

# *Cork County Cricket Club*

EST. 1874  
Mardyke, Cork.

## *2020 Annual General Meeting*

### **Honorary Secretary's Address**

Reflecting on 2020 inevitably brings many negative thoughts to the mind; the restrictions on freedoms we normally enjoy, the time away from friends or family and the sense of uncertainty about the future. In that sense, many of us might seek to simply consign the year to memory and move on to what are, hopefully, pastures greener. However, reflection, both positive and negative, is important for us individually and as a Club.

We have had, by many metrics, a difficult year. Financially, we have been impacted heavily by the pandemic, with the bar having closed in early March and not re-opened since. Sponsors and Club partners, mindful of their own increasingly precarious financial situation have reduced or delayed their contributions to us. Our squash courts have remained closed for the vast majority of the last year and hall hire revenue from dance classes and other events has been non-existent. On-field matters have also been impacted with the cricket season delayed by two months and disrupted by a number of Covid-related stoppages throughout the summer.

However, despite the challenges the Club has faced, there have been many positives associated with 2020. Our membership has increased, particularly at youth level due to the sterling work conducted by Pat Donnelly, Steve Ross and the committed parents and volunteers who assist on a week to week basis. Youth membership has shown tremendous growth over the last four years with a goal now set of reaching one hundred youth members in 2021. Our adult playing membership has also increased, despite the shortened season and the ludicrous decision by the governing bodies to permit only T20 cricket. We were the first Club in Munster to achieve full Covid compliance and maintained the highest standards of safety throughout the season. We have welcomed new members from many different countries and backgrounds, adding to the wonderful sense of multiculturalism, inclusion and community spirit that our Club benefits from.

We performed well on the field, winning the Munster Senior T20 Blast for a fifth year in a row and progressing to an All-Ireland T20 Cup semi-final where we fell narrowly short against a YMCA side which contained several Irish international players. Our 2<sup>nd</sup> team reached the final of the MCU Junior T20 Blast while our 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> teams provided excellent development opportunities for younger players coming through the ranks. Furthermore, we have been able to add to the infrastructure of the Club with a large safety net installed at the Mardyke Walk end of the ground, a necessity given the dynamic and powerful nature of the modern game of cricket.

None of these achievements would have been possible without the enthusiasm, commitment and support of our members, who have been understanding of the difficulties faced by the Club this year. Subscriptions were paid on time or early by almost all of our membership and Zoom quizzes

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and other fundraising activities such as the Christmas raffle which is currently active have been generously supported. While discussing our membership as a collective, it is also important to highlight individually those who have gone above and beyond for the benefit of the Club, starting with our Treasurer, David Griffin. In his long and distinguished tenure as an Officer of the Club, 2020 may well have been the most difficult year. The sudden and lasting impact of the pandemic, the volume of paperwork associated with the many grant applications in addition to the usual work of the Treasurer made for a heavy burden and I'm sure all our members would agree that without his efforts, the Club would be in a far more arduous position than it is.

Pat Donnelly, who I have already mentioned in the context of his effort as Chairperson of the Youth sub-committee also took on the role of Covid-19 Safety Officer this year and his dedication to this task ensured that we as a Club maintained the highest standards of health and safety for our members. Abdul Jabbar Younus and Robert Duggan committed many hours to youth coaching, team captaincy, website design and content creation, while continuing to also represent the Club with distinction on the field. I would also like to thank the members of the Committee, many of whom I have spoken of already, for dedicating countless hours to ensuring that the Club was in the best possible shape from an operational, financial and most importantly, cricketing point of view. Finally, I would like to thank our Trustees, Kieran Aherne, Anthony Dinan and Richard Martin, for their ongoing support and their desire to help Cork County achieve its full potential.

Looking forward to 2021, I'm sure all would join in my hope that we will return to pre-pandemic normality or something similar but the likelihood is that it may well be the second half of the year before we see such progress. As a result, the Club faces a difficult outlook in the short term. We must continue to work hard, support one another and strive to build on the progress of 2020. Infrastructural improvements to allow for training facilities away from the main wicket square are essential and must progress if we are to grow as a club. Equally, we must retain the player pathway we have worked so hard to build by consolidating our role within the upper reaches of Cricket Leinster's competitions and offering developing players the chance to play at the highest level of club cricket on the island of Ireland.

Finally, I would like to congratulate all attendees at this year's AGM on becoming history-makers as this is the very first time in the 146 year history of our Club that our Annual General Meeting has been held virtually. One to cherish I'm sure!

*Kevin O'Sullivan*

**Hon. Secretary**  
**Cork County Cricket Club**

**Club President:** *Kieran Aherne*

**Club Captain:** *Robert Duggan*