

## RESUME OF THE 2018 SEASON

Mr Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

2018 was another difficult year for the club on the pitch culminating in relegation for the 2nd XI from Div 2. A repeat of last season's player availability proved to be a major issue, particularly in the back half of the season and resulted in no less than SIX fixtures where we could not raise a side, dropping points and incurring fines as a result. Off the pitch, the club continued to receive the support of residents and sponsors. The popular golf society weekend & the cultural tour of London had gap years with funds coming not only from our usual sponsors and advertisers but also from a successful Quiz night and Burns night. The youth section continued with the ECB initiative, 'All Stars' cricket, in its second season and proved more popular than ever. Richards Darby & his team have excelled in the consistent annual growth of this section supported by the professional coaching skills of Irish international, Niall O'Brien, for a 6th season; the cost of which could not be met without the terrific support of our sponsors and VPs. The presentation evening was a fun night held courtesy of sponsors, the Red Lion, with food and lots of banter! Callum Jones was a worthy winner of the clubman trophy for his outstanding contribution on and off the pitch.

### FIRST ELEVEN

The season began with a wash out fixture followed by two abandoned games. This was frustrating in the fixture against Hanslope as Ben Patterson had opened his account with a brilliant 106 in a score of 235 – 4 posted against Hanslope before the match was abandoned. There were some strong performances throughout the season. The Martin family's return after several seasons away proved invaluable helping the side beat Afro Caribbean with an impressive double act; Jamie taking 2-29 with the ball and Vaughan smashing 56 runs. The following week, the team failed to raise a side but bounced back with a thrilling 148 run tie against the eventual division champions, Hinton. Jamie Martin hit 82 and both Ben Patterson (4-39) and Jack Henn (3-26) took wickets. Jamie continued his form the following week with an unbeaten 75 to help the side beat Dunchurch & Bilton, supported by old boy, Julian Walker (31), who also took 3-24 with his famous pies! 4 consecutive wins through June with a notable performance against Radway posting 220-5 (the skipper Matt Wethey hitting 51) and Jack Henn (3-21) reducing the opposition to just 70 all out. The following week, Jack took 5-21 reducing Castlethorpe to 140-9, but it proved too many runs to chase despite Adam Budd's unbeaten 37. Joe Walker hit 71 against Hanslope assisted by Richard Darby (54), but 177-7 was not enough to defend. A satisfying win over MK Air saw Martin Ayres with an unbeaten 56, assisted by Joe Walker (40) contributing to a strong 195-7. Jack Henn helped bowl out the opposition for 139 with 2-30. Despite three consecutive losses in August, the season finished with a win against Kings Sutton. The batting award was won by Ben Patterson and bowling award by Jack Henn. The first season in Div 1 finished with a respectable 6<sup>th</sup> place (194 points) and above the relegation zone.

<i>P</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>Abandoned</i>	<i>N/R/Tie</i>	<i>L</i>	<i>PTS</i>	<i>POSITION</i>
<i>18</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>194</i>	<i>6th</i>

### SECOND ELEVEN

Sam Holden took on the captaincy for the second year. This was a difficult task for any captain when we could not fulfil our fixtures commitments on five occasions. Also starting with a washed out first fixture, the team suffered several defeats in May. Despite this, there were some notable performances from the team, by both experienced and younger players. With the ball, Jez Backon took 3-36 against Byfield and Gary Sharman took 3-31 against Sibford, whilst with the bat, Richard Darby hit 53 against Byfield, and scored well against Wroxton, both home and away with 45 and 48 respectively. Brad Morgan carried his bat twice with an unbeaten 60 against Sibford and 66 against Wroxton. The magical win came against Towcestrians reducing them to just 57 all out with Sam Holden taking an impressive 2-8 and Kieron Thomas 2-9. During August, four of the fixtures were casualties to a bye and failing to raise a side. The season concluded with a tight match and narrow defeat to Syresham. Helmdon and Sibford were promoted from the division, and it was not surprising that with a minus points tally that we were relegated along with Towcestrians. The batting award was won by Brad Morgan and bowling award by James Keen.

<i>P</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>Abandoned</i>	<i>N/R/Tie</i>	<i>L</i>	<i>PTS</i>	<i>POSITION</i>
<i>14</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>-19</i>	<i>8th (relegated)</i>

### BUCKS MID – WEEK LEAGUE

2018 saw a much changed midweek side which largely became an under 25's team apart from appearances from the ever present Martin Ayres and Phil Thomas (before his dramatic retirement mid season, Sam Holden still sheds a tear everytime he thinks about the emotional speech in the evenley cricket club group chat). We narrowly missed out on being crowned Buckingham Mid Week League champions. Playing 8 games and winning 7 meant that the league went down to run rate, which we lost by having 9.3 compared to Maids Moreton's 9.4. We also got to the cup semi final where we bowled out Gt Horwood for 80, this was thanks to impressive spell from Harry Heritage 4-21. There were no performances with similar quality with the bat as we only managed 40. However, this was a turning point where we kicked on and won every game of the season apart from a narrow 8 run defeat at Maids Moreton despite a quickfire 24 of 6 balls from Joe Walker. Batting wise Ben Patterson and Harry Brown hit 50's and there were regular impressive performance from Harry Heritage, Martin Ayres and Matt Busby (who didn't take his jumper off once, not even in 35 degree heat). In terms of bowling there were impressive performances from everyone who played in the midweek side with the wickets being shared around the team but a special mention must go to Jack Henn as every over he bowled in the second half of the season would result in wickets or maidens. Although we had a successful season on the pitch our biggest success was off the pitch in creating a fun team which everyone enjoyed playing for and is looking forward to playing in next season. This was represented at the end of season awards where some 'not so traditional' fun awards were distributed.

<i>P</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>Abandoned</i>	<i>N/R/Tie</i>	<i>L</i>	<i>PTS</i>	<i>POSITION</i>
<i>7</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>2nd</i>

### JUNIOR SECTION

Directed by Richard Darby, the junior section continues to prosper, with a growing membership. This past season there have been Under 13 matches on Wednesday evenings, with that successful team being coached by Miles Brooke. The children have also taken part in indoor winter nets & Sunday morning coaching. We are grateful to our 'All Stars' Activators, Callum Jones and Archie Darby, for their commitment on Sunday mornings, with additional coaching help coming from Julian Walker, Chris Finister and Phil Thomas. We are also pleased to continue our long-standing association with Niall O'Brien. Finally, thanks must go to all the parents who organised a fantastic end of season barbecue after the last 'All Stars' session.