## FINDON CRICKET CLUB

## CHAIRMANS REPORT 2017

This will be my seventh and final year as Chairman. Unfortunately, I have a new job which does not allow me the time that I used to have previously and I also feel that a new face may help to reinvigorate the club with new ideas and different views. It has been a great honor to be Chairman and I look forward to supporting the new Chairman in leading the club forward. Our Vice Chairman, Paul Judges, will also be standing down, after ten years and no one can doubt his dedication to the club. So a complete change at the top but I am pleased to say the rest of the Committee intend to stand for re-election.

2017 was the 150th year of our club’s existence and we celebrated in style. My thanks go to the 150th Sub Committee who did a great job in organizing our three main events of the year. Without their help and support the existing Committee would not have had the time to organize the event’s run, which ensured we marked the year in traditional Findon style. Beer, wine and friends, both past and present. The great British Summer put a bit of a dampener on the Friends game but it was still great to see so many attend in support of the event. Our reenactment of an old club photograph led to video proof that I am a natural 19th Century Village Cricketer.

I will leave it to the captains to give their overview of the cricket, but we do continue to struggle with participation. Sadly, this is an ongoing trend throughout sport in general, and whilst it has been a struggle we do still manage to put out three sides on a Saturday. Your Committee continues to review the situation but we have yet to find the magical answer. You may remember from last year’s report, that we lost life member Michael ‘Mike’ Payne in November 2016. We did receive £10,000 from his estate and that money has been put aside to support the growth of junior cricket. Current plans involve the use of ‘higher profile’ coaches to provide coaching to both our juniors and seniors. The hope being that not only will it improve our existing players but also attract new players to the club.

Whilst the club is currently in a reasonably sound financial position the declining number of members has put extra pressure on annual income. We have seen reduced revenue and a worrying trend of operating losses. Last year we had to replace the cooler for the beer cellar and the ice making machine. The machine shed needs a new roof, which is currently in hand and I have a feeling that the clubhouse roof will need some major repairs. The accounts also show that the 150th events did not ‘break even’ and led to a loss. Whilst the events were not planned to make money, we had hoped for something closer to a neutral cost. This should not be seen as a bad reflection on all the hard work that went in to organizing and running the events. As I have said it was a celebration of our 150th and not a money making venture. What the accounts do show is a need to review our income and expenditure more closely to ensure the continued viability of the club. We do not want to increase the cost of playing so will have to look for more creative ways to bring additional revenue, through increased sponsorship or other fund raising activities.

Too many to name individually, but a big thank you to all, and I do mean all, members of the committee, managers, coaches, umpires, scorers and everyone else who have contributed to the successful running of the Club this year and throughout my tenure as Chairman. I have stated before that I do not like to name individuals as I know I will always miss someone out. However, I have to give a special thanks to my wife Alison, without whose support I would not have been able to give my time to the club we all love. Please remember we are all volunteers and give our time freely in the support of OUR club.

This Chairman is now signing off, but please ensure your continued support of the new Chairman and ‘The Horses’, Findon Cricket Club.

With best wishes to you and your families for a happy and healthy 2018.

Gary Howell

Chairman

December 2017