

Chairman's Report 2020 Findon Cricket Club

Happy New Year to the Findon CC family. Let's hope 2021 bring us health, normality and Cricket.

2020 You really cannot believe what has happened to our World, Country, Community and Findon CC. As always, these situations bring out the best and the worst in people. Findon CC is strong to the core, our members have worked tirelessly to keep the Findon family together to support, to get the nets open, play cricket and even have a social distance beer!

I've decided to concentrate on all that we did, not what we did not! During April lockdown, we followed ECB guidelines and got the nets open. This was no mean feat, Simon Cairns was nothing less than outstanding, he established a net rota, we had a club member on site taking responsibility for supervision and cleaning gates etc. This gave everyone an opportunity to get some fresh air and good vibes. Simon was a very deserving winner of our Clubman of the Year award.

David Glover, Matt and Growler also took the challenge to get the All Stars (5- to 8-year-old children) going and we had 25 children at Findon. In comparison, many clubs were not able to offer the All Stars program this year. Well done all!

I must also mention the innovative project that Harry Metters devised for us all in June, when we were not able to play any cricket, which combined exercise for (in total) 72 of our members with fundraising for 3 local charities. By creating a social media app for us all to use, Harry kept us up to date with progress throughout the month with our own walking, running and cycling efforts and in our weekly "competition" with our friends at West Wittering CC, West Chiltington CC and Goring CC respectively. A total in excess of £3,300 was raised with enormous physical and mental wellbeing created along the way. Well done to Harry and to all who both participated and helped with fundraising!

We had some friendly cricket once we had the green light from the ECB, which was again well received along with a lot of toilet mopping and spraying of surfaces and, signs letting members know the safe way to go in and out of the club house. Again, so much thought given by a lot of committee members how we could play cricket and keep ourselves and opponents safe.

Then we had the Village Cup, the August Cup and the new Sussex Slam competition all very well supported. As always, these competitions cannot be played unless we have the support of our umpires and scorers. Thank you all - sorry we could not even make you a hot drink, but as you know the kitchen was closed.

Our all-important bar was able to open, with appropriate measures (no pun intended!). Thank you to Ali G, it was beer, wine and gin in a tin with the very best plastic glasses! But we were able to enjoy some of our usual Findon life, even if this was only one or two. Club weekend loosely termed, Toby organised a junior family event on the Sunday which was well attended. Many members enjoyed a drink at some stage over the weekend.

We also lost some of our Findon CC friends in 2020. Both Robert John and Martin Rumsey were past players who older members will remember with great warmth. Tom Mitchell was the step-father of James Simper, one of our current young players. Also, Val Simmons, who for many years accompanied her partner Tony Attfield, in loyally supporting our teams both home and away, including on many Sunday Village Cup excursions. They will all be sadly missed.

Please all stay safe and well, let's hope this vaccine can be given out in a speedy fashion and we can all appreciate our friends and family at Findon CC soon. Warmest regards

Mandy Bridson, Chairman.

January 2021