

Dear Members

I became the Club's Chairman back in March this year, and I should like to bring you up to speed with some issues and developments since then.

First of all I should like the Club to have a really good turnout for the IOM Cricket Association Dinner which this year is being held on 14 November at the Sefton Hotel.

We quite rightly consider Cronkbourne to be the premier club on the Island, so we should be able to fill at least three or four tables of ten. I would ask all the senior players to attend, after all we are the 20/20 winners, and there are other prizes up for grabs on the night, some of which may come our way. The older juniors may want to come along too either in a group or with their parents. Partners and friends should also be encouraged to come along for what is one of the most important and enjoyable events in the cricketing calendar.

The guest speaker will be Warren Hegg, recently retired from the Lancashire CCC playing ranks, who by all accounts is very entertaining, and there is also the added attraction this year of a champagne reception. All this for £30 a head, or just £20 for juniors. I hope to see many of you there for what will be a cracking evening.

The bar facility is the primary source of income that offsets clubhouse expenses, and it quickly became evident to me that we needed to make radical changes to the way that it had operated in the past. This was done, with many new initiatives and processes being put in place, notably the appointment of Nick Hutchings as bar manager. In the few months that Nick has been with us, he has helped us to turn in a much improved profit margin, which if maintained in the future, will mean healthy net revenues that will keep the Club in the black. The last three years had seen an alarming depletion of reserves which the Club could ill afford to sustain, so ideally we want you the members to support your Club by attending functions, using the bar and of course you can hire the clubhouse for parties etc.

I mentioned the parents earlier; I should like to try and involve them more in the Club, and I am happy to say that two of them are prepared to get together to encourage this happening. I would be very grateful to hear from any other parents who might be able to spare the odd hour or two, now and then to join this group.

I am pleased to say that the football section, Gymms FC, is now using the changing facilities and the bar every Saturday. It is good to see them getting more involved with the Club as a whole and they along with the hockey members are supporting Saturdays well. Sadly there are no cricketers to be seen other than your committee, so why not come along and give it a try, there is always a bit of banter and there is food being served as well. We have Sky and Setanta so all the major sporting events can be seen at the Club.

We are looking at making improvements to the Club's facilities and I hope to tell you more next time.

To close I would simply say that it is an exciting time for the Club at the moment; we have great plans in mind, the club is slowly becoming more vibrant and we are becoming a more attractive venue for functions, however the bottom line is that the Club needs your support, and with that we can go from strength to strength.

Best wishes

Jamie Stokoe