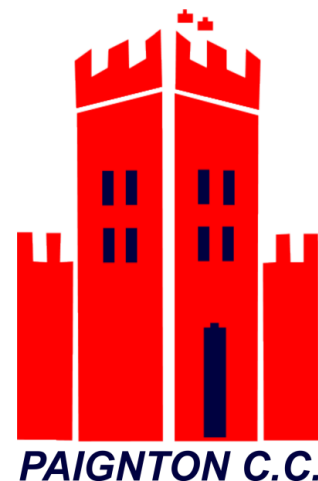




Chairman's Report March 2023



Lights, Camera, Action!

*"Success is not final: Failure is not fatal:
It's the courage to continue that counts"*

Senior Cricket:

The season started with a camera crew and entourage dotted around Queens Park as our Indian overseas arrived. Divyaansh Saxena had signed a contract to allow Disney Plus to film him throughout the season. Unfortunately halfway through the season, the filming ceased due to politics within Disney Plus. However, it was appropriate to have Queens Park in the spotlight as Divvy played cricket like a superstar! His ability for such a young man was staggering. Never have we seen at Queens Park a bowler who can bowl both left and right-handed. His batting was also at a different level. Divvy scored 1037 runs at an average of 74.04 containing 4 50's and 4 100s the highlight being a quite brilliant 172 against Cornwood A remarkable man with a lovely personality. Everybody in the club holds Divvy in high regard. The 1st team finished 7th in the league and we competed well against most teams. Another year of valuable experience for our young players. Bowling and fielding were generally of a high standard but unfortunately, the batting seemed to let us down. Hopefully, lessons have been learned and next year we push on as a side. I would like to personally thank Mark Orchard for his incredible passion and commitment to the team.

Unfortunately, the second team ended up being relegated. At the end of 2021 season, we lost a cluster of players and throughout the season availability was a real problem. However, this did allow our youth an opportunity to play at a higher level. I would like to thank Stephen George for his commitment and dedication to supporting his team. Again, our young players have gained valuable experience and our aim is to gain promotion for the season ahead.

The third team had a very successful season, finishing 4th in their league. A great balance between experience and youth. Again, this was a great platform for many of our youth to start their senior careers in cricket. Jon Roberts did a great job, particularly in giving the youngsters opportunities.

The fourth team managed a well-deserved promotion. This was a fantastic achievement as it was only the 2nd year we have been in the division. The side has a lovely balance of seniors and youth, giving plenty of opportunity and creating the perfect environment for our young aspiring cricketers to flourish. The outstanding game of the season was beating the undefeated champions in their backyard. Unfortunately, Nick Glanfield, the elected Captain was injured throughout the season. Liam Mansell took over the captaincy and did an amazing job. Liam's passion and desire to win resonated throughout the team. Well done to all concerned.

It was such an accomplishment for us as a club, to field four teams, and to fulfil every fixture throughout the season despite all the obstacles and challenges against us. This is a reflection of how strong our base is and the desire of our players to play and support the game in whatever team they are selected for. The atmosphere throughout all the teams is incredible, with senior players fully supporting the youth and there is real enjoyment around the club.

Midweek sides again were very successful, fulfilling every fixture which enabled more opportunity for our youth to play senior cricket and to develop those lasting friendships and connections with other clubs - whilst encouraging valuable revenue and community spirit in the bar!

Thank you to all our club captains – Mark Orchard, Stephen George, Jon Roberts and Liam Mansell. Thank you to Harry Ward, who managed and organised midweek games and also to Richard Hussey, Paul Worth, Mike Whiteside and Brian Stubbington for umpiring and also Sid, Brian Dore, Phil Knight and Tony Milton for scoring. Let us not forget, without these valuable roles being filled, the game of cricket does not go ahead!

Women's

The ladies' section continues to go from strength to strength and last year 50 ladies took part in games for Paignton Cricket Club. The hardball team finished 2nd by 1 point behind Hatherleigh and the softball finished 2nd in the county softball competition. Both amazing achievements. Thanks go to Nick Harman, Jack Harman, and Trevor Massey who coached and managed the hardball, Steph Kaczalska and Julie Simpson who coached and managed the softball team. Well done to all the players for making it an incredibly successful season.

Junior Cricket:

Once again, we attracted a considerable number of players and were able to field U10, U11, U12, U13, U14, U15, and U19 sides – 7 boys teams. Our U19s did amazingly well and managed to reach the final, where they lost against a very strong Tiverton Heathcoat team. This is a testament to the club's commitment to our youth and demonstrates our ethos of ensuring that every child is given an opportunity to express their cricketing talent, regardless of experience. I have always stated that one of the most important elements of our club is our youth, which we have ensured is built upon strong foundations.

Our younger children had opportunities through Nick Glanfield to participate in the ECB's 'All Stars' and 'Dynamo Cricket' sessions, whilst the oldest cricketers in our community had 'Walking Cricket' which was also well supported. Softball sessions continued and were well led by Lloyd Blackler and a raft of Paignton coaches, enabling the children to gain so much experience and opportunity.

I personally would like to thank Jon Russell, Colin Knight, Jon Roberts, Tony Milton, Tim Barber, Jack Harman, Tony Medlock, Nick Glanfield, Nick Harman, Stu Kirkup, Jason Woodcock, Liam Mansell, Ollie Woodcock, Jackie, Rory Medlock, Brenton Pedley, Max Pedley, Jacob Lander, Lloyd Blackler Tracey Woodcock, Rio Koyikkara and Lorna Crang. Hopefully, I haven't missed anybody out, but if I have – sincere apologies as it's not intended. I am super proud of our cricket community and the supportive culture we are building at Queens Park. An incredible band of volunteers, managers, and coaches, who give up their time to support

and encourage the unique development of every player. Without these people, the junior section would not exist, and I am pleased to say that we continue to grow, develop and expand our team of coaches and managers.

Finally, particular thanks to Tracey Knight for her safeguarding role last season.

The Ground

Sam Simcox was again ably assisted by Ollie Woodcock and Charlie Ward, managed by Terry Farkins. The grounds team did an incredible job in producing top-quality wickets for all ages. This is a real achievement, balancing their day-to-day work and hours spent on the ground. There was so much pride taken in the wickets, meaning that every child could develop their cricketing skills due to the excellent state of their wickets. Thank you all for your hard work and commitment.

The Clubhouse

We had a very successful social year with bar takings high. One thing Paignton is renowned for is its incredible social life. We pride ourselves on being a community club who are friendly and welcoming. Friday evenings were again very popular, well attended, and had a lovely atmosphere. Great to see parents/carers able to relax and enjoy a drink and social chat whilst watching their children actively engage and enjoy their cricket. Most Saturday evenings there was a band of young men and women who enjoyed sharing each other's company in a relaxing environment. Special mentions to Mark Crang and Tony Milton who supervised the bar. George and Mo headed the bar and were ably supported by Emily, Zoe, and Charlotte. Once again, an extended thank you also goes to Jason and Tracey Woodcock, for continuing to ensure our planters bloomed were well cared for.

Finally, a heartfelt thanks to the committee who are the engine of the club. Their hard work and support are unwavering and without these people, the club doesn't move forward and grow effectively. As a club, we have some very clear aspirational goals. We aspire to offer high-class cricket with the best facilities whilst at the same time ensuring cricket is accessible to all levels and abilities across all ages. We strive to be a fulcrum of the community where people can enjoy the game of cricket in a pleasant and welcoming environment. In 2022 we certainly achieved this.

Tim Ward
Chairman