

Chairman's Report

It gives me pleasure in presenting my 2nd annual report covering 2016. The first team gave an improved performance on last year chasing champions Barnard Castle all the way and eventually finishing fourth due to being penalised 10 points by the league for breaches of discipline. Our overseas professional Mohammad Saad proved a popular addition to the team and had a good season scoring over 1000 runs. Liam Coates our English professional also had a good season, especially with his bowling taking 50 wickets and also providing coaching particularly with the juniors. Connor Whitelock had an outstanding season with the ball taking 50 wickets, resulting in him winning the NYSD Young Player of the Year and leading amateur wicket taker. Another new recruit was Dale Marshall who opened the bowling and performed well. James Sutton scored over 600 runs including a century, one of four scored by an amateur in the club. The Second team just missed out on promotion finishing second to the RA first team. Simon Whitehead on his return to playing cricket scored a century, other centuries were scored by Keith Barker and Callum Lethbridge. The thirds had a disappointing season partly due to shortage of senior players which resulted in very young teams being fielded, culminating in relegation, and they were also deducted 10 penalty points by the league. I would like to thank all the scorers, tea ladies, volunteers in whatever capacity without whom there would be no cricket, for their efforts and time, a special mention to Garry for his behind the scenes work.

I would like to thank S.G Petch and Subway who are our two principal team sponsors and all the other businesses who also provided financial assistance by taking out advertising. This year saw us host the Macmillan Finals day and I would like to thank all players and volunteers who helped in making it a successful day for the club, also for the help on the nights to get the final game played due to adverse weather.

James Dobson who no longer lives in the area has announced he will not be returning for this season. James a home grown junior has been an outstanding wicket keeper and batsman and who will be missed. On behalf of the club I would like to thank him for his contribution over a number of years. I wish him good luck for the future. As a consequence, his father Tim who has produced programmes, stats, photographs and numerous other club publications for a long period has indicated he will be missing for the next season. I thank him for his contribution. I am pleased to announce that both the current professionals have been re engaged for 2017 and Jonny Barnes and Danny Baldwin are both returning to the club.

For the forthcoming season I make a plea that all players whenever possible, make themselves available for selection by looking through fixtures now and planning ahead, so we can select the strongest team possible. Also that all players representing Darlington remember their responsibilities on the field of play in an effort to prevent any personal breaches of discipline resulting in team penalties which could have serious consequences throughout the season.

We continue to develop Junior players through the club and this year has seen Jonathan Pears an under 15, selected for the Bunbury Festival, several other juniors have been selected to represent the county in their age group and also chosen to play in league teams. I would like to thank the managers of the junior teams and Martin Clarke in is role as Junior Liaison Officer in ensuring we turned junior teams out, and parents for getting Juniors to matches and washing their whites.

Working with the community was a new challenge this year which saw us welcoming Polam Hall School who brought their children to use our facilities to coach and play school matches. We also worked with the County to develop girls cricket they

used our ground to coach and introduce girls to the game of cricket. I hope to continue this work with the community.

We saw a change in the groundsman, as this year we appointed Peter Bentley, I would like to thank him for his first year of hard work. As a club we have invested in machinery and fertiliser. Peter also played cricket for us again which was good news. The committee agreed to invest in buying two outdoor nets as we were not successful in our grant application. This facility is hopefully going to encourage all players to practice. We have also bought new mobile nets for outdoor practice on the wickets so again I hope to see weekly net practice well attended during the season.

On the bar and social side we have said goodbye to Jonny Barnes as steward after 3 years of hard work. We welcome Peter Hynes as our new steward who has introduced a monthly quiz night which is proving popular. We continue to put on Club events to encourage families and members to use the Club. Over Christmas and New Year several events were successful and well supported. I hope this will continue to fill the Club to increase our revenue.

My thanks go to Eric and Steve who have supported me to keep abreast of secretarial duties as a result of the resignation of Nigel Bendle due to work commitments. The committee work hard behind the scenes to keep the Club financially viable.

This year again saw a large investment in a new boiler and as previously stated nets and machinery. I would like to thank all committee members for their hard work and their support. I would like to remind all members that the cricket club relies on volunteers and dedicated committee members to survive. Please could anyone who has any time or feels they could help in any way to help develop the club please get in contact. I am looking for new blood. We need people to develop Darlington Cricket Club so it can prosper for the next 25 years and more. Players and members are reaping the benefits of our predecessors of the last 188 years.

