

March 2022 Newsletter – Preparations for the season ahead

As we build up for the new season, I wanted to update you on :-

1. Membership – 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023
2. Bar prices
3. Clubhouse and ground improvements
4. Sporting update for the forthcoming year
5. Danny's at the Log Cabin
6. The AGM

1. **Membership – 1st April 2022 – 31st March 2023**

You will have all probably received an email from Helen Bowker about membership renewals for the forthcoming season. We've been able to keep membership rates unchanged for the last few years and by and large this is the case this year too. The only exception relates to adult cricket membership which has been increased from £60 to £120 as the membership fee will now include match fees. Match fees of £5 per head were previously paid on a match-by-match basis so we hope the inclusion of this in the membership represents good value for the member and it will certainly reduce the administrative burden placed on team captains. Please note the increase **hasn't** been applied to junior players who play senior cricket in attempt to continue to attract our junior players to play senior cricket.

If you could look to renew your membership asap it would be very much appreciated as a mad rush in the last few days would cause a significant administrative burden for Helen, **especially as we will once again be replacing membership cards with new ones to differentiate 2022 members from those who may have been members in the past.** New membership cards will be available for collection from the club once Helen has been able to process the application.

Finally, **can I please remind you to bring your membership card to the club and show it to the bar staff every time you order drinks in order to receive member's prices.** Bar staff are only allowed to charge member's prices when they have seen the member's card; your support in this would be very much appreciated.

2. **Bar Prices**

We haven't increased bar prices for 3 years and have absorbed annual increases from our suppliers throughout that time. We unfortunately aren't able to absorb these increases ad infinitum and we will have to make **small increases to prices this year with effect from 25th March 2022.** We do feel though that our prices remain very competitive, and we will do our best to ensure that they remain competitive going forward.

3. **Clubhouse and ground improvements**

We continue to invest in our facilities both in the clubhouse and around the ground.

The windows facing the ground have either been replaced or are in the throes of being replaced with new ones with strengthened glass. We are currently extending the Sponsor's Suite upstairs whilst

creating both an office and umpires room downstairs. The full-blown changes that we had planned for the Function Room haven't yet materialised due to delays in getting the funding approved and we are now considering what's possible before the season starts, we'll update on this in due course.

Outside, we will be looking to put up a white picket fence down the roadside and will also look to get some fencing to separate the car park from the ground itself. The picket fencing down the roadside will have obvious health and safety benefits by reducing the number of balls going into the road and will also make the ground more secure with access via specific gates, whilst the fencing that will separate the ground from the car park will also have health and safety benefits as it will provide a more appropriate demarcation between the ground and the car park.

The incessant rain of the last few weeks hasn't been kind to Andy Skinner as he looks to prepare the ground for the season ahead. If you can spare some time and help with a bit of painting of benches / boundary boards, litter picking, shrubbery pruning etc then please give Andy a call on 07770 547322 and I'm sure he will be able to keep you well occupied.

4. **Sporting update for the forthcoming season**

After a successful first season in the Lancashire League that culminated in promotion from the 2nd Division, the new season will see our first XI play in the 1st Division. We have a fair baptism of fire with a trip to reigning champions Burnley on the first day of the season (Sunday 17th April, Easter Sunday) with Ramsbottom the visitors to the Log Cabin the following week on Sunday 24th April. It will be a significant challenge for our still fairly youthful team but it will be great to see us test ourselves against the best teams in the Lancashire League and we look forward to the forthcoming season with some relish.

Over the close season, our cricket committee have been working on an opportunity for player sponsorship for our first, second and third team players. Full details can be found at the following link [New club player sponsorship opportunity – Greenmount Cricket Club](#) but it hopefully provides the opportunity for some good advertising for local businesses as well as providing some additional funding for the club. My thanks go to Andy Kerr who has been leading on this as part of the cricket committee.

After a very enjoyable first season of our Fantasy Cricket League, we'll all be looking to see who is able to up their game and show sufficient cricketing knowledge and knowhow to beat our reigning champion, Gareth Williams. My thanks go to Matthew Senior who will once again be setting the league up, full details on this season's player values etc will be out shortly.

The season sees Ryan Senior continue as captain of the first XI, whilst Ollie Dixon replaces Alex Bullen as second XI skipper and Mark Crowther captains the third XI. My thanks go to Ryan, Ollie and Mark for taking on these roles, Alex for his help and support as second team skipper over the last few years and also to all our junior coaches who continue to help in the running of the club's junior section.

There will be a **junior section sign up evening on Friday 8th April at 6pm where coaches and our safeguarding lead will talk through plans for the season ahead** in the junior section. **Outdoor practice for the junior section will start on 22nd April at 6pm.**

In relation to the junior section, we do **need more help with the youngest age groups (Under 9s and Under 11's)** where we are significantly restricted in the number of teams we can run due to the lack of volunteers to help run the teams. If you would like to help the club in this way, please contact Leigh Dickinson, our Junior Section Lead on gccupdates@gmail.com or 07793 289166 and Leigh will talk you through the support we can give in relation to coach / manager training as well as the commitments around DBS processes etc.

Whilst the club is and has always primarily been a cricket club, we are proud of our record in running 2 ladies rounders teams and 2 pool teams as well. Both sports provide an added dimension to club's offer to our members and I'd like to thank Heather Murphy & Sue Walker and Angus Fairclough & Phil Jackson for coming forward and running the rounders and pool teams respectively.

5. **Danny's at the Log Cabin**

I noted above how the rounders and pool teams have provided an added dimension to the club's offer to members, and the same can certainly be said about "Danny's at the Log Cabin". Danny's at the Log Cabin has thrived throughout the winter and has helped keep footfall at the club very high during what can sometimes be a long and difficult winter period. The variety on offer, from breakfasts to starters to mains and even a full Sunday Lunch has certainly attracted people from far and wide and we look forward to having Danny throughout the full cricket season.

Before the season starts, both Danny and Ros deserve a break and will be **taking Friday 1st April to Sunday 3rd April off so please note that there will be no food offer over that weekend.**

We are delighted to welcome D-CaFF back to the Log Cabin on Friday 8th April and every 2nd Friday of each subsequent month. **Please note that on these days, Danny's at the Log Cabin will only open up at 5pm for evening meals.**

6. **The AGM – Sunday 20th March at 12noon**

Our AGM will take place on Sunday 20th March in the pool room, starting at 1200hrs. I have advised the Board that I will be resigning as Chairman and from the Board at the AGM as my work circumstances changed in July and I've increasingly struggled to meet the demands of both my job and my role as Chairman and Board Member. The last couple of years have been especially hard as we've adapted to the everchanging requirements around Covid as well as changing leagues, but I take pride in the way that we as a club have met those challenges and I feel that the club is in a very strong position to continue to move forward, having invested significantly in the club's infrastructure over the last couple of years. I would like to thank all the Board Members who I have had the pleasure of working with over the years and all the members who have put up with my many pleas over the years and in particular around the everchanging covid regulations of the last 2 years. I won't be disappearing and will continue to administer the 100 Club and help with the All Stars, so I look forward to continuing to see you all down at the Log Cabin over the oncoming season and beyond.

Rob Kilvington

GCC Club Chairman