



# Beckenham Bugle

The Newsletter of BECKENHAM CRICKET CLUB

**Spring 2004**

**"We don't just do cricket!"**

**Number 1**

*Any views expressed in this newsletter are not necessary the views of the General or Finance Committees*

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## **NEW MANAGER**

Hi. Welcome to this the first Newsletter of 2004. For those of you who I haven't met, may I take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Graham Watts your new Club Manager. I started at the club in early November. My career history to date has had me working in event management for over 29 years in a local authority then 3 years as entry co-ordinator with the Flora London Marathon. My last job was with the Court Service. I am looking forward to meeting you during the forthcoming months. You can of course contact me here at the club (see details above).

This is your Newsletter and I hope you will contribute to its contents. If you have anything for future issues please do not hesitate to pass it through to the office.



## **TENNIS NEWS**

Spring will soon be upon us time to think of long summer days playing and watching tennis. Plans are under way to celebrate the 125 year anniversary of the first game of tennis to be played on this ground. If you were playing 125 years ago you can have a free year's subscription.

There are four main dates for your diary these are

### **Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> May**

Opening grass courts Dodsworth Cup – American Tournament

### **Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> June** – Anniversary Day

Exhibition Match

Try Tennis – Taster Day 2-5pm

Jazz Band

### **Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> July** - Tennis Open Finals Day

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> September** - Margaret Ross Day – full days activities planned including Court Club Annual Draw



Further details of all the above can be found on the tennis notices boards or from the office. The Tennis section this year is introducing a shoe tag system. Each member when playing their subs will given a shoe tag to slide onto the shoe lace of their playing shoes, there will be different colours for full and off peak members. This scheme will enable staff to see at a glance whether players are paid up members and should cut out court usage by non paying players. We would ask all members to only play with paid members or paid guests. After you have paid for playing! Why shouldn't everybody else?

## *TENNIS CLUB CEMENTS FRIENDSHIP LINK*

The tennis club is now twinned with Tennis Club de Containville in Normandy they have agreed reciprocal membership arrangements and full details of the twinning will appear shortly on the tennis notice boards.

## *JUNIOR SECTION NEWS*

School Club Links and the Mini Tennis Programme are continuing to expand

The club has 3 very good links with local primary schools: Clare House, Worsley Bridge and St. Christopher's. The latter now uses the clubs grounds for football and cricket. The support we receive from Kent LTA and a Sports Match grant make it possible to run an extensive programme in the schools. The results are more junior members and a larger Mini Tennis Programme. Any junior members wishing to become involved should contact CLIVE BEST on 07977 900383 or BRETT McLENNAN on 07818 293911. The Mini Programme runs Saturday and Sunday mornings and during the week. We also run small coaching groups for 10+ years during the week under flood lights.

Over the Easter holidays there will be a Junior Tournament from the 5<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> April. Players will need an LTA rating to enter. See Clive if you wish to enter but do not have one.

The second week of the Easter holidays 13<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> inclusive will be taken up with Mini Tennis mornings 10:00 – 12:30 cost is £10.00 per. morning or £32 for all four. On the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> we will run Two Teen afternoons from 1:30 – 4:00. The cost is £10 per afternoon or £16 for both. Application form will be available from Clive, Brett or the office. The Whitsun programme is not available yet, but see Clive, Brett or pop into the office nearer the time.

If you are not in a group and would like to be included after Easter contact Clive or Brett

The senior matches will start again after Easter as will the Friday club session for the 10 and under. The time is the same 4pm to 5pm the start date is the 2<sup>nd</sup> April and the next date is the 16<sup>th</sup> April.

Please note no session on Good Friday the 9<sup>th</sup> April. See you all soon. Clive.

## *The champagne flows as Beckenham HC enjoys one of its most promising seasons for a decade.*



The ladies first team under new captain Louise Bartley are set to be promoted to the 'East' regional league as champions of Kent Ladies Premier Division. The ladies also remain undefeated this season. Following Sunday's win over the previously undefeated Tunbridge Wells, our ladies are also through to the Kent Cup final. The final which will be against Canterbury, is to be held at Canterbury on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2004.

