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December 2021 Newsletter – another year that will live long in the memory

There's a sense of déjà vu as I write my December Newsletter reflecting on another year that has been heavily impacted by the pandemic, with fears that there may indeed be more to come over the next month or so.

Despite the ongoing spectre of the pandemic, we've had a year that we can be rightly proud of, one where we've continued to invest in the facilities around the club, had a wonderful first season in the Lancashire League and are now at point where we will continue to improve facilities within the clubhouse itself.

At one point in the early part of the year I honestly feared that there might be no cricket, so it was simply fantastic to have a full summer, played in some semi-decent weather too.

Our membership base has increased significantly with more of you hopefully enjoying what we can offer as a cricket club and the local village pub and I'd like to thank you all for your continuing support throughout the year, and your patience and adherence to the everchanging Covid regulations we had to adopt.

In this newsletter I would like to touch on the following :-

1. Plans for winter nets for both the seniors and juniors
2. Update on improvements within the clubhouse and plans for the extension
3. Opening hours over the festive season
4. New Year's Eve Party – sold out

1. Plans for winter nets

With the fixture list confirmed for the 2022 season for the senior teams, plans are being confirmed for senior nets which will take place in March at "Total Cricket" in Ashton. This marks a change for senior winter nets but the move to the purpose-built cricket facility should improve the quality of sessions and give the senior players the best possible preparation for the season. Such preparation is crucial with an away trip to defending champions Burnley and a home match against Ramsbottom scheduled for the 1st team in the first two weeks of their first season in Division 1. Exact dates will be confirmed over the festive period, but all existing and prospective senior players are requested to keep an eye on the website for further details.

I'm delighted to confirm that Phil Heaton has been appointed as Head Coach for the junior section. Phil is a much sought-after coach who brings a wealth of cricketing and coaching experience with him and he will be leading junior nets throughout the winter and into the 2022 season itself. Dates are still being finalised for junior winter nets and arrangements will be confirmed in the new year.

2. Clubhouse improvements and the extension

I've previously noted how we had received planning approval for an extension and how we had been hoping to fund the extension through a combination of grants and our own internal funding. The timescales



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around obtaining grants can be quite lengthy and we have therefore decided to delay work on the extension until the end of the 2022 season giving us time to be able to secure grants, appoint contractors and be able to start the work as soon as the season finishes. This winter we have instead been concentrating on improvement plans for what has sometimes been described as our “dated” Function Room! A fully functioning and much more enticing function room will help us next winter when we will need to make use of it as the main bar, as closure of the members’ bar will be inevitable for some periods during the extension work.

The work will be undertaken in January and we will look to keep any interruption to those groups that hire the function room to an absolute minimum. I do hope you will like the new look and as the work will also include replacement of all the windows I personally can’t wait to be able to watch the cricket from the function room without having the vista spoilt somewhat by those rather chunky, and not too pleasant looking, metal cages.

3. Club opening hours over the festive season

The Bar

The opening times for the bar over the festive season are as follows :-

The Log Cabin Bar	Opens at	Last orders at
Friday 24 th Dec - Xmas Eve	12 noon	11pm
Saturday 25 th Dec - Xmas Day	7pm	10.30pm
Sunday 26 th Dec - Boxing Day	12 noon	10.30pm
Monday 27 th Dec	4pm	11pm
Tuesday 28 th Dec	4pm	11pm
Wednesday 29 th Dec	4pm	11pm
Thursday 30 th Dec	4pm	11pm
Friday 31 st Dec - New Year’s Eve	4pm	1am
Saturday 1 st Jan - New Year’s Day	4pm	10.30pm
Sunday 2nd Jan	12 noon	10.30pm

Note - Club New Year's Eve Party from 7pm - see below

Danny’s at the Log Cabin

Danny’s at the Log Cabin opening times will be as follows :-

Danny’s at the Log Cabin	Opens at	Closes at
Friday 24 th Dec - Xmas Eve	10am	8.30pm
Saturday 25 th Dec - Xmas Day	Closed	Closed
Sunday 26 th Dec - Boxing Day	10am	4pm
Friday 31 st Dec - New Year’s Eve	Closed	Closed
Saturday 1 st Jan - New Year’s Day	Closed	Closed
Sunday 2nd Jan	10am	6pm

Note - full breakfast menu til 1pm, limited menu thereafter



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4. New Year's Eve – sold out

I had a magnificent response to details of our New Year's Eve Party, with all tickets being sold out within 2 weeks.

Whilst the Government have confirmed that there will be no further restrictions imposed before Christmas, we simply don't know what may happen after Christmas. At the moment we are still very much planning for the party to go ahead, but I will be in touch with the various party leads should anything change. In the meantime if you can get your food orders into me it would be very much appreciated so that Danny can plan the food offer accordingly.

I think that is about all for now. I'd like to finish by wishing all our members, sponsors, staff and all their families and friends the happiest of Christmases and the merriest of New Years. Please stay safe and thanks again for all your support during this very difficult time.

Rob Kilvington

GCC Club Chairman