



WORCESTERSHIRE
COUNTY CRICKET CLUB

HISTORY IS EVOLVING...

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2016

WEDNESDAY 16TH MARCH 2016
GRAEME HICK PAVILION - 19:00



Dear Member,

The Annual General Meeting of the Club will be held on Wednesday 16th March 2016 at 19:00. in THE GRAEME HICK PAVILION at the County Ground. Free car parking is available on the ground.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2016

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence.
2. To confirm the Minutes of the Meeting held on 30th March 2015.
3. President's Address.
4. To receive and approve the Annual Report on behalf of the Board and the Statement of Accounts that accompany this Notice.
5. To elect a President for the forthcoming year. Your Board recommends the election of Lord King of Lothbury KG, GBE, FBA.
6. To seek approval by the AGM for the election of Mr Stephen Taylor and Mr Fanos Hira as Non-Executive Additional Directors of the Board for 2015/16 as per Rule 18.5.
7. To confirm the election to the Board from 1st October 2015 of Mr Neal Radford and Mr Tim Curtis for three years as per rule 18.7.
8. To pass a Vote of Thanks to the Club's Honorary Medical Officers – Prof Alan Hawley and Mr Andrew Pearse.
9. Further thanks to the Henwick Halt Medical Centre in St Johns and Mr Jamie Powell and colleagues at the Spire South Bank Hospital. Also to Peter Vickery and the staff at the Bull Ring Dental Practice in St Johns.
10. To receive any other business that the Chairman of the Meeting shall give permission to be raised and discussed (in accordance with rule 22.7)

Yours sincerely



David Leatherdale
Chief Executive

19th February 2016

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2015/16

(Subject to confirmation at the AGM)

CHAIRMAN

Stephen Taylor

VICE CHAIRMAN

Timothy Curtis

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

David Leatherdale (Chief Executive)
Steve Rhodes (Director of Cricket)
Chris Smith (Finance Director)

ELECTED NON-EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

Tim Jones
Meriel Harris
Peter Jewell
Neal Radford
Paul Pridgeon

ADDITIONAL NON-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

Martyn Price (Retiring)
Fanos Hira

CLUB AUDITORS

Bishop Fleming

NOTES

1. ADMISSION TO AGM

Members of the Club whose subscriptions for 2016 have been paid (and also Members whose subscriptions for 2015 have been paid) will be admitted and Members may be asked to produce their 2015 or 2016 Membership card to gain entry to this Meeting.

2. MINUTES

In accordance with established custom, copies of the Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting are not being sent to Members. The Minutes are available for inspection by Members in the Club Shop at the County Ground during normal office hours, on the Club's website at www.wccc.co.uk and also immediately prior to the Annual General Meeting.

3. FREE CAR PARKING is available on the ground.

ATTENDANCES OF DIRECTORS AT BOARD MEETINGS BETWEEN OCTOBER 2014 AND SEPTEMBER 2015

	POSSIBLE	ACTUAL
S Taylor (Chairman)	8	8
T Curtis (Vice Chairman)	8	7
J W Elliott (Vice President –Retiring)	3	1
Lord King of Lothbury	5	2
J M Price	8	3
Ms M Harris	8	8
P A E Jewell	8	7
N Radford	8	7
P Pridgeon	8	8
T Jones	8	8
D A Leatherdale (Chief Executive)	8	8
S J Rhodes (Director of Cricket)	8	7
C Smith (Finance Director)	8	8

OFFICERS OF THE WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY CRICKET CLUB 2014/15

PATRONS:
 Viscount Cobham
 His Grace the Duke of Westminster OBE, TD, DL
 The Rt Rev'd John Inge, Bishop of Worcester
 The Very Rev'd Peter Atkinson, Dean of Worcester
 Mr Cecil Duckworth OBE
 Lord King of Lothbury, KG, GBE, FBA

PRESIDENT: Lord King of Lothbury

CHAIRMAN: Stephen Taylor

VICE CHAIRMAN: Tim Curtis

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: David Leatherdale

DIRECTOR OF CRICKET: Steven Rhodes

CAPTAIN: Daryl Mitchell

FINANCE DIRECTOR: Chris Smith

HONORARY VICE PRESIDENTS:

Roy Booth	John Chadd	John Elliott
David Exall	Duncan Fearnley	Mike Gilhooly
Tom Graveney OBE	Ken Mills MBE	Jack Randall
Peter Seward FCA	Doug Slade	
Vic Whittingham		

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS:

Mrs Grace Fuller	Norman Gifford MBE	Graeme Hick MBE,
Phil Neale OBE	Rev'd Michael Vockins OBE	

ANNUAL REPORT – 2015 SEASON

CHIEF EXECUTIVE INTRODUCTION

As this will be my last annual report before I take up a new post as chief executive of the Professional Cricketers' Association I thought I would take the liberty of looking back over my time since becoming Chief Executive in Sept 2010.

The last 5 years have seen some very real challenges both on and off the pitch, a story replicated across the whole of the County game. During this time you, the members, have supported us greatly which sees us have one of the strongest memberships in the Country.

Many of you, I am sure, will be fed up of my statements around creating a 365 day a year business - with cricket at the centre – which had to be viable and sustainable for the long term, something many other counties are now recognising is the way forward.

You only have to stand in the middle of the ground and look around to see how things have changed for the better since we had our lovely “water issues” during the summer of 2007 and the 2013/14 winter floods and while the progress made is plain to see, there is still a great deal of work to do over the coming years.

While floods will be something the club will have to live with to benefit from the iconic status the ground has with the spectacular views across to the cathedral, the work now done has certainly helped mitigate many of our unique challenges.