The Men's first team under coach Grant Von Mayer and captain Tom Laurie are also top of the Southern Premier league, although it remains tight at the top with the Beckenham 1<sup>st</sup> XI leading by a slim 2 point margin. Of their 4 remaining fixtures, the 2 key games are against Holcombe at home on the 13<sup>th</sup> of March (13.30 start at Langley Park), and their final game of the season away at Purley (13.30 start).

Elsewhere in the club, the men's 2<sup>nd</sup> XI, Vets, ladies 3<sup>rd</sup> XI, and 4<sup>th</sup> XI are flying high in their respective leagues. However this season has not been all good news, subscription numbers are down, leading to the unfortunate withdrawal of the men's 4<sup>th</sup> XI. We as a club must work hard to encourage new members, engage in fundraising activities, and ensure we keep costs down. We are planning an end of season disco for the Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> of March at the club, tickets will be available from captains, and from behind the bar, of course all sections are very welcome.

Finally my thanks to all my fellow committee members, my captains, and all those who have helped earn the success this season.

***Gareth Wharton - Hockey Chairman***

## ***CRICKET SECTION***

### ***BECKENHAM & SYDENHAM C.C. play premier league!***

All the players and supporters of B.S.C.C. have great cause for optimism as we forward to the rapidly approaching 2004 season. Following a hugely successful 2003 season the 1st team will this season be one of the ten elite teams competing in the Premier League of Kent cricket having been promoted as Champions of Division One. With the return of former Australia U-19 player Garry Sheen as Club Coach and overseas professional along with the majority of last year's players and the addition of some new players to the squad, including Kent County Cricket Club allocated players Niall O'Brien and England paceman Martin Saggars, there is every reason to be excited at the prospects of the team.

As a further testament to the success of the merger between Beckenham C.C. and Sydenham C.C. all the other Saturday teams will be playing at the highest level of cricket available to them. The 2nd team will be competing in the equivalent Premier League for second teams also having secured promotion last year and the 4th team will hope to replicate last years championship winning form.

Our three Sunday teams will be playing fixtures of a 'friendly' status and the club will continue to support this more social yet competitive standard of cricket. the club will also field teams in U11, U13, U15 & U16 leagues and of course preparations are already underway for our annual cricket week, in the first week of August, and the inevitable social events, which we hope all will support.

Winter nets have already commenced on Wednesday evenings from 1930-2100 at Dulwich College Sports Centre and will run until the 7th April, whereupon outdoor training will begin at Foxgrove Road on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 1900-2100 throughout the summer for Seniors and on Sunday Mornings from 0930-1130 for juniors. Of course all are welcome as we seek to prepare for the league season which commences the first week in May. It is obviously a very exciting time for the cricket club, and with all your support, we hope for as successful a season on and off the pitch as last year.

## ***SQUASH and RACQUETBALL SECTION***



At long last, thanks to the efforts of Graham Watts and the groundsmen Ray and Paul, the ceiling and walls in the ladies changing room have been repainted, making the area more pleasant for existing members and more conducive to attracting prospective new members.

The question of installation of light meters on the squash courts has again been raised and discussed. The obvious advantage is that light meters would prevent members and non-members abusing the system by using courts without having purchased a stamp. The main disadvantage is that players who wish to play beyond the forty minute session if the court is free would be penalised by having to purchase another stamp for perhaps only a few minutes required to complete a match. There is the related problem of penalising arriving late for matches through delays beyond their control. At the last meeting members of the squash committee voted against the installation of light meters. It was further considered that the money saved in preventing from abusing the system would not compensate the cost of the installation. I believe all members should be vigilant and report to the manager any instances of players using courts without having booked, but I welcome any member's views on the matter.

The junior section continues to thrive under coach Keith Palmer and Ray Vella. I remind members that the juniors meet on Monday evenings from 5pm - 7pm and that any parents who have youngsters interested in taking up the sport or improving their standards are welcome to bring or send them along.

***Leonard Emmerson - Chair of Squash***

## ***ATHLETICS SECTION***

Last year the running section engaged the services of Mick Barlow (junior) as coach and what a difference it has already made to our times! At our second grand prix outing of the year, The Sidcup 10 miles, eight of our runners achieved personal best times and there were more personal bests at the Greenwich Meridian 10k race on Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup> March. Obviously it does pay to run like mad things up and down Beckenham Hill and round and round Foxgrove Avenue. London Marathon day is nearly upon us and, as ever, we have several members taking part this year. Their training has included quite a few half marathons, etc., and a lot of pavement-pounding over the winter. Good luck to them on the day.

