



HORSHAM CRICKET CLUB
TREASURER'S REPORT & EXPLANATORY NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
Year Ending 30 September 2022

SUMMARY

Normal service has been resumed, at least as far as cricket is concerned, and the Club managed to focus its efforts this summer on the game of cricket unhindered by various Covid restrictions. The Club's return to the Premier division of the Sussex League was a challenge that was met with a great deal of playing success. With all our teams playing well, the atmosphere at Cricketfield Road was as good as has been seen for many years and the future looks very positive.

Our finances matched the performances on the field and the Club was able to make a significant net contribution to the Horsham Sports Club coffers of £21,036. This brings us back to the levels that we were achieving in the pre-Covid days.

MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS

Membership of the Club in 2022 maintained the levels achieved last year and the breakdown of numbers between the two years were;

	Members 2021	Members 2022
Men	36	39
Women	12	11
Juniors	170	168
Total Paid-Up Playing Members	218	218
Players (Complimentary Membership)	6	6
Non Playing Members	17	11
Non Playing Members (Complimentary)	24	27
President	1	0
Life Members	5	5
Vice Presidents	51	53
Total Membership	322	320

FINANCES

A statement of the income and expenditure for 2022 is attached to this report and set out below are some explanatory notes and comments on the major items that appear in that statement.

The Club's income from **Annual Subs and Match Fees** was £23,237, an increase of 14% over what was collected last season. Very few fixtures were cancelled this summer, which was a contributing factor towards that increase, and there were more junior games played especially by the girls age groups. The junior subscription fee of £65 per member includes a £10 levy which goes towards junior coaching costs and that money, £1,500, is not included in the amount above. This year the levy has been distributed between;

Clothing Sales – to cover complimentary clothing for junior coaches.

Overseas Coaching Fees – covers the Club's Overseas player coaching at junior coaching nights, and

Coaching fees paid to coaches at indoor nets and outdoor camps.

This year significant **Donations**, amounting to £18,791, were made to the Club by members to help pay for equipment and functions which included;

A new scoreboard for the main ground.

The cost of the Club's President's Day.

Some new ground covers, and

The cost of printing the Club's 250th Anniversary brochure.

Many of these donations attract Gift Aid, payable in the next financial year, which will go towards future projects. I cannot express enough how much the Club owes to those members who made donations, no matter how large or small, because without that funding stream we would be struggling to maintain the high standard of the Club's facilities that we have come to expect.

The agreement we had with our main sponsor, Gardiner & Scardifield, came to an end in March of this year and they agreed to sign up for another three years provided they could continue to have the sole rights to have their company logo on our playing shirts. At the same time, the Club was approached by the beauty products company The Green People who expressed an interest in sponsoring HCC and we were able to enter into a three agreement with them which included them having their logo on our training kit.

It was felt that there was a need to improve the image of the Club both on and off the field and one way of doing that was to introduce a new range of cricket **Clothing**. Following discussions with Gray Nicolls, our kit supplier, the Club was able to offer a subsidised kit bundle consisting of a playing shirt, training top and shorts plus a cap to all members. Gray Nicolls were able to offer a generous discount on the kit bundle, and together with using a significant amount of our sponsors' money, the Club was able to offer the clothing at a price that represented a 30% saving on normal prices. The Club spent £14,265 on clothing this year and recovered £13,368 in sales. The shortfall of £897 is more than covered by the value of stock available for sale next season.

A relaxation in the regulations concerning foreign travel following the COVID epidemic allowed the Club to bring over an **Overseas** player for the 2022 season. Kiwi Ben Lister had a proven track record with Auckland as a left-arm medium pace bowler and the Club secured his services for the season although the ever-increasing paperwork delayed his debut for us until the end of May. I anticipated that we'd need around £8,000 to cover all expenses and, in the end, we spent £7,487. His delay in getting here and the fact that he was selected to represent NZ "A" in India, and thus missing our last league game of the season, kept us within budget.

The cost of having an overseas this year was covered by donations from the Horsham 49ers, the Thwaites Fund and some sponsor funding as well as some significant fund raising by players. Some useful lessons were learnt for when we repeat the exercise next year, not least the fact that sufficient pre-season time has to be allowed to complete the ever increasing amount of form filling generated by the various authorities. It was worth it in the end as Ben settled very quickly into the 1st XI and was very much part of the side that challenged for the title right up to the close of the season. It would be remiss of me not to mention a word of thanks at this stage to Jenny Wise who gave Ben a home whilst he was here. Ben was made to feel very welcome and I know he was very appreciative of how well Jenny looked after him. Thanks Jen.

