

GREAT MELTON CRICKET CLUB NEWSLETTER

Volume 9 Issue 1

February 2013

JUNIOR COACHING & PRACTICE

Junior Coaching will begin on on and **Friday 19th April** for U9s to U13s (school years 3-8) & **Tuesday 23rd April** for Seniors, U17s and U15s (18+ & school years 9-12).

Once again the sessions will be organised by Coaching Coordinator, Simon Carding and our team of coaches and assistants. There will again be a few 'specialist' sessions, notably on spin bowling and wicketkeeping following the success of last year's with Matt Taylor & Peter Hunt.

The cost for juniors under 15 is likely to again be £30 (incl. £5 sub). Under 17 players (Those aged 16 & 17) will pay £17.50 but fees will be confirmed at the forthcoming Junior Committee Meeting.

NEW JUNIOR PAVILION

Anybody who has visited the ground in recent weeks may have noticed a brand new wooden pavilion on the corner of the junior pitch near the bowling green. This has been kindly been provided by our Patron, Sir Edward Evans-Loombe, after the concrete base was laid last Autumn by a working party of club members. Work has begun fencing the area adjacent to the pavilion and the ground beside it will be turfed so players and spectators have a pleasant - and hopefully sheltered - place to watch the juniors. Our grateful thanks go to Sir Edward for this most generous of gifts.

SENIOR NETS/PRACTICE SESSIONS

Senior pre-season nets start on **Monday 18th February** at the **UEA Sportspark from 6 p.m. to 8. p.m.** Once again the nets are open to all senior players, and juniors who play in senior Saturday or Sunday sides or would like to be considered. This includes our 13-17 year-olds looking to play in the C team.

The sessions run every Monday for 8 weeks until 15th April but there is no session on 1st April as it is Easter Monday. The cost of indoor nets will be £4 per session (seniors & juniors)

On 23rd April we hope to start practising outside on Tuesday evenings (6.30—8.00). Richard Waddell, our new 1st Team skipper, is keen for the senior sessions to be more structured and better attended with the opportunity for seniors to also receive some coaching so we're looking at possibly acquiring a Level 3 Coach to work with our 1st/2nd team players.

Pay your subs promptly please!

A reminder from new Membership Secretary, Steve Clarke that membership of the club is from January 1st so subs are now overdue! It really helps if subs are paid at the beginning of the year, & certainly by the time nets start. The £35 subscription rises to £45 if not paid by 1st June.

Subscriptions for 2013 are the same as last year - much less than at many other clubs:

Senior players: £35

Students/Unemployed/U17s £17.50

Non-Players £10

Subs & coaching fees can be paid directly to Steve or Grenville (Treasurer) or by bank transfer. Please don't pay subs to anyone other than Steve or Grenville and, if you pay by Bank Transfer, please email Steve or Grenners to say that you have done so. Bank details available from Grenville, Steve C or the Chairman.

Saturday 6th April

NATWEST CRICKETFORCE DAY

Once again the club is participating in the NatWest Cricketforce Day which, this year, is **Saturday 6th April**. Put the date in your diary! Norwich City are at home but, if you Canaries' fans can spare us an hour or two in the morning, it would be much appreciated. The last two years have seen over 60 volunteers turn up to help with the pre-season preparations and, this year, we hope, there will be even more as there are even more jobs to do. As well as the usual preparations for the season (like tidying the net areas, putting up the nets etc) we have got to paint the ground equipment container and the new Junior Pavilion. We would also like to lay some paving slabs at the front of the new pavilion. It's very difficult to get all those jobs done once the season is under way so a good turn-out on Cricketforce Day is essential. There will be the usual tee shirts and bacon butties so get there early.

