

## Secretary's report 2011

2010 dawned with high hopes. However best laid plans started to unravel before the season had got underway. Mark Beckett who was expected to play a leading role with bat and ball was injured playing rugby in the last game of that season and Kevin Hird found with work commitments that his availability was going to be very limited. This meant that key players from both first and second teams were to be unavailable to the captains. The dust cloud over Europe also meant the absence of two players for the first game of the season, but perhaps this absence was not as marked as those of Beckett and Hird.

However what is a problem for one is an opportunity for others. So it transpired in 2010. The first and second teams both acquitted themselves well and although falling short at the final hurdle, demonstrated that with another year under their belts and the addition of one or two players there is no reason to think that OCC can't once again challenge for the top prizes this coming season. I would like to recognise and applaud Joel Gallagher for putting his faith in junior players and in particular for giving Jack an opportunity to bowl long spells. If only Joel's judgement of a good young player could be matched with his judgement of when is or is not a good time to drive, he might not be reliant on lifts to practice and games!

In addition to Jack, of current junior players, Lewis Wrathall, Ben Fothergill and Matty Lee all made great strides forward in the second team and James Lee impressed in the third team and on occasion, in the second team. The third team continues to be the life blood of the club, which is evidenced by the number of young players currently occupying places in our first and second teams, who started their senior cricket careers in our third team. We must make sure that we continue to do everything possible to provide support to this vital part of our club. I am pleased to say that Alan Fothergill will be formerly assisted this year in his job as third team captain by the appointment of Graham Fothergill and John Sharples as Vice Captains. I wish them all well.

2010 was a double success for our juniors, with the U15's and U13's both winning their respective leagues. Whilst both these teams have experienced success before on their way up the junior age group ladder, this should not detract from the very fine accomplishment that winning the league represents.

There is a huge amount of work put in to our junior set up by managers, parents and grand parents and this is something that we should not take for granted, but needs to be continually encouraged and supported. However what many of you probably don't fully appreciate is the financial support that your club receives from its sponsors and for junior cricket at Oakworth from SA Labels. In the case of SA Labels this support in 2011 for meeting all the costs associated with putting on junior cricket at Oakworth will be in the region of £1,000. However every donation made by all of our sponsors is gratefully received and I hope the pleasure they receive and (hopefully) business generated through their association with our club makes it worthwhile. It goes without saying that the current very reasonable membership fees, match fees and bar prices, together with the expenditure incurred by your committee in trying to provide the very best facilities would not be possible without this support. It has been said before, but needs to be said again, take notice of who is supporting your club and where you can please give those business and individuals your support with your business.

I think we saw in 2010 the benefits of investment in our playing surface with the verti draining that was carried out in the winter of 2009 10, which greatly improved the ability of the outfield to cope with heavy rain. Your committee remains focussed on the development of the club, albeit with a limited budget and we are working hard to provide improved facilities for all our members. Your committee welcome input on how we can develop the club, so please feel free to speak to one of the officials if you have thoughts how this can be achieved, or better still if you have time once a month join the committee and take an active part in the running of your club.

I conclude by hoping for a better year in 2011 and that in 12 months time we are sat here toasting success for our teams at all levels.

Thank you.

Michael Davison

22 March