



Between the Wickets

The quarterly newsletter of Spofforth Cricket Club

Sponsored by **T & R THEAKSTON LTD**

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Cricknet Force 2007

CRICKET FORCE IS AN INITIATIVE SET UP BY THE ENGLISH CRICKET BOARD (ECB) IN 2002, WHEN JUST ONE CLUB, LINGFIELD IN SURREY, TOOK PART AS A PILOT.

IN 2006, 1062 CLUBS PARTICIPATED PRODUCING AN INVESTMENT INTO CRICKET ESTIMATED AT £25,000,000 AND WITH 70,000 VOLUNTEERS COMING TOGETHER. THE AIM IN 2007 IS TO HAVE 2,000 CLUBS INVOLVED INCLUDING ALL 1,400 FOCUS CLUBS, OF WHICH SPOFFORTH IS ONE.

THE OBJECT OF THE EXERCISE, OVER THE WEEKEND OF 31 MARCH/1 APRIL, IS TO IMPROVE AND PREPARE THE FACILITIES FOR THE FORTHCOMING SEASON, INCREASE MEMBERSHIP – BOTH JUNIOR, SENIOR AND SOCIAL, INCREASE COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND PARTICIPATION, INCREASE THE USE OF THE FACILITIES AND INCREASE SOCIAL INTEREST WITHIN THE CLUB.

THE CLUB HAS SET UP A SMALL SUB-COMMITTEE, UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE TREASURER, WITH A VIEW TO US MAKING THE MOST OF THIS OPPORTUNITY. THE SUB-COMMITTEE WILL MEET FOR THE FIRST TIME EARLY IN JANUARY TO START THE BALL ROLLING.

WHAT WE HOPE YOU WILL DO NOW IS MAKE A NOTE IN YOUR DIARY OF THE DATE AND COME DOWN TO GIVE US A HAND TO SPRUCE THE PLACE UP READY FOR CRICKET – THERE IS PLENTY TO DO WITHOUT GOING TO ANY GREAT EXPENSE. HOPEFULLY WE CAN HAVE REFRESHMENT ON TAP AND WHO KNOWS A BARREL OF SOMETHING GOOD MIGHT BECOME AVAILABLE.

THE CLUB BELONGS TO THE VILLAGE AND WE NEED ALL THE HELP WE CAN MUSTER. FURTHER DETAILS WILL APPEAR ON THE CLUB'S WEBSITE AND IN THE LOCAL PRESS AS WE GET NEARER THE TIME.

The Chairman's Column

How many of you, I wonder, have heard of the OSCAs? No, not the ones in Hollywood, but the Outstanding Services to Cricket Awards. I became aware of these awards in the summer, and saw that, of the various categories, there was a 'Lifetime Achievement' award. We in Spofforth have an obvious candidate for this, and I was delighted to nominate Terry Kavanagh. Here is an extract from my nomination statement:

' Terry first played for the club in 1953, when he was the first Under 16 captain. From then until 1985, when he retired from playing, he was 1st XI captain for 11 seasons, then 2nd XI captain for 7 seasons. He joined the committee in 1961, as secretary, and has been a member of the committee ever since, as secretary, chairman and now treasurer. He has seen the club develop from a very basic set-up, with the old wooden pavilion, to the thriving organisation we have now. He was also instrumental in the acquisition of the Sport England Clubmark accreditation, the first cricket club in North Yorkshire so to do.'

I was even more delighted when the nomination was taken up, and Terry was invited to Lord's in October to attend the ceremony. Sadly, he did not win the OSCA (the eventual winner must have been pretty amazing), but I am sure you will agree that his presence at Lord's was well deserved, and put Spofforth Cricket Club in the spotlight too. (Terry also puts together this newsletter, and I hope his modesty does not outweigh his editorial practice of putting this column on the front page!)

A word of warning, though. Although Terry does an enormous amount of work for the club, he cannot do everything, and that is why we are constantly on the lookout for new volunteers to supplement our existing excellent team.

Talking of excellent teams, there must be a number of you out there who would love to spend your Saturday afternoons on the cricket field – make a New Year Resolution and come and join us!

A very happy New Year to you all

Annual General Meeting – November 2007

At the Annual General Meeting in November the club made a major change in its management structure. Gone has the 17 strong Management Committee to be replaced by one of just eight people.

The day to day business of the club will rest in the hands of six sub-committees with much more autonomy than previously. The six sub-committees will be responsible for Senior Cricket, Junior Cricket, Ground, Clubhouse and Bar, Sponsorship and Social Activities with the Management Committee taking an overview. It is hoped that this will streamline the decision making processes within the club.