We are busy planning our annual races, the relay on 7<sup>th</sup> May and the 10k on 6<sup>th</sup> June, and also this year a Summer Party on 3<sup>rd</sup> July. As always, these events are open to all BCC members although it has to be said that the Summer Party will require less effort from participants than either of the races!

We have been especially pleased this year by the number of new members who have joined the club but would still welcome members from other sections who wish to run with us on Wednesday evenings.

***Jennifer Hamley - Secretary***

## ***CLUB NEWS***

### ***NEW CHAIRMAN to take us forward***

Owen Gregory was elected Chairman of the General Committee at their first meeting after the AGM. Members serving on the committee are as follows : Bob Beaumont (President), John Pearce (Vice Chair), Richard Challand ( Treasurer), Geoff Randall-Piller, Gareth Wharton, Len Emmerson, Peter Clegg, Peter Ayrton, Steve Elliott. Meetings of the General Committee take place on the first Monday of the month in the Trophy Bar commencing 7.45pm

### ***DIRECT DEBITS are on the way!***

The Tennis and Cricket we hope will be the last sections to have their subs collected in a one lump sum. October will see a new membership and office management system installed in the club which will introduce a direct debiting system. We will take your subs either on annual, six monthly, or monthly instalments direct from your bank account. The choice is yours. The system will have loads of other benefits for members to enjoy. Watch future issues of the bugle for up dates.

### ***THE LONG ROOM FACELIFT.***

After transforming the ladies changing room into a subtle shade of apple green. We are about to give the Long room a much needed face lift. New decoration has been ordered together with new curtains, carpet, chairs and tables. A new feature will be a curtained arc around the opening of the squash courts giving an ideal backdrop for functions, presentations and disco rigs. Members are asked for their co-operation and understanding while this work is being carried out. We apologise in advance for the smell of wet paint! We hope to attract more

functions at off peak times with the newly decorated facility. The work is due to start on April 5th and last for about two weeks.

### ***Our apologies!***

You know when you wake up on a Monday morning and things just don't seem right. The coffee spills, the toast burns, and the shower is cold. Well I thought that was it, until I came to work. As I opened the door to the club the cold hit me. The heating had failed! I called the engineer, "It needs a part" he said "It will only take week to order" I turned on the emersion heaters for the showers as a stand by and ordered fires from the hire shop. We limped through to Wednesday lunchtime. Then BANG the electricity on the red phase of our supply had blown . A third of the building was in darkness. No floodlights for the football, no lights for the squash courts, no hot water for the showers, no coolers for the beer. Eddie was getting suicidal. Full power was restored by Thursday evening after a new switch fuse had been fitted. The heating was finally restored on the following Monday. I feel that a sincere apology is required which I give now. My only defence is that sometimes everything does go wrong. I should like to express my thanks to all the members who battled through it; to Jackie who sat in the office working only stopping occasionally to get a blast of warm air by opening the fridge door; to Eddie and the bar staff for washing up by hand; to Paul for his help in giving moral support and providing spanners and torches and keeping the razorblades and pills away from Eddie!

We did it!

Now bring on the heat wave.

Have we got any fans?

### ***LATE SUMMER BALL under canvas***

The General Committee have suggested that we hold a late summer ball in September here in the grounds of the club under a large marquee. Investigations are underway to cost the event, if any members have any suggestions or want to help plan and organise the event then please contact Graham in the office as soon as possible. Also if anyone has contacts for dance bands, again please see Graham.

### ***A LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT***

#### **LIFE MEMBERSHIPS**

I announced at the AGM that the club is offering a limited number of life memberships at the cost of £1000 plus VAT which is equivalent to roughly 21 years at current prices. The club is trying to restore cash funds to progress with the Long Room project and would be grateful to any members who find themselves able to take up this offer, we will accept the first 20 applications, thereafter by discretion of the General Committee. Please send cheques for £1175 with your membership renewal.

Thank you in advance

Bob Beaumont

President