

Albrighton Cricket Club

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Secretary's Report 2020

COVID! The word that will be forever associated with the year 2020. It has affected so many in such a short space of time. But it has also meant that as a group, the members of Albrighton Cricket Club have had to pull together in order to keep our heads above water and ACC in a position to hopefully start the 2021 season on schedule and financially sound.

Behind the scenes and throughout the year, the committee has been meeting both in person BC (Before Covid) and online thereafter as often as possible and making the decisions that has meant we are club healthy, in terms of finance, infrastructure and membership.

As usual, a special thank-you needs to go out to Darren and Karyn, who as ever have made a massive contribution to our club. Every year, without fail, these two stalwarts of ACC make the sacrifices and put in the hours, that means we as a group can enjoy our cricket. A lesson for us all and a gentle reminder that maybe we could do more to help in the future.

Senior cricket started in August and finished in September. Short season, but hugely enjoyable and rewarding on many fronts. Not only did it mean we got back out there and played the game we love, when all the signs were that it wasn't going to happen, but also it highlighted some great individual performances on the field of play. The 1st, 2nd & Sunday XI captains will I'm sure, make reference to those that excelled, but it was so good to see 'the teams' working hard for each other, enjoying playing together and ultimately gaining both physically and mentally from getting out there and spending summertime weekends in the best way we know how ... on the cricket field.

The Ladies, our beloved Rose's, defied the virus riddled year and once again grew as a team, not just in terms of numbers, which is now off the scale, but also with improvements made to their individual games in general. They are fast becoming a force to be reckoned with and in festival's and tournaments played in 2020, they have held their own when playing against their fellow ladies' softball teams from around Shropshire.

Junior cricket took the biggest knock unfortunately. With the Covid virus taking hold from the beginning of April, it hit the usual junior registration and coaching sessions that we all look forward to each year and meant that the leagues and competitions that usually would be played, couldn't be. We did manage to play a single U15's match and some juniors did get some practice sessions in during August, but it was minuscule by comparison to previous years.

Better things are on the horizon for 2021. If as a nation, we can have a healthier year, I am sure that cricket will come back like never before. Seniors, ladies and juniors alike will all enjoy playing again and it won't be before time.

And Albrighton Cricket Club, with the continued plans for the clubhouse redevelopment, will I know, go from strength to strength.

ONWARDS AND UPWARDS!