

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



The 2022 season for the 1st XI was very much like the 'Curate's Egg', good in parts and with the most amazing summer weather since 1976 (the year the Club was founded). With encouraging local support, we had some great finishes, exemplified by an exciting win over the league leaders and eventual winners, Plymstock,

which showed the potential the side had with a little more application. Once again Jack Tolley captained the side with enthusiasm and energy, he was also the leading run maker. Sadly, he is standing down this year, we appreciate all the effort he has put in, especially behind the scenes, only those closely involved with the Club know the work he puts in.

The 2nd XI once again were led with amazing fortitude by Kai Horsburgh, he always managed to get eleven players onto the field, a few never having played cricket before, they put in some brave performances. Hopefully with better promised availability and newly introduced players we can start to climb back up the Leagues.

We are continuing with a Sunday & Midweek XI, we are among a diminishing number of clubs to offer this. Thanks to Russell Hulme and Matt Kerr for taking on this role. Whilst blowing our own trumpet regarding friendlies, we are among a few, greatly reduce Clubs, to provide the traditional cricket teas, this is something the Committee are determined to maintain, so thanks to all those involved.

As I stated in previous Chairman's Messages, our thanks go to Matt and Katie and all involved in our Friday night All Stars and Dynamos sessions. Obviously with the help of the weather Friday evenings are becoming one of the most go to evenings in Stoke Gabriel for children, parents and friends. Long may it last.

We still have major projects to complete at the ground. The new water pipe has been laid, with the final phase to be carried out during the next close season. The very old, leaky containers have been demolished and replaced with a new storage shed to house our very expensive machinery. Internal redecoration to the clubhouse has also taken place. One of our major projects in the future is the refurbishment of the nets and practice area. More details of this can be seen on the Club Projects page earlier in the Fixtures Card.

I would like to thank our Committee for their continued support, all of whom are standing again. We have a new 1st XI captain, Jake Robinson, as with Jack Tolley, has a great Stoke Gabriel heritage, both his dad and grandfather were past captains. Finally, I wish to thank everyone involved with our great Club, the committee, the players, the volunteers and all who are members and come to support us in so many ways.

Let's look forward to an enjoyable 2023 season.

Tom Hannaford-Hill