

THE YORKSHIRE GENTLEMEN'S CRICKET CLUB  
(Founded 1863)

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Covid-19 is causing havoc across the globe and we have witnessed scenes that none of us have experienced before, with huge social upheaval and an economic ripple effect which could last for years. Sport has effectively been cancelled and normal life, as we know it, has been replaced. But this is not entirely uncharted territory as, just over 100 years ago, another pandemic rocked the world, bringing everyday life to a grinding halt just like the spread of coronavirus has today. Like today, society was forced to implement dramatic measures and clamp down on events that would attract large numbers of people to a confined space, leaving the more fortunate starved of the sporting action they craved. We can only imagine how the then President, Lord Hawke, and the committee sought to deal with the crisis, but we do know from our "White Rose Gentlemen" book that the club had been facing significant financial difficulties over recent seasons as a result of WW1. I am pleased to say that the club is currently on a much sounder financial base thanks to the efforts of so many different people.

By necessity our matches looked very different in 2020, with the introduction of 40 over per side games without the traditional lunch interval and the break between innings being a 'bring your own tea'. The facts and figures for the season are available on the website, [www.yorkshiregentlemenscricketclub.co.uk](http://www.yorkshiregentlemenscricketclub.co.uk) where you can also find Alex Bindloss's excellent end of season report. I very much hope that he will continue to provide these reports in 2021. In short we played 11, won 9, drawn 0 and lost 2. There were centuries for James Van Der Merwe (2) and Jason Dale, with 5 wicket hauls for James Van Der Merwe and Alex Bindloss. We must not forget at this point the magnificent efforts of Jason Dale and Phil Holland in turning out sides to enable our eleven fixtures to proceed.

Bill Dalton has produced another fabulous fixture list, following on from his mammoth effort last year at such short notice, especially given the uncertainty we have all been facing, for which we are very grateful. The 2021 season opener is on Sunday 25th April at Escrick against Woodhouse Grange Academy, followed on Wednesday 28th April by a visit to the prestigious North Marine Road to play Scarborough College, which was a fine new addition to the fixture card last year but obviously never took place. We have a number of new fixtures and a visit to Chatsworth to play Langdales XI on Wednesday 30th June. You will soon be hearing about the new app which we will be using for team selection and updates, called Spond. Hopefully this will enable all playing members to engage easily with the match managers.

The committee have worked hard behind the scenes on zoom, working on plans for the future. Who knew of this medium twelve months ago, and what a steep learning curve for everyone, not least our older generation!

The membership database has been one of the focuses of attention for Jeremy Phillips, who also produced some fabulous newsletters and social media posts. We trust that you have enjoyed the newsletters, which hopefully keep our far flung membership in touch with happenings at Escrick. He was a very deserving winner of our Presidents' cup.

We are delighted to have appointed a new treasurer, Trevor Edgar, who along with David O'Kelly and James Burdass, has been updating our accounting systems and reviewed our

annual subscriptions (please ensure that you have amended your standing order accordingly). On the fund raising front, Mike Apparicio has reinvigorated the 100 club, as you will be aware, whilst the President will be organising the annual dinner on Thursday 11th November 2021. There are further projects in the pipeline, including additional fundraising to upgrade the pavilion to ensure it's longevity; reintroducing a junior / colts section with the help of our members who are qualified coaches; as well as both strengthening our links with QM and involving more families by instigating some women and girls games.

There are so many others to whom we are extremely grateful, and without them no games would go ahead, especially the match managers and umpires. Paul White, who not only had to so kindly undertake all his usual tasks with such aplomb, but also took on responsibility for the additional covid procedures; Geoff Wellsted, for the hours of general maintenance on the pavilion; Harry Glatman, the cricket secretary; and Nigel Bartram who ensured that the ground was in magnificent shape after the first lockdown to enable play to commence. Another who is pivotal to the way the club is now developing is Angus Shaw, membership secretary, who is such a vital link between the generations within the club.

A new club shop has been set up with Masuri for all your kit and clothing requirements. [YGCC Club Shop](#). David O'Kelly has again kindly negotiated the generous support of from Hunts County Bats. They continue to offer members of the Club preferential rates for cricketing equipment – in the region of a 50% discount. Details can be found on their website at [www.huntscountybats.co.uk](http://www.huntscountybats.co.uk) or call them on 01480 451234. Please mention the Club when you place an order.

Twelve months ago, in my first chairman's message I wrote "we are at a critical time for the game and therefore the club. We have a club in good health but facing continuing and increasing challenges." Little did I know that we were about to suffer a worldwide pandemic as it seemed then to be confined to a cruise ship half a world away. I can only assume David O'Kelly has better fortune telling powers than me... Let us hope that the sun shines on Escrick this summer, that we can renew friendships, welcome new members and opponents and enjoy the camaraderie that we have all missed so much.

Stay safe and best wishes,

**John M E Skinner**  
**Chairman**