

Last year I started my report by explaining that 2022 had been a truly fantastic season. Well, I think it's fair to say that 2023 was a pretty good one too. Both the First and Second teams performed strongly in their new higher leagues, the Third team won their league and gained a fully deserved promotion and our juniors saw strong participation and continued to perform impressively winning a league in every age group from under 11 to under 15. Our club has also seen strong representation in the county sides from the full senior team and through the junior age groups.

Off the field, we have undertaken fund-raising initiatives to support the ongoing need to improve the facilities of the club as the club improves and the membership expands. And socially, the club continues to flourish with large numbers of junior parents enjoying our facilities on a Friday evening (when the weather allows) and over 120 players, junior parents and guests attending our end-of-season Cricket Ball.

Let me go into more detail on all these aspects of our season. On the field, the First Eleven performed strongly in their new lofty position in the second tier of the Home Counties Premier League, the elite level of cricket in this area. Where a lesser team might have been expected to consolidate their position, our Firsts, led by Jon Denning, narrowly missed out on promotion finishing shy by one place in 3rd. Bad weather on the point of victory in a crucial game against the eventual runners-up, and a baffling defeat to the bottom-placed side cost us dear but even so, we have proved that we belong in the Home Counties Premier.

The season was characterised by strong batting performances from Fahim Qareshi who scored 667 runs, the most in the Division, with a top score of 117. Chirs Marrow also scored 452 runs and took 29 victims behind the stumps. With the ball, skipper Jon Denning took the most wickets with 31 and a best of 5 for 16. I am sad to report that for personal reasons, Jon has decided to step down as skipper next season and move to another club closer to home. I want to wish Jon all the best with his move and want him to know that his great service to the club, especially last year, will always be appreciated and he will always be welcome at our club.

The Seconds finished a very creditable 5th in Division 3b of the Thames Valley League. This season, again under skipper Steve Rimmer, the batters and bowlers put in some excellent performances. Haroon Mohammed was the most successful batsman with 624 runs at an average of 57. Credit to Joel Abbott and Alex Hampshire who both also scored over 300 runs. Most wickets were taken by Ross Fyfe with 21 at an average of 18 with best figures of 4-31. Jawad Murtaza, Steve Rimmer and Finn Collins also bowled well with 20, 16 and 14 wickets respectively.



The Thirds were the senior side this year who took the promotion honours, deservedly being promoted from Division 10b having narrowly missed out last season. Under Giles Giggins' tireless organisation and leadership on the field, the 3s only lost two games and, in truth, were much too good for many of the sides they faced.

Matt Beeby topped the scoring with 326, Justin Hampshire also exceeded 300 runs for the season while Max Ritchie scored 235 in three games, once out including a fine 154. But the innings of the season was from Jacob Seimon who scored an astonishing 172, equalling the club record for the highest individual score. On bowling, Paddy Aarons took the most wickets with 23 at an average of 11.4 and a best bowling of 7-16. Strong bowling too from Giles Giggins, Ben Westbrook-Burgh and Charlie Aarons with 18, 16 and 14 wickets respectively.

This season, saw our third team welcomed an increasing number of younger players coming up through the ranks of junior cricket. So much so that around two teams worth of under-18s have played senior cricket for the thirds alone this season. With ever more young players coming through it is becoming increasingly important that we find opportunities for as many junior cricketers as possible to play senior cricket when they are ready. As a result, we have decided to field a fourth team next season, the first time in the history of the club. So while our Thirds continue to play at Barn Meadow in Amersham, we now have access to the artificial surface at Thorpe House School playing fields for our Fourth Team games.

No doubt there will be weeks when we might struggle to put out four sides, especially early in the season, so as a result we have decided to scale back the number of Sunday fixtures, though we still consider this to be an important part of our cricket offering, and we want to keep some of our longstanding traditional fixtures. This season on Sundays, Ben Westbrook-Burgh and Eli Shenoy oversaw a Sunday team which had wins and losses but always played enjoyably and in the right spirit.

Turning to the junior cricket set-up, only made possible by the incredible and ceaseless work carried out by Andrew Smith, we had over 320 junior members again this year which is fantastic to see. The training led by Chris Marrow and his team went really well and Friday nights continue to be a social highlight of the summer in Gerrards Cross.