At the meeting Nigel Booth took over from Darren Kavanagh as Vice-Chairman and a new position of Publicity Officer was taken on by Steve Gill. We welcome both of them to these important positions. We take this opportunity to thank Darren for his many years of service to the club and hope that he will return to the fold in the course of time.

A full list of all Officials will appear in the 2007 Yearbook.

SPONSORSHIP

At the time of going to print the following sponsorship deals have been agreed for 2007;

Main Club Sponsor	T & R Theakston Ltd.
1st X1 matches	FSP Consultancy
Under 17 matches	SLBM Systems Ltd
Under 15 matches	Feather, Smailes and Scales
Under 13 matches	Stead & Simpson Ltd (Keith Taylor Shoes)

We are indeed most grateful to all these businesses

Still to be sponsored are 2ndX1 matches, Harrogate and Whixley Evening League matches, under 11 and under 9 matches and our under 12 girls' team matches.

If you are interested in sponsoring any of these teams please contact Terry Kavanagh on **(01937) 590499** and he will be delighted to talk to you.

Gala

The Club is desperately looking for volunteers to represent it on the Village Gala Committee. The Gala is one of the Club's major sources of income and it is important that we have full representation on the organising committee. If you can help, and we are particularly hopeful that some junior parents will come forward, please contact the Chairman, Barry Nickels on (01937) 590637. Your help would be greatly appreciated.

Volunteering

Spofforth Cricket Club is run entirely by its members on a voluntary basis, even the Friday evening coaching of over 100 junior members, and we are always looking for more people to help. Even if you have only a couple of hours a week to spare we can make good use of your time and skills. Amongst the jobs we require assistance with are bar work, catering, assisting with fund raising and organising social events.

Helping out is a great way to get to know people and to contribute to the club's development so if you can help please contact either Barry Nickels (01937) 590637 or Terry Kavanagh (01937) 590499.

Any help you are able to offer would be very greatly appreciated.

JUNIOR REGISTRATION EVENING

The 2007 Junior Registration Evening for both boys and girls will take place in the Clubhouse on Friday 23 March commencing at 7.00PM. As well as the registration process it is your opportunity to meet the coaches and team managers of the various age group sides including the girls under 12.

All will be made most welcome particularly any newcomers to the village.

Social Scene

Join us at all our social events this season. We are looking to hold some quiz and supper nights next summer, a BBQ and a ladies theatre night to name just a few. Details will appear on the club's notice board.

If anyone has any ideas or could help with social activities at the club please do not hesitate to contact me, Angela Maesepp (0776 9846850) or Fleur Hughes (01937 590519).

I look forward to seeing everybody during the course of the season

Angela Maesepp
Social Secretary

Gerald Smithson

We were delighted to receive a visit during the late summer and a recent e-mail from Jacqueline Burrows, the daughter of the late Gerald Smithson.

Gerald was a first class cricketer playing for Yorkshire, Leicestershire and England just after the Second World War who began his career here in the village playing for the club as a young teenager alongside his father. To the best of our knowledge Gerald is the only village player to have gone on to first class status.

In an article in The Cricketer International dated January 1996 Gerald is described as "a handsome left hander from Spofforth who was selected for the 1947-48 England tour to the West Indies. He was a stylist in the manner of David Gower from another cricket generation. It was his regal innings of 98 against Lancashire in 1947 which aroused hopes of an exciting future. His batting, in the words of Yorkshire captain Norman Yardley, invited comparison with young Australians".

Mrs Burrows has offered to let us have a photograph of her father to display in the clubhouse and we are indeed most grateful to her for this and for the information.

Club website

We are delighted that Nick Palmer has volunteered to take over the management of the Club's website and hopefully by the time you receive this newsletter he will have managed to bring it up to date after a year of inactivity.

We are extremely grateful to Andy Oddy for setting the site up and for all the work he has put into the site over the years. Unfortunately pressures of work meant that he was unable to devote the necessary time to it over the past twelve months.

The website address is: www.spofforthcc.co.uk .
If you have any comments to make regarding the site or indeed have anything to contribute please make contact via the site.

Senior Cricket

With Christmas and the New Year celebrations out of the way, attention focuses on the new cricket season, which will be here in only three months time. It is surprising how much there is to do at this time of year by way of ensuring that the campaign gets off to a good start.

Finding a replacement overseas player for 2007 is the main priority. Kane Hoskins, last season's Aussie, would like to have played for us again this season but decided, at the ripe old age of 27, that he had better go home and start earning a living and find a wife!! Our best wishes go to Kane for the future, a great lad and a very good cricketer.

This season we are looking to get a quick bowler to open our attack with Simon Old – watch this space in the next newsletter for further details.

Winter nets commence at St John Fisher School, Harrogate on Sunday 4 February from 8 00PM to 9.00PM for ten weeks. It is hoped that they will be well attended.

