

Great Shelford Cricket Club

April 2019

We had an extremely difficult season in 2018. Because of doubts about our pitch and fears that it would not be passed as adequate by the Whiting & Partners League for our first team games, we made the decision in advance to play our home first team matches at Cokenach CC. As it turned out, thanks to the efforts of Paul Ellum, our pitch at Great Shelford played perfectly but when we made the decision in October 2017, we were not to know that. So to our first team record in 2018. Not great. Played 22, lost 22. Somehow, we kept going and conceded only one match and that on the August Bank Holiday when we could not raise a team to compete at that level because of people being away. So many congratulations to all our players who kept turning up week after week to get thrashed. They have managed to keep us going.

So to look on the bright side for this season. We decided to ask for a demotion of two tiers for the first team who will now be back in CCA, Senior One and playing home matches at Great Shelford. We have a change of first team captain this year. Alan Sutton, who led the club for seven seasons several years ago has returned to the helm and we wish him well. The Second team under new skipper Damon Rainsford will play in CCA, Junior League Division Three South and East and their home games will also be at Great Shelford. Stuart Creed will continue as captain of the Thirds in CCA, Junior Four West, their home matches at Stapleford.

The youth section continues to thrive and is a beacon of hope for the future. We shall have seven teams playing League cricket from the Under 15s down to Under 9s this summer. Mark Milne will continue as coach of the Under 15s. To our great pride, we shall have two girls' teams for the first time this year. All the other teams will be led by the indefatigable George Rolls who has taken on the mission of expanding our youth section to become one of the biggest in the county. George has already kept two youth teams going throughout the winter in indoor leagues and the enthusiasm he engenders from the youngsters is amazing to witness. Many thanks are due to him and Mark.

Brian Higgins
Chairman & President
Great Shelford Cricket Club