We had 14 teams compete in the Bucks league and cup competitions, those teams played 122 competitive fixtures and we won an amazing 60% of them. Also, out of those 14 teams, 6 of them won their respective leagues, specifically the under 15s, U14 Bears (undefeated), U13 Kestrels, U12 Falcons (undefeated), the U11 Thunder and the U11 Lightning while the U13s came runners-up.



I also want to call out the continuing success we are having in attracting girls to our club to play cricket; girls now number 58 and have played several matches this season. Having said that it is sometimes difficult to reach a critical mass of girls in different clubs to be able to arrange enough fixtures. As a consequence, to play matches, we have decided for matches to pool our female players with Chalfont St Peter and Chalfont St Giles in a player-hub arrangement (a scheme encouraged by Bucks Cricket to maximise the chance of girls playing cricket). Our girls will continue to train at our club.

Our desire to increase female participation also extends to adults and next season, we are hoping to begin activities for older female cricketers. We hope this might have the by-product of encouraging some women to help with coaching activities of the girls, something we are currently lacking even though it is judged necessary by the ECB.

To sum up on the juniors, regardless of the results or league standings, there has been an amazing effort from the team managers and a cast of helpers who have scored, umpired, made teas and ferried players around Bucks, loads of juniors and played lots of cricket this summer – so many thanks to all of those people, you hold the future of the club through your efforts.

If you came to the junior awards at the end of the season, you'll be aware of the long list of deserving junior award winners, congratulations to them. And many congratulations as well to those players who have been selected for the Bucks Pathway this winter I won't read them all out here but will include the list in Annex A of this document that will be available on the website.

As I mentioned last year, an important benefit of the success of junior cricket is that Friday nights are now becoming a real family social occasion, with growing numbers of parents enjoying the improved bar and terrace facilities to watch their kids play. One side effect of this is that it is helping to raise revenue via bar profits which helps to keep the overall Sports Club in as financially healthy position as we have been in for some time. Examples of how the Sports Club has invested this money are the upgrading our washroom facilities, car park and new terrace furniture.

But perhaps even more important than the hard cash, it is fantastic to see more and more junior parents becoming involved in the club and not just on Friday evenings. In November, we were able to hold a fundraising ball where around half of the attendees had never been to a GXCC dinner before and many of them were junior parents. So long may that continue. We raised over £10k that night which is a huge help in our bid to raise funds so we can spend money on improved facilities.



Now let me turn to fund-raising; why we need to do it, what we have been spending it on and what our plans are. It is perhaps useful to begin by explaining that the business of playing cricket is expensive, an important point not always appreciated. If all we did each year was take in subscriptions and match fees and spend on ground and sports club maintenance, coaching costs and equipment we would run an annual deficit of just under £10k on current costs.

Over recent years, the additional money we have raised from patrons, corporate sponsors and our social events has roughly financed that deficit. So, this means that just to keep the lights on, we need to raise money actively through these channels. If we want to spend more on capital expenditure, we need to raise further funds either via grants or additional fund-raising activities (the sponsored run during lockdown was a good example).

Due to all the fund-raising carried out in the last year or so, we have been able to continue to invest in the facilities of the club. We were pleased this year to receive a substantial grant from 'Heart of Bucks' to go towards laying a new artificial wicket, as promised at the last AGM. This will be of enormous benefit to the junior teams playing more matches, even when the weather is unsettled, and will provide an additional space for our cricketers to train. We are planning to buy a new roll-on cage to enhance the use of that facility still more.

We have also bought a new wicket mower which has been becoming increasingly necessary. Even so, we have become increasingly aware that the standard of the cricket square has been deteriorating over several seasons despite the continuing expert hard work of our groundsman Mark DeSouza, with the famous GX ridge becoming more pronounced each year. As a result, we have begun restorative work on the square to 'flatten the saddles' and we hope this will be beneficial to everyone who plays on our wickets. We are also planning to buy new covers to ensure the cricket square is adequately protected. And we need to repair the damaged roof of our scoreboard.

