could have gone down as one of three relegated teams as WEPL's geographical requirements came into play once more; it would have taken a remarkable set of circumstances to have precipitated such, but, all the same, it only serves to show how dynamic the team's division was.

Excellent seasonal doubles were completed over both Taunton Deane 2 and Chard, the home win over Frome early on was a damn decent outcome given that they ran away with matters after the half way point and lost only one other game.

A win at Yeovil was a masterful affair as the Captain made an undefeated hundred.

T20 success also featured as famous wins in the Baker Cup over holders Taunton Deane and in the Somerset Cricket Board Major Cup over Taunton, both on their own patch, will live long in the memory and having Bridgwater at 6-4 (could/should have been 6-5) in the National Club T20 competition will always be a case of what if?

All in all a first season back in WEPL, perhaps one season ahead of schedule, had much to endear itself with and with a one run loss and a one wicket loss to the runners up along with a couple of other close results that just went against us it shows that we have the ability and potential to survive and prosper as a WEPL Club...

Luke Desave, as vice captain and leader of the attack, gave sterling effort to the side once more in the season just ended and he is thanked for that fact.

2nd XI

Sadly it was another season, as had been the case in 2018, where the team lacked continuity as too many players were used, too little commitment was shown at times and so it was another relegation and the 2020 season will be played in Division Six South of the Somerset League when as recently as 2017 we were in sight of the SCL's Division Three.

I am sorry if the above paragraph is brutal, but it is reality too.

I have to really thank appointed Captain Rob Moysey for his efforts in continually putting teams out when he was actually playing in the 1st XI.

This was the rationale of awarding Rob with the WCC Sportsmanship Award for 2019.

Grateful thanks go also to each of Ryan Adams, Macaulay Campbell and Alex Troake for captaining the side at various times during the season.

That is not to say that there were not some brighter moments as we won a game against eventual divisional runners up Wedmore and we closed out the first half of the season with two exciting ties over Weston Super Mare 3 and Taunton Deane 3, who were the eventual divisional champions.

A reboot of the commitment, availability and makeup of the side is needed for it to get back to where we, as a Club, wish and need the team to be and I urge all involved going forward to consider what they can do to make things a success in 2020 and then acting on such.

3rd XI

On the whole in the six seasons to this one in which the team has operated we have always derived playing success, but that was not the case in 2019 sadly as the side suffered its first relegation and so will play in Division Eight South of the Somerset League in 2020.

The team did not suffer from the same issues as the 2nd XI did on the whole, but the batting did not make the collective weight of runs that had been the case in the past and that were required in the past season itself.

There was also no luck in winning the toss often and having the chance to bowl first and exploit that avenue, but that is no guarantee of success either I guess.

The team will have the opportunity to play at a different level and will have an eye on getting back up at the first opportunity.

Once more the team was a vehicle for the integration of youth players into senior cricket and that was a success.

In Des Campbell the team has only ever had one Captain and Des has decided to not seek re-election for the 2020 season.

He will remain involved with the side and for that we are grateful as we are for all that he has put into 3rd XI cricket at WCC since the team began in 2013.

Richard Henwood, as vice captain, gave sterling effort to the side once more in the season just ended and he is thanked for that fact.

Sunday and Midweek XIs

The third place finish that the team achieved in Division A of the Taunton and District Sunday League was stopped from being what was achieved in 2018 only by a penultimate ball loss at home to eventual champions Taunton St Andrews and a close home defeat to Wembdon in an evening T20 game.

Had either of those games gone in our favour then we would have been bearing down on retaining our title from twelve months earlier.

Overall it was an enjoyable season for the side as a good cross-section of the Club played in the same side.

There was little non-league action in the season just passed, but that is to change for 2020 as requested as the League runs to a different format.

We are lucky that Sunday cricket maintains a popularity at WCC and long may that be the case.

My thanks go to Macaulay Campbell and Oli Beale, as Captain and Vice Captain respectively, for their efforts.

The Midweek XI saw T20 action on just two occasions in the past season and so play was limited, but thanks go to Oli Beale for sorting what needed to be when it was needed.

Youth Section

That we were able to put out two Under 11s teams in the TDYCL in 2019 was a fine effort and there was success too for both sides as all abilities at this youngest age group were catered for.

Seeing the Under 13s playing eleven-a-side cricket was another positive and whilst this meant that they were playing against the traditional powerhouse Clubs and the action was tough they never shied away from what was required and this will put these players in good stead for the future.

The Under 15s squad got to within an ace of reaching the County Cup Final and all who played for the side would represent the senior section at some point in the 2019 season. Those who made this section tick are too numerous to mention here, but they know who they are and grateful thanks go to each and every one.

Non-Operational Review

Once more the Clubhouse was a hive of activity and was professionally run by Amanda Moysey and her team of staff for the provision of both in and post game hospitality once more.

Ali Campbell arranged a series of Clubhouse based events and the move of Dinner and Awards Event venue was a success for sure.

Des and Andy Campbell put in countless hours to produce the pitches that we needed to surfeit the fixtures that were scheduled and they were helped by several others too.

Connor Wickenden has taken on the role of researching funding opportunities and we are progressing such at this time with respect to a new outdoor net facility with some other excellent ideas on file with which to develop and enhance the Club for the future.

Trevor Brooks has effectively managed the Club's membership as well as acting as our Banker too once more.

I pay tribute to both Simon Spalding, Marc Holloway and Ivor Mitchell as they will be stepping down from the roles of Vice Chairman, Treasurer and Sports Federation Representative at November's AGM; they have each given many years of robust and effective service to WCC and we wish them well for the future.

Last, but by no means least, I thank our Chairman Mark Salter for his efforts and wise counsel in 2019 on both a Club and a personal basis where my search for work was concerned at the end of 2018.

I am pleased to see that there are willing volunteers to take over the roles that will need to be filled for the 2020 season and I encourage everyone to get behind each other at all times and deliver success in all that we do.

David Derrick
November 2019