I wish Darlington cricket club success on and off the field for 2017 and hope we will see some silverware return to the club.

Gloria Howells

First XI Report

The 2016 season was a successful season for Darlington CC, not in the way of trophies but in the sense that the team made great strides and laid down the foundations of a team that could be successful on all fronts in the upcoming years. Some senior players left and these were replaced by a number of young, energetic players who arrived with enthusiasm and more importantly a will to win. Regular players also stood up when needed and we had match winning contributions from a range of players throughout the season and not necessarily the same 2 or 3 that had been the case in previous years.

Our season could have started with a bang, a dropped catch and a major batting collapse costing us a likely victory in our first game against a team that would be the pace setters for the majority of the season. Our first victory came the following week, James Sutton scoring the first of a number of 50's for himself and arguably the most important as we chased down a low total on an difficult wicket. James went from strength to strength this season and really proved that he belongs at the top of the order in the NYSD premier league.

May was quite an inconsistent month for us as we won games very handsomely indeed yet lost games without being competitive. Our season really sparked into life however on Bank Holiday Monday when we bowled out eventual champions Barnard Castle for 107 after we posted a competitive 199-8, with Sutton and Nathan Wright putting on an excellent 125 for the first wicket. We certainly gained momentum from this victory

Bowling Averages—Senior Leagues

1st XI	Overs	Mdns.	Runs	Wkts.	Ave.
C. Whitelock	197.1	32	662	46	14.39
L.D. Coates	275.1	78	691	44	15.70
D.R. Marshall	193.3	29	684	36	19.00

2nd XI	Overs	Mdns.	Runs	Wkts.	Ave.
S. Russell	228.5	67	574	48	11.96
M. Stainsby	173	36	470	30	15.67
O. King	87.1	21	292	19	15.37
C. Lethbridge	62	8	235	11	21.36

3rd XI	Overs	Mdns.	Runs	Wkts.	Ave.
T. Lush	116	13	432	21	20.57
A. Harwood	66.2	11	223	14	15.93
R. Ray	71.4	16	286	14	20.43
B. Cardwell	75.3	9	286	12	23.83

Batting Averages—Junior Leagues

Under 17's	Inns	N/O	H/S	Runs	Ave.
T. Lush	3	1	55*	91	45.50
B. Cardwell	3	1	51*	73	36.50
L. Giacomelli	3	0	32	67	22.33

Under 15's NYACC	Inns	N/O	H/S	Runs	Ave.
D. Charlton	8	3	52*	133	26.60
C. Heron	8	1	52*	172	24.57
L. Giacomelli	7	2	37*	104	20.80
N. Brown	8	3	32*	94	18.80

Under 13's NYACC	Inns	Out	H/S	Runs	Ave.
J. Bendle	11	5		92	18.40
J. Riley	10	5		82	16.40
M. Atkinson	14	6		98	16.33
O. Clark	12	6		94	15.67

Under 11's	Inns	Out	H/S	Runs	Ave.
O. Clark	16	2	18*	134	67.00
O. Armstrong	11	0	7*	40	40.00
O. Archbold	14	0	6*	38	38.00
W. Hopkins	10	4	10*	65	16.25

Bowling Averages—Junior Leagues

Under 17's	Overs	Mdns.	Runs	Wkts.	Ave.
B. Cardwell	12	0	43	4	10.75
A. l'Anson	10	0	64	2	32.00
T. Lush	12	0	70	2	35.00
R. Ray	8	0	55	1	55.00

Under 15's NYACC	Overs	Mdns.	Runs	Wkts.	Ave.
A. Raviprakash	16	1	92	7	13.14
N. Brown	27	2	147	7	21.00
A. l'Anson	27	1	97	4	24.25
J. Thorpe	17	1	98	4	24.50

Under 13's NYACC	Overs	Mdns.	Runs	Wkts.	Ave.
T. Park-Bradley	34		113	12	9.42
J. Riley	41.1		145	11	13.18
J. Mellington	37		146	11	13.27
M. Atkinson	38		182	11	16.55

Under 11's	Overs	Mdns.	Runs	Wkts.	Ave.
D. Newell	22		43	8	5.36
D. de la Motte	37		127	14	9.07
O. Archbold	28		91	10	9.10
E. Besford	42		115	11	10.45

season. Many thanks to everyone who helped with the side. Jack Riley and Tom Park Bradley should be commended for their efforts at this level with the ball. They will continue to evolve as good spin bowlers as the get older. Aditya and Nathan were outstanding with the ball as their averages show. Very pleased with the season the attitude by the players and looking towards next season with a good bunch of cricketers.