Other more substantive capex plans we have discussed include an improved irrigation system and water farming for the square, something which is becoming increasingly necessary as summers become hotter (even if 2023 was rather wet as it turned out). We also had plans to build a third lane in our practice nets, and after discussions with the immediate neighbours who had objected, we succeeded in securing planning permission to do this. But for now, this is not an immediate priority and we do not have the funds to carry this out. A comprehensive summary of our actual and potential spending plans is included in Annex B of this report.



What hope I have demonstrated is that as a club, we cannot afford to carry out any major new capex without the help of further fund-raising initiatives in the years ahead. Our experience with our crowdfunding initiative earlier this year was that this was more difficult to carry out than we had appreciated so further efforts in this area will be made in due course.

Jackie Westaway our long-suffering and tireless Treasurer, has decided to stand down from this role after seven years in post. You may not all appreciate it, but her efforts behind the scenes have been enormous, taking us from the cheques, banknotes and paper age to a fully electronic accounting system, and she has begun to navigate us through the financial consequences of us moving our money collection to Teamo, an unfinished task, but a critically important one if the burden on the next Treasurer is not to be too overwhelming. I am sure you'll join me in thanking Jackie for the fantastic work she has done for the club. I'm hoping to persuade her to stay on the committee, as her knowledge and contribution are invaluable and for now Jackie is our only female committee member. We promise that she won't be responsible for any spreadsheets!

Apart from the efforts of our Treasurer, our ability to stay solvent is caused in part due to the donations received from Patrons (thanks to Richard Graham for overseeing that), to the money raised at our social events (notably the post season Ball, thanks to Steve Rimmer and helpers for overseeing that), sponsorship which Justin Hampshire, thank you, works hard to secure and the substantial grants received thanks to the efforts of Giles Giggins. And it is also partly due to the extra revenue generated by colts subscriptions net of coaching costs.

As usual, I would like to conclude by thanking the members of the committee for the huge amount of work that they have put in this season, most of whom have been mentioned already; the Captains, Jon Denning, Steve Rimmer and Giles Giggins, plus Jackie Westaway, Richard Graham, Andrew Smith, Justin Hampshire, Jez Pannett and Dr Claude Seimon, our Club Safe Guarding Officer. As I have said in my report for the previous few years, this club can only run if people volunteer to make things happen. I would love to see a few more new faces helping out next year so please let me know if you'd like to get involved.

To conclude and to reiterate, 2023 has been another fantastic season where across the club, there is a collective feeling that we are building something very special. Forgive me if I repeat almost word for word what I have said in earlier years, but I want GXCC to be a club that is playing good cricket, in a fair spirit for everyone, and where people can come down the club to enjoy themselves while watching our beloved game. If we can get even more people playing and watching cricket next season, and we are getting better all the time on that, then this club can only go from strength to strength.

**Thank you for your continuing support.**

**Peter Westaway**

Chairman

Gerrards Cross Cricket Club



## Annex A

### List of Senior Awards for 2023

<b>Team</b>	<b>Award</b>	<b>Player</b>
1st Team	Players' Player	Fahim Qareshi
1st Team	Most Valuable Player	Jon Denning
2nd Team	Players' Player	Haroon Mohammed
3rd Team	Players' Player	Paddy Aarons
Senior Teams	Young Player, Playing Senior Cricket	James Pannett

### List of Junior Awards For 2023

<b>Team</b>	<b>Award</b>	<b>Player</b>
U15s	Batting Award	Ethan Horne
U15s	Bowling Award	Ollie Scard
U15s	Fielder Award	Alex Thomas
U15s	Manager's Player	Oli Evans
U15s	Manager's Player	Jamie Sanderson
U14 Bears	Batting Award	Zac Peters
U14 Bears	Bowling Award	Eashen Dubb
U14 Bears	Fielder Award	Jonah Harrison
U14 Bears	Manager's Player	Thomas Reynolds
U14 Dragons	Batting Award	Matthew Pannett
U14 Dragons	Bowling Award	Sebastian Spight
U14 Dragons	Fielder Award	Robbie Borwick
U14 Dragons	Manager's Player	Zac Peters
U13s	Batting Award	Josh Smith
U13s	Bowling Award	Thomas Reynolds
U13s	Fielder Award	Veerun Atwal
U13s	Emerging Player	Neil Batra
U13 Kestrels	Batting Award	Jack Scard
U13 Kestrels	Bowling Award	Conor Dowd
U13 Kestrels	Fielder Award	Charlie Wood
U13 Kestrels	Manager's Player	Joban Kullar
U12 Falcons	Batting Award	Zak Fienburg
U12 Falcons	Bowling Award	Will Rimmer
U12 Falcons	Most Improved	Max Feare
U12 Falcons	Manager's Player	Rory Hughes
U12 Ospreys	Batting Award	Arthur Catherall
U12 Ospreys	Bowling Award	Xav Feare
U12 Ospreys	Fielder Award	Harry Sharma
U12 Ospreys	Manager's Player	Ranbir Khera
U12 Eagles	Batting Award	Giacomo Martinelli
U12 Eagles	Bowling Award	Rohan Jayadev
U12 Eagles	Fielder Award	Alex Redmond

