



Our 2017 cricket season was a turning point in our club. We were, overall, very lucky with the weather last year. Many games were played under beautiful sunshine, with only a few been rained off. Our 1<sup>st</sup> team avoided relegation and ended the season mid-way in the Premier League table. Our A team also finished mid-way in their league. This is actually surprising considering the problems both captains had with team availability this season.

Many weeks Nick Chapman and Chris Cox held 'crisis' talks over the unavailability of many players. This sadly resulted in the A team having to call off their games due to lack of players owing to the 1<sup>st</sup> team needing to field a full side. This is South Northants Cricket League ruling which states that the 1<sup>st</sup> team must field a side every week. It was hard for the captains making these decisions and credit must go to them for all their hard work for the club.

This problem finally came to a head at the end of July when an extra meeting was called to discuss the club's future. As with many other clubs in the SNCL it has been a major problem trying to field two teams every week and the idea that in a very short time it could be that Thornborough Cricket Club could fold due to lack of players. This is something that we all felt strongly about as the cricket club is a vital element of village life and must survive this crisis.

Fortunately the open meeting was well attended and support from all there showed that the club does have a future. Many players have volunteered their help in moving forward, two ex-players are now busily organising a recruitment drive in local villages who have sadly lost their own cricket team due to the same problem. By the end of last season we had already signed on two players from Steeple Claydon, one of which has already become the 1<sup>st</sup> team wicket keeper and is very keen to play an active role in our club.

There is now an air of positivity within the club that with hard work our club will be able to field two sides every Saturday in 2018. We will not be complacent and the new committee elected at the AGM in November are keen to promote cricket in our village with the inclusion of Youth Cricket returning once again. This is the only way for our club to continue. Our new chair is Ian Davies, a past player who has supported the club in many ways over the years. He comes to the position with experience of management and has many good ideas in which to bring the club forward. I look forward to working with him.

We are very proud of what we achieved last year. Our charity match for Scotty's Little Soldiers raised £1091, a fantastic result, showing what a small club can do when we pull together. Local people were extremely generous in donating raffle prizes and a big thank you must go to them,

including two of our Life Vice Presidents, Andy and Val Spurr, who donated a barrel of beer for the afternoon. I am very proud of our cricket club for this achievement, both the men and ladies of the club who gave up their Sundays for this worthwhile cause.

We also played in our second charity event of the year at Great Horwood. This as you will know is to raise money for two charities in memory of Bobby Ridgeway and Mick Moore. Unfortunately the rain intervened and the game was eventually called off due to wet weather!. Despite this we were able to send over £250 to Micks charity, Lord Taverners.

We have already held three very successful events this year, a Pool Competition, A Quiz Night and a Car rally. We have set the dates for our two Annual charity events, Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> July we will be hosting the Annual game versus Great Horwood, and on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> August we will be holding our popular 6 a side event. This year, monies raised will be going to Scotty's Little Soldiers and Air Ambulance. The second charity was chosen as a result of one of our regular players, Aiden Birch suffering a serious cycle accident in March and he approached our committee to see if we could support this charity as his way of thanking all the medical teams who helped him at this horrific time. We are very pleased to be doing this as both charities are now closely linked to two regular members of our club.

On behalf of Thornborough Cricket Club may I personally thank you for your continued support. We look forward to seeing you at a game one Saturday or at any of our fund raising events. Let us hope that this long standing cricket club continues to survive and that we will be able to plan for many years of cricket to come.

Deb Chapman

Secretary