Alan Harwood

Under 13's Report

This year was a transition season for most of the squad so it was always going to be a challenging one.

We were always looking at, has this team progressed from 2014 when it last played together.

The simple answer is YES with more wins and finishing higher in the league, even so, that is tinged with the slightest disappointment that we could of finished closer to the top of the league with some small improvements.

If I gave each discipline marks out of 10 bowling would get 7, batting 6 and fielding 5 so everything can be improved.

During the season we had some exceptional team and individual performances so the talent is there just more consistence needed. But the most important thing is that we hope that most of this squad will be playing senior cricket for Darlington Cricket Club in the near future and for many years to come.

Martin Clark and Darren Riley

Under 11's Report

It was a very encouraging season for the Under 11's. At the start of the season Tom and I both thought it would be a transitional year as we introduced lots of new players into the squad and we actually exceeded expectations. We ended up using 19 players which was made up of a core group of experienced/older players and a very talented younger group of emerging talent. In the Gemara cup we were knocked out at the semi final stage against a strong Norton side. Our performance was disappointing but the experience of playing in a finals day environment will help the players development in the long term. In the league we eventually finished a very respectable 4th. Unfortunately the weather prevented us from playing all our games. If we had done (and won them) we would have finished in second place.

Overall we performed very well. Bowling was pretty consistent and we picked up plenty of wickets. We probably didn't score enough runs throughout the season but we were more concerned as ever with players developing their techniques and game awareness. Both definitely improved as the season went on. Fielding was mixed but there were encouraging signs towards the end of the season with more catches being taken and more evidence of walking in and backing up.

Thanks as ever go to Liam and Derek for the brilliant coaching. Thanks also to everyone who helped in the shop and to Peter for preparing good wickets. Also, thanks to Tim Dobson for the great photograph's and publications. Our parents were as ever always willing to offer support which is really appreciated. A special thank you goes to Neil Archbold who scored the bulk of the games! Finally, huge thanks to the players for their brilliant attitudes and willingness to learn and support their team mates. They are a credit to their families and the club.

Martin Clark and Tom de la Motte

Darts Report

The second half of the 2015/16 season proved tough going with a couple of players being unavailable and eventually we finished 7th out of 9 in the top division winning 6 out of 16 games.

Individual standings for the whole season were;

Jonny 5th
Nige 50th
Gary Smith 65th
John D 74th
Dave C 76th

Jonny went on to win the captain's league for the second year in a row but was beaten by the eventual winner in the semi final of the league singles knockout.

The 2016/17 season kicked off in early October with John D at the helm. The league returned to a single division again. A few last minute signings made the side look a more competitive outfit with Richie, Mally and Bill joining from Central Club and Jeff Besford coming out of retirement. At the Christmas break the side had won 6 out 11 games and were 4th out 14. Hopefully the lads can continue to play well and enjoy the games.

Any new players are always welcome. Matches are Thursday nights starting at 8.30pm. All matches are in Darlington so travelling is kept to a minimum.

Jon Barnes

and it would not be until we faced the same opponents on the August Bank Holiday Monday exactly 3 months later that we would taste defeat. Our unbeaten run contained many highlights. Memorable victories at Marske, bowling them out for 103 with Dale Marshall producing career best figures of 7/46 an unbelievable feat on possible the best batting track in the league, at home to Hartlepool, Sutton scoring his maiden NYS D century (103*) as we chased down 181, and at home to Great Ayton, where Saad scored his second century of the season (119* in addition to his 107 at Hartlepool a few weeks earlier) in chasing down 218 all showed we could compete with the very best in the league and we deserved to be in our lofty position in the table, a surprise to many people across the league especially an umpire who commented in May that we would do well to survive in the league with the team we had... I do like to prove people wrong. With three games remaining we went to Barnard Castle full of optimism but for once our batting line up failed and we fell short of the target of 200 we needed to have any chance of winning the league. Despite this we completed the season in high spirits and our forth place finish was a testament to the hard work of every single player who represented the team during the season. Special mentions must go to joint players of the year James Sutton and Dale Marshall who both starred with bat and ball throughout. Professionals Liam Coates and Muhammad Saad, both who led by example in all areas and contributed massively in pretty much every game they played - they always stood up when needed and I am overjoyed we have retained the services of both for the 2017 season. Finally I must mention Connor Whitelock. Connor had an amazing debut season with Darlington, bowling us to victories in many games and at times pulling games back for us when they seemed to be slipping away. I am a firm believer that top sides are successful because they have a top class spinner and despite his young age Connor proved how good he can be. He was the leading amateur wicket taker in the league this season and also won the NYS D Young Player of the Year award, as well as a number of awards at our very own presentation night. His fielding, along with Nathan Wright in the cover point region also played a huge part in building pressure and this was a huge part of our success on the pitch.