Continues



## Annex A

### List of Junior Awards for 2023

<b>Team</b>	<b>Award</b>	<b>Player</b>
U12 Eagles	Manager's Player	Hugo Juttmann-Verschoor
U11 Thunder	Batting Award	Ranbir Khera
U11 Thunder	Bowling Award	Max Mouncey Diez
U11 Thunder	Fielder Award	Rory Collar
U11 Thunder	Manager's Player	Gurnek Malli
U11 Lightning	Batting Award	Amar Kandola
U11 Lightning	Bowling Award	Arya Solanki
U11 Lightning	Fielder Award	Dylan Smith
U11 Lightning	Manager's Player	Ishaan Gidwani
U10 Lions	Batting Award	Jack King
U10 Lions	Bowling Award	Lewis Cox
U10 Lions	Fielder Award	Jesse De'Ath
U10 Lions	Most Improved	Hari Sturm
U10 Tigers	Batting Award	Dylan Smith
U10 Tigers	Bowling Award	Yuvraj Khangura
U10 Tigers	Fielder Award	Nikhil Jayadev
U10 Tigers	Manager's Player	Oliver Fundell
U9s	Batting Award	Charlie Ramsden
U9s	Bowling Award	Jasper Juttmann-Verschoor
U9s	Fielder Award	Darcey Wright
U9s	Manager's Player	William Burton
U10 Girls	Batting Award	Darcey Wright
U10 Girls	Bowling Award	Jemma Bell
U10 Girls	Fielder Award	Emily Warde



List of players selected for the Bucks pathway (new players in bold) for 2023

<b>Player</b>	<b>Squad 23/24</b>
Sofia Lioveri	Girls U11
Maya Key	Girls U11
Kanak Kohli	Girls 14-15 Training Group
Imogen Morgan	Girls 14-15 Training Group
Ethan Horne	Boys U16
Benji Orr-Ewing	Boys U15
Matthew Pannett	Boys U15
Sebastian Spight	Boys U15
Jack White	Boys U14
Thomas Reynolds	Boys U14
Veerun Atwal	Boys U14
Josh Smith	Boys U13
Luke Waldegrave	Boys U13
Maximus Feare	Boys U13
Zac Fienberg	Boys U13
Rohan Jayadev	Boys U13
Arjan Sarai	Boys U12
Gurnek Malli	Boys U12
Harry Sharma	Boys U12
Max Mouncey Diez	Boys U12
Rory Hughes	Boys U12
William Newall	Boys U12
William Rimmer	Boys U12
Xavier Feare	Boys U12
Yousuf Abbasi	Boys U12
<b>Finlay Milner</b>	<b>Boys U12</b>
<b>Henry Butts</b>	<b>Boys U11</b>
<b>Harrison Edwards</b>	<b>Boys U11</b>
<b>Jude Jasinski</b>	<b>Boys U11</b>
<b>Dylan Smith</b>	<b>Boys U11</b>





## Annex B

### List of potential capital spending projects (with estimated costs)

Reduction of saddles on cricket square (in process):	£5,000.00
More extensive re-laying of cricket square:	£5,000.00
Third lane and associated netting for cricket nets:	£18,000.00
Outfield mower:	£10,000.00
Additional Roll on cage:	£1,600.00
New Covers:	£5,500.00
New roof on scorehut:	£1,200.00
New irrigation system:	£10,000.00
New square at Thorpe House (or other locations):	£10,000.00