



# Albrighton Cricket Club

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## Chairmans Report 2020

Wow what an interesting 12 months!

In December 2019, the club hosted its first Santa's Grotto and what a success it was. We were so looking forward to the 2020 event!

2020. Hmmm where do we start. January the club started the new Club Lottery at £2.00 a month with funds raised going towards the new Club Building fund. Many thanks to all who have supported the lottery, new supporters are always welcome.

All was going as the norm in February as pre-season training started for seniors, ladies and juniors and the Roses had also enjoyed their indoor season at Wrekin College. In late February, the CoVid-19 pandemic was starting to take hold when all pre-season training was suspended as the club took extra precautions prior to the March lockdown and how pleased we were to make these decisions now. The darts team who were enjoying a great season also had their season curtailed.

Lockdown then came and the many concerns that came with it. Health and safety was paramount through these infectious times as the club and ground was closed except for groundwork. We all sweltered during the heatwave of April and May without knowing whether cricket would be played at all in 2020. In June we received a green light to slowly get back to cricket with one to one coaching sessions, then into groups of 6 for training. With new ECB Covid guidelines, the season eventually got underway on July 11<sup>th</sup>, with new regionalised leagues over a ten-week period.

Congratulations to all who played this year and respect to those who decided against playing this year, we hope to see you all back in 2021. Both senior teams welcomed new players to their ranks and had a positive season which will put us in good stead to 2021. Rich Wild led the Sunday XI well with a blend of juniors and social players. The purchase of the new Bola bowling machine has also seen progress and development in players technique and mentality

The Roses also recruited new ladies and enjoyed a home festival and played in a couple away from home. The end of season saw the ladies take part in trial 10-a-side game for the SCB. Many Wrekin Wreckers also joined the club and with all our ladies enjoyed the fun and social side of Ladies Softball Cricket. A big thank you to Karyn for her organisation of the Ladies.

Unfortunately, in 2020 the junior section was most affected with only the Unders 15's training and having one match against Wellington. A few juniors took the opportunity to take one to one coaching with the junior bowling machine.

Club income has also been hit with all social events cancelled and the use on the clubhouse severely restricted but thankfully grants received from Shropshire Council and the ECB have seen us through. Now at the end of the club year we can only reflect on 2020 and continue to thank those who have worked tirelessly in the NHS and to the ECB/SCB for eventually getting cricket under the new guidelines, what will 2021 bring that is the question?

On behalf of the committee may I thank all associated with the club for their respect of the decisions made by the committee, Shropshire Cricket and the ECB through the Covid season it what has been a very strange season.

May I wish you all a healthy winter and I look forward to seeing you in 2021

Onwards and Upward and most importantly stay safe.

Darren Shimmons ( Chairman )