The cup runs were slightly disappointing however victories away at Seaton Carew and Great Ayton, the latter with a very unfamiliar side, proved that we can defeat the very best on any given day or night. Hopefully we will have a good run in all cup competitions next season.

Finally as a captain I must thank the chairwoman and committee for giving me the opportunity to lead the side and for their continued support throughout the season. The groundsman, tea ladies and supporters who have helped with various roles on a match day, all which allow myself to focus solely on the game and captaining the team, a role which some captains are not fortunate enough to experience around the league. And last but by no mean least I must thank the players who have played for me this season. Their attitudes and effort levels have been second to none and have made captaining the side a real pleasure. A captain is only as good as his team and I feel with a years experience under our belts and the same squad of players, plus a few new arrivals, we will only be a stronger outfit in 2017. I look forward to the challenge ahead.

Paul Freary

Second XI Report

Following the 2014/15 'winter of discontent' the 2016 season began with much promise. A more stable squad and hopefully greater continuity quite rightly resulted in pre season hope and optimism. As the start of the season was imminent however we were dealt a hammer blow when news came that Ollie King had been involved in a car accident that would rule him out for the majority of the season. With the spearhead of our bowling attack

on the side lines, the weight of responsibility for taking the new ball would have to be taken by a rejuvenated Shaughn Russell. With a stable and experienced top 6, much was expected of the batting unit. Early season results were good and we were well placed towards the top of the league and we began to emerge as genuine title contenders. Until that was, we were blighted once again by injuries. First Keith Barker and then the skipper were forced onto the side lines. Fortunately this coincided with the return to cricket of former stalwart Simon Whitehead. He returned in style, with an unbeaten century, against our neighbours from the RA in a nail biting run chase where we just failed to get over the finish line. Ollie King returned from injury and a string of victories saw us surge towards the top of the table. Despite a concerted effort, we were always chasing and were tantalisingly short of the top spot. We made a valiant effort but sadly left ourselves too much to do in the few games before the season came to a close.

In general we had an enjoyable season and team-spirit remains incredibly high. Credit to the seasons other centurion Keith Barker and a huge thank you to Peter for his work on the ground, Garry for his work with the selection and teas as well as all the parents who helped and supported him with that too. Lastly another special thank you to James Bendle and Tom Park-Bradley for answering late pleas for players and making sure that we turned out a full 11 players on 3 occasions between them.

I am sure that all concerned are extremely driven to go one better in 2017 and get ourselves back into division 1!

Danny Morgans

Third XI Report

A struggle from the start of the season to the finish ending the season relegated to the second division. On the plus side we have some promising youngsters coming through so hopefully it will not be long before we are back fighting for promotion up to the first division and a strong Darlington CC third team once again.

Alan Harwood

Junior Cricket Report

Under 17's Report

The addition of brothers Ben Cardwell, Adam l'anson and Toby Lush helped to strengthen our side considerably and all made useful contributions throughout the season.

It was a similar story to last season when we had our full side we were a match for any team but this only happened on a couple of occasions with exams and school games affecting us badly.

Thanks to the younger guys who helped out and did not let us down and parents for getting them to games also Dave for scoring and Peter the Groundsman.

Garry Moody

Under 15's Report

We had three batsmen score half centuries during the league season, Drew, Chris and Jonny. Sadly Jonny was not always available and the team had to chip in as a group to provide his runs in his absence. Four batsmen made over a hundred runs in the season and there were contributions from Adam, Matty and Nathan who could have gone on to complete half centuries but narrowly missed out. 18 players batted in the league games. Well done to everyone who was part of the squad.

A 5th placed finish was a credit to our side this season. Some good performances were evident from the squad throughout the