Finally if you would like to play for the club in 2007 give me a bell on 01937 590651 – we are constantly looking for new playing members of all standards. The club has great facilities and an excellent playing surface. Look forward to hearing from you.

David Robinson

Cricket Chairman

Membership 2007

To apply for, or renew your membership, for 2007 please complete the enclosed membership form and return it, with the appropriate subscription, to the Treasurer:

Terry Kavanagh Esq
Kinloss Cottage
12A High Street
Spofforth
Harrogate HG3 1BQ

Junior Notes

Firstly may I wish everyone a belated happy New Year and hope that a good Christmas was had by all.

Arrangements for next season are well underway and managers appointed for all of the junior teams. Congratulations must go to Beverley Kavanagh, Anita Appleby and Nick Warwick on successfully passing their level 1 coaching courses.

Pre-season nets will be taking place once again at St John Fisher School, Harrogate, on Sunday evenings from 6.30PM to 7.30PM commencing on February 11. These are primarily aimed at over 11s but anyone happy to practice with a hard ball will be considered.

The pre-season registration meeting for all juniors and parents will take place on Friday March 23 in the clubhouse commencing at 7.00PM with Friday nets starting on April 20, 6.30PM – 8.00PM.

Subscriptions this year will be £15.00 per child but will include a free T-shirt, a ball or a cap. May I remind parents that we are restricted to the number of children we can register and expect demand for places yet again to be very high.

Anyone requiring any more information or would like to be involved with junior cricket in any aspect please contact either myself, Paul Hughes, on 01937 590519 or Gill Fawcett on 01423 860360.

e-mail:- Paul.hughes@redten.net

Paul Hughes

Chairman Junior Cricket

WHAT FOCUS CLUB STATUS MEANS TO THE CLUB

We are delighted to report that the Yorkshire Cricket Board (YCB) has granted Spofforth Cricket Club "Focus Club" status. What this means is that the Club has to produce a long term development plan to both increase capacity and improve quality and to formally link with the local school and community networks. The Club will also have to commit to monitoring and evaluation to demonstrate the impact it has made locally. We will also be required to work with the District Development Group, which is to be set up in the Harrogate area in the New Year.

In return the Club can expect to receive high quality and dedicated support from the Cricket Development Officer (CDO) and this is already being offered by our CDO Ian Powell with whom we have a very close working relationship. This support will enable us to recruit key volunteers to help run our Junior programme, training support for coaches and other volunteers and support in creating links with the County Sports Partnership, the Local Education Authority, Harrogate Borough Council and the School Sport Partnership.

As an example last year we obtained in excess of £1,000 from the YCB towards junior coaching and this enabled Steve Wilkins, one of our band of coaches, to go into the village Primary School and coach the youngsters. The funding also supported the inter Schools Kwik Cricket competition in July and helped towards the training of additional coaches during the autumn.

Similar financial support will be sought in 2007.

Finally our Clubmark Accreditation is due for renewal next year.

Electronic Scoreboard

Work on the new scoreboard has progressed since the October Newsletter, although not as quickly as we would have hoped.

At the time of writing these notes the building is 80% completed and we been promised, by the builder, that completion will be effected during the Christmas/New Year break. All the electrics are in and working and we hope to be contacting the suppliers of the board anytime now to arrange for the installation to take place.

Our thanks go to Paul Hughes and Tom Pearson for the work they have put in on the building and electrics respectively.

The old scoreboard has been passed on to Sicklinghall Cricket Club where we hope to see it in working order during the course of the summer

SMOKING BAN

In anticipation of Government Legislation which is due to come into force in July next year the Club's Management Committee has decided to make the Cricket Club clubhouse and changing rooms a "smoke free zone" with effect from January 1st. In the circumstances, therefore, no smoking will be allowed in the building from that time. I am sure that everyone will appreciate that this decision had to be taken at some stage and it was felt that now is the appropriate time rather than midway through the cricket season.

Trophy Winners

The following trophies were presented at the Annual Dinner in November:

Clubperson of the Year	Beverley Kavanagh
1stX1 Batting	Kane Hoskins
1stX1 Bowling	Paul Robinson
1stX1 Fielding	Tom Nickels
1stX1 Player of the Season	Simon Old
1stX1 Catch of the Season	David Roberts
2ndX1 Batting	John Fawcett
2ndX1 Bowling	Paul Fletcher
2ndX1 Fielding	Jonathan Ross
2ndX1 Player of the Season	Paul Fletcher
2ndX1 Catch of the Season	Jonathan Moxon
Whixley Evening League Batting	Nick Palmer
Whixley Evening League Bowling	Darren Kavanagh
Harrogate Evening League Batting	Oliver Connew
Harrogate Evening League Bowling	Paul Fletcher
Most Improved Player	Nick McCall

Many Congratulations to them all