



# CHALLOW CHATTER

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF CHALLOW AND CHILDREY CRICKET CLUB



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## LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL

*With Mondays announcement by the Prime Minister on how we come out of lockdown, it looks very much like we will be back in full swing by the middle of the Summer.*

Despite the delayed start to the 2020 season and the return to lockdown (twice) the club has continued to plan for the 2021 season and we wanted to share with you a few updates.

Whilst we were unable to have a full cricket programme last year, we did manage to provide loads of opportunities for people to play, meet, and enjoy themselves in the familiar surroundings at Vicarage Hill.

This included the use of the refurbished (after the February storms) nets, group training for adults, matchplay for the Youth age groups, and reduced league seasons for two Saturday teams and two midweek teams. The ground was pretty much busy everyday of the week, with over 50 matches being played (only just short of the full scheduled amount!) and at one point we had 32 matches in a 21 day period!!!

We were pleased to see so many people supporting us during the summer, with the newly constructed Beer Garden/Chicken Coup proving popular and designs for the 2021 version are well underway.

## SENIOR CRICKET

**With the announcement on Monday we are hopeful that we will be able to start the season on time, and kick this off with outdoor training in early April.**

We have arranged a full preseason with fixtures starting on the 17th April. The Cherwell League season should begin on 8th May, and we will have 3 senior teams on Saturdays participating, in Div2, Div 5C and Div7C, with Joe Harris, Tom Pill and Mike Hannaby the captains. Fixtures are available to view on our [website](#)

Alongside this we will again be entering 2 teams in the Wednesday night T20 Downs League, Div1 and Div4, with Ross Packham and Mike Kenschel the captains. We are also pleased to say we will be entering the OCB T20 Cup competition this year, with the side captained by Conor Jones.

Whilst we know it won't quite be 'back to normal' at least for the early part of the season, we will be putting measures in place to make a match day as welcoming and practical as possible #arriveinwhites #packedlunchormealdeal



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## YOUTH CRICKET

**The logistics of quite how things look this year have been under discussion for the last couple of weeks, and we're just waiting on confirmation of the guidelines from the ECB to allow us to finalise these.**

We will again be running All Stars for our youngest cricketers, will be introducing Dynamos for our aspiring Joe Roots, and have entered teams in the OCB competitions at Under 11, 13, 15, Girls Under 13 and Girls Under 15. The Under 19 side will again play in the Berkshire competition.

We will be working out the timings of sessions once we know the restrictions, and are aiming to have most (if not all) sessions on Friday nights as usual - with the social element operating in line with Government guidelines.

We will be in contact with all current families, and opening for newbies, in the next couple of weeks - all youth cricket activities this season will be priced at £40 per person



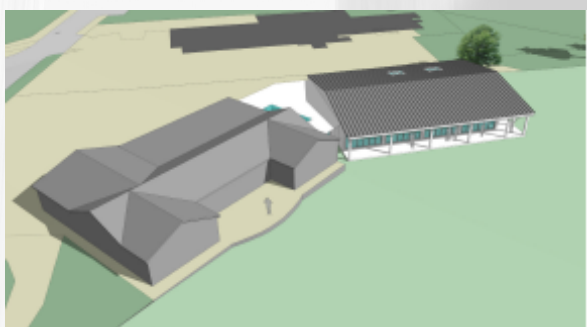
## FACILITY DEVELOPMENT

**When we all last met at the AGM in January 2020!! we presented a vision of the potential development of the club to upgrade the cricket facilities, increase the social space, and help us to become more of a Community facility.**

Whilst the pandemic may have knocked the timescales for this somewhat, we have been progressing the 'back office' parts of the project. We've successfully secured a new 25 year lease, have spent several sessions with a (very friendly and helpful) local architect and extremely experienced project manager, and have furthered our discussions with the Local Authority on how we can work with them to secure funding for the club.

We've also started some projects, with a new boiler and heating/hot water system being fitted next week.

The discussions around a second ground have continued with the land agent and Landlord, and the issuing of the extended lease can only be a good sign. We will continue to speak with the relevant agencies, and will update you all in due course.



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## CLUB UPDATE

**Since we closed our doors, just prior to the first National Lockdown, on the 17th March, we have been working hard on the financial security of the club - as you will know our main source of income is the bar and social side of the club. We were very concerned that if we were not able to open during the Summer period we may have to make some very hard decisions on how we operate and what we could offer.**

As you will all know, we were able to offer the best beer garden in the area from the 5th July through to the end of October, and as such we had a very successful period. Thank you to all of you who helped with this, and also to those new friends who found where the club was!

During the more difficult periods where we have not been able to open the bar, we have benefitted from the Government support that has been available to the leisure industry, and we have also been very prudent with our financial management. Due to this, we are now in a sound financial position, but will be looking at how we can continue to provide the great experience that we all know the club provides, whilst being aware that we need to have a sustainable model for the future.

Plans are in place to open in line with the guidelines, so please bear with us and help us to operate effectively throughout the Summer (We can't wait to have you back!!)

## MEMBERSHIPS

**As you may remember from last years AGM, we have revised the membership categories into two main parts - adult membership and Youth Cricket.**

For 2020 we waived all memberships/fees due to the difficult circumstances. For 2021 we will be initiating the new system including the online payment system.

Adult membership will be priced at £20 and will apply to all members who do not play Youth Cricket. To sign up for your membership, please visit our website, or [click here](#)

As with last year, should anybody feel that they would like to make an additional donation to the club, this can also be done via the online system - please remember that we are also able to reclaim 'Gift Aid' on all donations, so a £10 donation is actually worth £12.50. There are no additional benefits to the individual for donations, and all donations are entirely voluntary - but most gratefully received.

**Youth Cricket** sign ups and payments will be communicated in the next couple of weeks, once we have firmer plans in place.



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## HELP NEEDED

**There are a number of roles that we are currently looking for people to fill, along with the normal help from anyone, with anything.**

**We don't always need a regular, permanent, do everything volunteer - many of the jobs that will need doing will be one off, in your own time roles. And we all know that what makes the Club special is the people.**

The more formal roles that we are looking for are

- Umpires and Scorers for Saturday adult matches (typically 12noon until 7pm), and it doesn't need to be every week - many hands make light work
- A Youth Cricket 'Chairman' to help to coordinate activity and support the coaches
- Coaches and Support Coaches at all youth sessions, especially for the younger age groups - an ideal opportunity for our older Youth cricketers to take their first steps in coaching and supporting sessions. Formal training opportunities are available and will be funded by the Club
- Coaches for the Girls teams - this is especially important as the girls cricket has started to grow and we will now have matches
- Adult/Young Adult helpers at Youth Matches - could be scoring, umpiring, helping to put pads on, or anything really!
- Bar staff, ideally with some experience, for all times that we're open

General help with odd jobs, painting, grounds maintenance, is always welcome and needed.

If you can offer some time, however much, and at whatever time - PLEASE LET US KNOW