Stoke Gabriel Parish Council Meeting 20/05/2024.

Good evening ladies and gentlemen, my name is Tom Hannaford-Hill and I am chairman of

sgcc.

Firstly I would like to thank the parish council for their kind invitation to attend and to speak

this evening.

A quick history of SGCC, we were formed, according to our fixture card in 1976, those of us who were around at that time believe it was 1975 there are also those who say if you were around then you wouldn’t remember it anyhow. Our first permanent ground was on the Paignton road, opposite Ramslades caravan park, which we shared with the football club,this was quite appropriate, as the cricket club was started by John Banks, who was at the time secretary of the football club, he thought it would be a good way of keeping players together during the summer months, the football club committee approved the purchase of a full cricket kit bag.

Following on from Ramslades SGCC played all their home cricket at Churston Grammar School, at an amazingly high rental and no real income, other than memberships and donations

We bought our current ground in 1986, thanks to the efforts of many people but to the forefront were Maurice Knapman, Geoff Bradford, Gilly Tubbs and Nora Hill all sadly no longer with us, the beautiful ground we now have is testament to their vision.

We currently run 2 sides in the Devon cricket league, both 1sts and 2nds won promotion from their respective leagues last season, the 1st XI quite convincingly, we also play friendlies most Sundays along with the occasional midweek touring team.

We have for the first time entered a ladies team into the appropriate Devon Cricket league system, but thanks to the awful weather at the start of this season, they will be hosting their first game at Hoile Lane this coming Sunday, it is a 3 team event, they all play each other, come along and give them your support.

We hold training nets every Tuesdays and Thursday for our mens sides, and Wednesday nights for the ladies, anyone can come and give cricket a go. On Fridays it is Junior nets which is well attended although trying to get youngsters on to the field of play is proving far more difficult, yet this is the lifeblood of the club, also starting on Friday 7th june, at 5:00pm, we have ‘Allstars’ cricket which is an ECB supported programme of 8 x 1hour sessions for 5-8 year olds, run by Matt and Katie Kerr-Brown, and is one of the highlights of the week.

Our ground is situated on the junction of Hoile lane and Ham Lane, a beautiful stroll from the village, which can be extended by walking out Ham Lane there are some wonderful views of the river at the end, we all need to walk these byways, so they don’t disappear, as other lanes and footpaths around the Village have in recent the past.

Also we have some of the best views from any cricket ground in Devon, we have a modern clubhouse which is available for hire, a BBQ/ Patio, that was made possible thanks to the wonderful generosity of Anthony Scobles bequest, and a grass picnic area.

So finally please come up and see us, you will be made most welcome, there are the best homemade cricket teas available, carrying on a village cricket club tradition, of which we are rightly proud.

There are few things better on summers afternoon than watching a game of village cricket, whilst supping a glass of your favourite tipple.

Many thanks

Tom Hannaford-Hill