Sponsorship & Grants have always been a vital part of the Club's income and this year we were very lucky in not only renewing our agreements with Gardner & Scardifield and Alan Law Physiotherapy but also having onboard The Green People. With having over £5,000 in the pot, we were able to subsidise the new kit, put money towards the Overseas player's costs and help with other expenditure such as coaching. As Treasurer I am very grateful for our sponsors financial support and I hope that they feel we are giving them value for money.

The provision of **Coaching & Winter / Summer Nets** is a vital element of what the Club provides for its members, especially the juniors, and this year we spent £10,325 on the hire of facilities and the payment of coaching fees. That cost was more or less covered by the collection of individual fees and the Junior Coaching Levy which amounted to £10,094. Providing coaching throughout the year, especially for our juniors who are the future of the Club, wouldn't be possible without all of our coaches and administrators. They put in a great deal of time and effort which is very much appreciated by the rest of us. Thank you to you all.

The amount spent on **Catering** was covered either by members' donations or the collection of monies via match fees.

Other than the cost of a new scoreboard on the main ground and some covers, which has been noted in my comments above on **Donations**, the only other major expenditure last season on **Cricket Equipment** was £2,054 on new match balls. This is likely to increase in the future and is one area which we are looking at to see if we can get new sponsors to cover some of the cost.

This year the amount the Club spent on **Affiliation Fees & Officials' Expenses** was £1,897 and is something we are going to have to look at closely next season especially in respect of the need to reward scorers and umpires.

Payment of subs and match fees has been very good this year and, following a little prodding, the Club is only owed £300 in outstanding fees which amounts to less than 1% of the total fees due. Those **Debtors** who owe money will be chased for payment during the winter and non-

payment before the start of next season may result in them not being selected until their debt has been paid.

FUND RAISING

Fund raisers continue to be an important part in getting monies to pay for expenditure on cricket equipment and costs such as those associated with having an Overseas player. This year the Club has done particularly well in that a sizeable sum, over £3,000, was raised to cover some of the overseas' costs. Part of that total was spent this year with a further amount being put into the Thwaites Development Fund to help with next season's overseas' costs. Our Cricket Manager, Ben Williams, has been central in organising our two main fund raising raffles and I'd like to thank him publicly for all his efforts.

TREASURER'S COMMENTS

Financially it has been a successful year for the Club and that has been achieved through the efforts and support of the members both those playing and those watching from the boundary. It has been a collective effort and I, on behalf of the Cricket Committee, can't thank everyone enough for the support that has been forthcoming.

Senior members of the Club, many of whom are no longer playing, freely give of their time in volunteering at events, covering a wide range of tasks including umpiring and scoring, and do so willingly. A number also make significant individual financial donations or belong to the 49ers Fund which makes a major difference to whether or not the Club meets its financial commitments for the year. As those of you who do take the time to read these annual missives, you'll know that I don't single out individuals for their support as there are so many of you. However, I'm going to make an exception this year.

The financial support given to us by Susan Parsons, Sarah Peay and Susan Horsman has been beyond belief. Their contributions were given in memory of their late husbands, Mike Parsons, Barry Peay and David Horsman, all of whom were stalwarts of the Club. It has been a very strange feeling this summer to wander around the ground on match days and not bump into one of those guys. They were always up for a chat, had some pretty strong views on cricket and a lot of stories about the past. They are much missed and hopefully how we have spent their legacies would have met with their approval. To all three of you, thank you very much for all your support.

The Sports Club employed a new groundsman this year and Alex Ellis has proved to be the right man for the job. Hopefully we can hang on to him longer than some of the previous incumbents in the job. He has had great support from Marsh, Lol, John Attfield, Paul Hoskins and others during the season. Thanks guys, without your efforts we wouldn't have some of the best facilities in the county.

Those in the Club Office work tirelessly behind the scenes to support the Cricket Club and often get very little recognition for what they do on our behalf. I am aware of the efforts they put in and it is much appreciated, especially by me as Treasurer. I would finally like to thank the Cricket Committee for their efforts and for their support during the year.

CRICKET AGM 2022

This year's AGM will take place on 23 January 2023 and hopefully by issuing the Accounts and this report prior to that meeting it will reduce the time spent going through the figures on the night. If you do have any queries, please don't hesitate to contact me on colin.mitcham@btinternet.com and I will try to answer your questions.

Colin Mitcham
Treasurer
December 2022

HCC Sponsored by

