



www.greenmountcricketclub.com

January 2022 Newsletter – Happy New Year

After a rather lengthy newsletter in December, this month's newsletter is a bit shorter with a quick update on the following :-

1. Dave Willetts starts as Club Steward / Hospitality Manager
2. Updates on plans for winter nets
3. Update on the Function Room renovations and the hideous orange fencing
4. General reminder re showing your Members' Card when buying drinks at the bar

1. Club Steward

We are proud of the increased bar turnover over the last few years as this has allowed us to invest in the facilities around the club. We've upgraded the Members' Bar in June / July 2020 and we're due to upgrade the Function Room shortly with work starting on this over the next couple of weeks. We've also had our extension plans approved and are now looking to start the extension at the end of the 2022 season.

The club is run by a group of volunteers all of whom have full time jobs and varying domestic commitments. Balancing our commitments to the club, our families, along with the natural demands of our paid employment has become increasingly difficult over the last couple of years.

To allow the club to continue to move forward we have decided to appoint a Club Steward to create some much-needed additional capacity in the operation of our bars and function room facility. **I'm delighted therefore to confirm that Dave Willetts will start as our Club Steward on Monday 10th January.** Dave is very much a club stalwart, having been a club member and player for 43 years. Dave also brokered the club's transfer to Carlsberg from Marstons in July 2020 and managed the upgrade of the Members' Bar in June / July 2020. He has also been helping me recently on our continued relationship with Carlsberg, so I'm delighted to have him on board as Club Steward and look forward to working with him as we embark on another much-anticipated year in the club's history.

2. Plans for Winter Nets

Senior Nets

I've previously noted that we were looking to hold winter nets for our Senior players at Total Cricket in Ashton. This state-of-the-art cricket facility should allow for some quality preparation for the forthcoming season. We have been able to book 4 sessions on the **6th March, 13th March, 20th March & 27th March**. All sessions will be from **midday to 2pm**.

All players wishing to play senior cricket this season should look to attend as many of these sessions as possible. New players are most welcome and are asked to contact our Cricket Chairman, Andy Skinner, on 0777 054 7322, to register their interest. Andy will be happy to talk through our plans for the year.



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Junior Winter Nets

Arrangements for Junior Winter Nets are still to be finalised but we are hopeful that they will take place over a period of 9 or 10 weeks at Canon Slade School on a Friday evening.

Exact arrangements will hopefully be confirmed later this week with an anticipated start date of Friday 21st January. Please keep an eye on your emails / the club website (www.greenmountcricketclub.com) for the final arrangements.

An important part of the weekly arrangements will be ensuring safe and appropriate coach to player ratios and **it is therefore imperative that parents confirm in advance whether their child / children will be attending** so that our Junior Section can plan accordingly. Full details on how this will work in practice will be included the arrangements that will be confirmed later in the week.

3. Function room update and the orange netting

The Function Room upgrade is hopefully going to start w/c 24th January. We will do all we can to keep the function room accessible as much as possible whilst this work is ongoing and will liaise with the various function room users on a weekly basis about plans for each week.

Many of you have asked me about the hideous orange netting that has been up this year in an attempt to reduce the number of balls going into Brandlesholme Road. I know it isn't easy on the eye but it has helped mitigate the risks of balls going onto the road and we clearly need to continue to do all we reasonably can to reduce the number of occasions that the ball does go in the road. To that end we have been reviewing options for some form of white picket fencing, akin to those seen in the quintessential village cricket grounds of yesteryear, and it certainly is much easier on the eye than the orange netting. We have a sample of some such fencing at the club at the moment, I'd welcome your views on how it looks.

4. Showing your Members' Card when buying drinks

As we approach the start of the new members' year (starts 1st April 2022) when we will be distributing new members' card for all members, can I just remind you to show your members' card to bar staff when buying drinks at the bar. I know many of you will be well known to bar staff but they don't always know who actually is a member and who isn't, and it simply isn't right that non-members get cheaper drinks than they are entitled to. **It would help bar staff if you could show your members' card as a matter of course every time you do buy a drink so please do remember to bring your card when you do come to the club.** Your support in this would be very much appreciated.

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 all the very best for 2022.

Rob Kilvington

GCC Club Chairman