



# CHRISTLETON CRICKET CLUB

## Chairman's Enjoy Summer Safely (formerly Lockdown & Staying Alert) Newsletter -Week 12

GD 12 matches would have taken place on the iconic date of 4th July and we send the warmest of greetings to our readers in the USA.

### This big news arrived from the ECB on Friday 3rd July at 19:01...

We are delighted that the UK Government has given the green light for recreational cricket in England to return from **Saturday July 11**.

The latest update from the UK Government signals progression from Step 3 to Step 4 of [ECB's roadmap to return for the recreational game](#), meaning competitive cricket matches in England with adjustments to respect hygiene and social distancing would be permitted.

ECB has maintained a constant dialogue with the Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS) throughout this process and the UK Government have stated that COVID-secure guidance will be published in the coming days.

Guidelines are already prepared for the return of recreational cricket and following the Prime Minister's comments, will now be finalised and published early next week. **READ MORE ON PAGE 2.....**

### 1stXI Stainsby Hall- July 2004

I thought that we would have a bit of a change this week with a look back to the Village Knock Out of 2004. By this time we had already won 6 games to reach this stage and a trip to Lords was looking increasingly possible: excitement was building around the club. Next stop on Matt Parkinson's team's travels was Ilkeston in Derbyshire and the attractive ground of ECB Derbyshire County League Premier Division Shipley Hall. A green-tinged pitch greeted the Swans on arrival and, having lost the toss, the openers found themselves nervously strapping the pads on as a large travelling contingent waited in anticipation.

Against some exaggerated new-ball movement, the visitors did well to maintain a healthy scoring rate early on in testing conditions with Jim Gillson (29), Guy Newell (31) and Chris Hollindale (24) taking the score to 105-2 after 25 overs.

But wickets began to fall as batsmen looked to increase the run rate and it was only a hard-hitting knock from Nick O'Connell that kept the momentum going. He smashed five sixes in his unbeaten 60 and, with help from Russ Crowley's orthodox batting and Matt Parkinson's reverse scoops, their efforts propelled the total up to a solid 225-8 from 40 overs.

Gillson had quite a weekend, ending up in Ilkeston General Hospital for a check-up having been hit on the head. Fortunately, no harm was done and he was back in time to cheer his team in the second innings.

When it was their turn to bat, Stainsby Hall instantly found runs hard to come by - Alex 'Milky' Barr's seven-over spell conceding only nine runs. Uncharacteristically opening the bowling, Guy Newell tempted batters to play injudicious shots, picking up the plum wickets of both openers.

The hosts fought hard and looked in a good position at 105-3. For Swans, it was the introduction of Ben Briscoe that finally swung the game in their favour. He dismissed the Stainsby danger-man for a belligerent 47 and continued to make inroads during his eight overs.

By no means was it the slick, polished fielding performance that had been evident in previous rounds, but good catching proved vital, supporting Briscoe to excellent final figures of 5-30. Mike Crawford, on as 12th man sub for Gillson, hung onto a crucial catch, and the safe hands of Degsy Rogers took a stinger to account for the 9th wicket. And with Barr, Newell (3-45) and Parkinson all picking up wickets at the other end, the hosts soon fell to 161ao.

Swans would progress to a home tie in the national last 8- possibly more about that in future weeks.

## 2ndXI v Mobberley July 2005

Swans' 2nd XI travelled to Mobberley 15 years ago. The team was buoyant after several recent wins and promotion seemed to be on the cards. Skipper Brian Wareing won the toss and inserted the opposition who made serene progress in the early part of the game. Brian had the inspired notion to bring Russell Anderson into the attack, and Russell duly bowled one of the well-set openers to make the breakthrough with the score already in 3 figures. At this point, Brian brought himself on as 3rd change and his accurate, probing bowling soon began to get reward. Brian bowled 3 and had 4 catches held to record the excellent figures of 7-27. He did not get a chance to add to the wickets tally as the hosts brought the innings to a close on 197-8 after 51 overs.

After tea, the ever-dependable Richard Morgan-Jones opened the batting with current Vice-Chairman Pete Roberts, both men batting judiciously against the new ball and making good decisions about which balls were there to be scored off. After settling in, both players scored well as the runs began to flow. Pete was first to his half-century with the score on 80-0. Pete was playing his first game since the beginning of the season and he made up for lost time, scoring numerous well-struck boundaries in a stylish stay at the crease that bagged him a score of exactly 100. After Pete departed, Richard pushed on steadily towards the victory target, finishing with an anchor man's 65\* and watching on as Greg Malkin hit the winning runs with 3 overs to spare.

### Statement on the return of recreational cricket (continued from p1)

**ECB Chief Executive Officer, Tom Harrison**, said: *"It will come as great news to our nation of recreational cricketers that the UK Government has given the green light for the game to return from next weekend. We are grateful for the support of Government to achieve this, in particular Oliver Dowden, Nigel Huddleston and those across DCMS who have helped the return of international, professional and now recreational cricket.*

*"We have had a responsibility throughout this period of time to work with the UK Government and to plan alongside the cricket network to try and mitigate COVID-19's impact on the 2020 season. We have maintained a constant dialogue with UK Government and they've been supportive of our desire to see recreational cricket return when it is safe. They now agree that with appropriate measures in place to mitigate the risk, it is safe.*

*"We know how difficult it has been for everyone to go without cricket this summer, and we thank you for your patience. As the nation's summer sport we believe we have a role to play in getting people active across the country, especially young people, and it is heartening to know that club cricket - albeit with social distancing in place and some other adaptations - will soon be back across England."*

**That is the ECB statement that caused me to re-write this newsletter after the HMG change of stance on recreational cricket late yesterday. We welcome the chance to play cricket though, as so often recently, the devil is in the detail, and we need to know what's in the guidance so that we can come to a judgement as to whether or not we think it is safe to play matches again. ECB's government approved guidance is not yet published and will need to be quickly studied and acted upon. Cheshire Cricket Board's stance is that, 'No club should feel under pressure to resume activity (matches or training) or to provide hospitality until they feel safe and ready to do so.'**

At Christleton we will look at the guidance and try to mitigate the risks. However, the health and safety of members and visitors remains our overriding priority.

In last week's newsletter I reflected back on the clubhouse fire of 2014. There were some depressing photos. Let's finish on a bright note by taking a look at it now, and at one of our VPs who was on the 6 o'clock news this week. Whatever you are doing at present, stay safe, look after those around you, keep moving and stay in touch. I look forward to seeing many more of you on the ground before too long.



Some of you may well have seen Bob representing our city so admirably on BBC news this week.

You may not know that Bob has one unprecedented Christleton CC record.

Look at these performances:

122\* v Lindow 1992

8-21 v Oakmere 1995

Therefore Bob is the only Swans' player with a century and an 8-for to his name, which makes him a record breaker. Top man! Well done Bob.