

Cork County Cricket Club

EST. 1874
Mardyke, Cork.

Annual General Meeting 2018

Hon. Secretary's Report

Good Evening

2018 was a challenging, but successful year for our club. We saw our membership increase slightly as we welcomed lots of new faces and some old ones to the Mardyke. We again fielded teams in both Munster and Leinster competitions as well as the Bob Kerr Irish Senior Cup. We remain the only club on the island of Ireland to compete across two unions. We should continue to be mindful of this unmatched feat when we evaluate our performance both on and off the field this year.

We cater for players right across the spectrum of cricket in Ireland, from recreational youth cricket all the way through to full List A cricketers. We have arguably the best cricket ground in the country, consistently praised by visiting players, officials and spectators for the quality of the wickets and impeccable hospitality that they receive. We have a membership which comprises of people from a wide variety of backgrounds, from Mallow to Mumbai, Rochestown to Rotherham. We have a group of dedicated volunteers (to which we are always looking to add) who work daily to drive the club forward to new heights. We have an exceptionally positive public image which emanates from both word of mouth and on social media where we have one of the largest followings of an amateur sports club in the country. We have an ever improving youth system which is providing cricket to approximately sixty youths on a Friday night, Monday night and occasionally Saturday mornings. We are well represented within the administration of Munster cricket and well respected within both the MCU and LCU for the efforts we make as a club.

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To that end, let me provide you with some interesting figures from the 2018 season. As a club, our adult teams participated in approximately sixty-three matches last season, winning over two-thirds of matches played. Our adult teams covered a total distance of an astonishing 8370km over the course of the season. To put that in some context, that's the equivalent of travelling from the very southern tip to the very northern tip of Ireland 13.5 times. It's the distance between England's last international game of the summer in Southampton and the first one of the winter in Pallekele, Sri Lanka. Somewhat more realistically for us it's the equivalent of 558 round trips to Harlequins.

I mention all these points because sometimes we can be a bit hard on ourselves. It's important to step back and acknowledge the success we have had and continue to have both on and off the field. Yes, we have plenty of work to do to maintain that but we should always be mindful of and appreciate the success we have achieved both this year and over the last few years.

In the season just gone, our 3rd team finished joint second in Munster Division 3 and reached the final of the Munster Minor Cup. Great credit is due to Talha Kayani and his squad for their efforts throughout the year. As well as the positive results on the field, the 3rds also saw a number of our youth members joining their ranks and continuing their development through playing competitive adult cricket which is as it should be. Our 2nd team, under the captaincy of Scott McNamara finished third in Munster Division 1 and had a solid season overall. The role of second team captain is a particularly difficult one and I'd like to thank Scott for his hard work all year.

Our 1st team picked up yet more trophies this year, winning the Munster Senior Premier Division by the largest margin for a decade and winning the Munster T20 Blast for the third year in a row. Our 1st team has yet to be beaten in a T20 match played in Munster since the inception of the Munster T20 Blast three years ago. Performance in Leinster Division 2 was slightly below expectations but given the reduced number of teams in the division it was difficult to get into any kind of rhythm. Important victories in College Park and memorably in Balbgriggan were the highlights of the Leinster season from a results perspective while from a development point of view it was heartening to see the consistently excellent performances from Diarmuid Carey, new member Nabeel Anjum, Batsman of the Year Ross Durity and Player of the Year Abubakar Saddique.

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Off the field, 2018 was a very busy year for the club and at this point, I'd like to highlight and thank those involved in all our projects over the past year. To my fellow committee members who have stewarded the club responsibly and been patient in the face of tonnes of emails both from myself and others, to the members of the youth sub-committee who have continued to spearhead the development of youth cricket at the club, to the youth coaches who assisted them in that endeavour, to our grounds and facilities team of Matt, Cormac, Ann, Dermot, & Tony, to John Power for all his work in organising a fantastic awards night in the River Lee Hotel and recently for his work in maintaining our facilities, to my Dad for his painting work on the gate, to our reps on provincial and national committees I would like to say a big thank you as without the effort from all of you, we would not be where we are today.

As a club, infrastructure is crucial and you will all have noticed the new netting on our boundary with Sundays Well as well as the work carried out by the scoreboard and the removal of shrubbery near our vehicular entrance. This is in addition to the work carried out internally over the past year. Most of you will also be aware at this stage that we suffered a break-in recently where significant damage was done to our entrance doors. We will shortly be installing a CCTV system to try and prevent further incidents of this nature but as you all know all of these repairs and improvement works cost significant sums of money and to assist with offsetting these costs we are proposing the introduction of a small levy on this year's subscriptions. The money raised from this will go directly toward the cost of CCTV installation so I would urge you all to support this measure and to get your subs in as soon as possible.

Looking forward into 2019, the game of cricket in Ireland faces huge challenges both in terms of funding, governance, player development and even the survival of clubs. We must ensure that we continue to respond with agility and strength to the changes coming down the line at club, interprovincial and national level while not losing that habit of winning both on and off the pitch. We must protect and safeguard our club and its traditions from those agents of change. We must understand and embrace the fact that leadership is not necessarily an individual task, it is also the responsibility of the group. We must ensure that we continue to be well represented outside of this ground and that those charged with representing this club continue to get the support they are deserving of in their task. We must continue to build on the work done by those who have gone before us, great men who have upheld the traditions

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and reputation of this club in years gone by, we must honour and respect the fact that this club and this ground is unique and holds a special place in Munster and Ireland's cricket history. But above all else, we must continue to deliver for all of our members of this, the best club in the country.

Kevin O'Sullivan

**Hon. Secretary
Cork County Cricket Club**