A TIME OF CHANGE FOR MELTON

With the previous season being the most successful in Great Melton's 38-year history, 2012 was bound to be a challenging summer with all four Saturday teams playing in a higher division. Few, however, could have foreseen just how difficult the season was to become as talk of drought in early May gave way to the wettest summer on record. In the end we completed an amazing number of games and, with all our teams finishing in the top 5 in their respective leagues, the Sunday team gaining promotion, the juniors winning the South Norfolk Community League in two age groups as well as the U13s reaching a county final and our fledgling girls' team winning the Lady Taverners Competition, we can actually look back on the soggy summer of 2012 with some satisfaction.

But now is a time of change for the club with experienced stalwarts like Mark Scott, David Bunn, Mally Howard and Daryl Godbold handing over the captaincy reins to others. The new men at the helm, Richard Waddell (1st Team), Liam Hughes (B Team), Simon Carding (C Team) and Kevin Frazer (Sunday A Team) will need our full support if the club is to continue on its upward path. George Bunn has accepted the challenge of taking the Sunday side back into the MNSL's top division as well as taking on the leadership of the Midweek side while Lee Whiddett hopes to build on last season's 3rd place finish with the A Team.

The other main change at officer level is Steve Clarke taking over as Membership Secretary from Andy Cameron.

CLUB KIT!

Although we had a few teething problems following the launch of the new club kit from WINTECH INTERNATIONAL most people agreed that it represented very good value for money. If anybody didn't order last year and wants to put in an order for the new season, details will be released soon. Prices are likely to be very similar to last season with some very attractive packages offered. For those who have already bought a kit 'deal', clothing items (i.e. playing shirt, trousers, fleece, tracksuit, polo shirt, shorts, hoodie and cap) can now be ordered separately.

The aim, as it has always been, is to have as many players – senior and junior – and officials/parents/helpers etc. wearing the club kit so we can raise the profile of the club.

Until a new 'Kit Manager' is appointed please let Steve (Phoenix) have your orders. The ordering 'window' is now open but it will close on **Monday 11th March** so that the kit will arrive by the start of the season. We do have some spare items in stock now if anybody is unsure of sizes. In particular we have some XXL sizes that were obviously ordered by our 'larger members' who were then thankful to discover they were smaller than they thought!

WINTER ACTION

Once again our juniors – and their coaches - have been in action throughout the Winter with Autumn & Spring coaching sessions for U11s, U13s, U15s and Girls at Hethersett High School and Wymondham College. The Under 14s have also been competing in the SNCL 'Zip League' and, having won all their matches, look very well-placed to retain their title.

The Lords Taverners U12 Tournament at the UEA took place on Saturday 26th January. Our team of Fergus Hughes, Tom Moye, Lewis Thurston, Kyle Weston, Jacob Bush, Patrick Walton & Finlay Hughes reached the semi-finals before losing to the eventual winners, Great Witchingham, a team consisting entirely of county players! The U14s are in action on Saturday 16th March (all day) if anybody fancies coming along to support them.

Several of our youngsters have also taken part in County and District coaching/net sessions and congratulations to all who have been chosen for their respective County squads in 2013.

Women & Girls

Following our first venture into competitive Women's and Girls' cricket, Coordinator, Mark Cadge and Coach, Chris Brook are hoping to persuade even more young (and older) ladies to play cricket in 2013. The Women will again compete in the TGS Women's League and will hopefully have a few more fixtures than last season when the weather and team raising problems, mainly with our opponents, severely disrupted the fixture list. We certainly increased our female membership last season, though, and many of our girls have impressed the County coaches during the Winter. We would, however like to see a few adults having a go at cricket so mums, wives, girlfriends, don't be afraid to give it a try. It's pleasing to see Hannah Brook doing her Level 1 Coaching course. Well done Hannah and good luck.

FUNDRAISING

Liam Hughes is embarking on a major fundraising venture aimed at promoting greater inclusiveness in cricket. It is called 'No Boundaries' and involves a cycle ride from Athens to Melton Park, a celebrity cricket match on September 15th and a Summer Ball. There will be more details about it in due course but it's a cause worthy of our support.

The net project hasn't gone away but, having been unsuccessful with our funding application, we need to keep raising money. **£100 Club is planned with regular prizes.** Details soon!