On the cricket front, our coaching team, under the leadership of Steve Rhodes, have worked tirelessly to shape a squad that can compete at the highest level and deserve great credit for their and the teams achievements with relatively limited resources. Hopefully, as the business grows, the ability to improve these resources will become more evident with investment in cricket a high priority for the club going forward.

A great deal of work has been done to develop our own group of high quality young players via our vibrant academy set up and the ethos and philosophies engrained in present and future players via the “Worcestershire Way” will, I have no doubt, bring substantial rewards.

The elevation of Moeen Ali to an England central contract and the recent inclusion of Joe Clarke and Ross Whiteley in the England set up shows how well thought of Worcestershire are by the game as a whole.

Two recent academy graduates, Josh Tongue and Ben Twohig have been or are currently part of the England Development Programme and it is hoped a number of present academy players will graduate to full contracts in the near future.

Off the field, a number of projects are under discussion, after the success of our Phase 2 club and hotel development, and include progression of Phase 3 joining the Graeme Hick pavilion to the new View facility, a potential indoor cricket facility in partnership with Worcester University, and the setting up of an independent trust to support cricket across the county to name just three.

As previously mentioned, the support members and spectators have given the club, the team and myself has been second to none and I am sure will continue long into the future once my successor is in place.

During my 30 years with the club, as both a player and administrator, there have been many ups and downs, but there have also been some very special times. While being part of the so called “Yorkshire mafia” as quoted by a past Worcestershire Chairman, the club will always have a very special place in my heart and I thank you greatly for all your support.

DAVID LEATHERDALE
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

FIRST TEAM REVIEW OF THE SEASON

Worcestershire were left to reflect on what might have been, after coming so close to celebrating their 150th Anniversary Year by preserving their LV = County Championship Division One status.

The County ultimately finished 12 points short of third from bottom Hampshire - a side they comprehensively outplayed during an innings victory at New Road - and were condemned to an immediate return to Division Two along with Sussex.

It means that in a 12 year period Worcestershire have been promoted five times and also relegated five times and only once - in 2011 - have they managed to stay up for more than one season.

But much of the immediate disappointment at last summer's demotion was dispelled by the ability to keep together a young squad which had shown so many encouraging signs throughout the 2015 campaign.

Nine members of the squad - many of them products of the Academy - put pen to paper on new contracts ranging from two to four years in length

There was to be no repeat of the exodus of half a dozen players following Worcestershire's relegation at the conclusion of the 2009 season.

The squad should be stronger for the experience of a year in the top flight - and also take confidence and belief from their performances on many occasions - as they strive to make an immediate return to Division One.

They will also have to deal with a new scenario of being one of the favourites to go up compared to 2014 when they were some bookmakers' joint favourites to finish with the wooden spoon in Division Two. But there is a hunger and desire to succeed which comes with the ambitions of youth to ensure Worcestershire will not suffer any complacency when they launch their 2016 campaign next month (April).

Director of Cricket Steve Rhodes said: “Being regarded as one of the favourites will make a change because the last time we went up I think we were tipped to finish bottom of Division Two.

“For us to go down to Division Two, and then people to perceive us as being one of the favourites to go back up, then that's other people respecting what we have got now.

“It's what we want. We want people to respect the quality of cricketers we do have, young cricketers especially.

“Added to that though, it is also time to produce. It's all about how you play out there and you get the points by how you play out there.”

Rhodes says becoming established in Division One is also key to attracting new players.

He said: "It is always a problem attracting players. If you look at our dressing room, it is a fantastic dressing room, the lads are very close. If you look at our ground, what a great place to come and play.

"If you look at our work ethic, always trying to get better, then that is excellent too. So is the way we go about trying to win games of cricket, it's the type of place that people would want to come, I'm sure.

"But people sometimes have one career move and they tend to want to make it to a side regularly in Division One. We can't moan about that.

"What we've got to do about it, is stay there regularly enough for people to think 'you know what, that's a place I want to go.'"

In hindsight the frustration with last season is that Worcestershire had plenty of opportunities to secure the necessary number of points required to finish outside of the bottom two.

At least three examples immediately come to mind of games that could have been won but which ultimately ended in defeat - Sussex at Hove, Durham at New Road and Nottinghamshire at Trent Bridge. In all three games Worcestershire held the upper hand for long periods but paid the price for a bad session as mountains of good work was undone in a couple of hours after being unable to keep the foot on the throat of opponents, who in similar positions in Division Two, may have capitulated.

The County held a first innings lead in eight of the opening 12 Championship matches but sustaining the same standard over a complete four days proved to be challenging.

During the opening three-quarters of the season, Worcestershire collected more batting and bowling bonus points than any other Division One side.

They also extended their record of obtaining maximum bowling points to 39 out of 40 matches, a sequence stretching from May 2013 through to August 2015 before ending against Somerset in a rain ruined game at Taunton.

It is also fair to say the elements were not kind to Worcestershire on more than one occasion - in particular the matches against Hampshire at the Ageas Bowl and Durham at the ICG Emirates - when the loss of an entire day left the home side with a far shorter run chase.

There were tantalising glimpses of what Worcestershire were capable of when they played to their capacity throughout a match at all three of their victories - Somerset, Hampshire and Middlesex at New Road - were achieved by an innings and plenty.

On an individual level there were also plenty of plus points to take forward into the forthcoming season. An early season recurrence of Gareth Andrew's back injury meant much of the workload was carried through by the pace trio of Joe Leach, Jack Shantry and Charlie Morris.

They finished with a combined tally of 160 Championship wickets with Leach's 59 wickets and nearly 500 runs leading to him being voted the Club's "Players' Player of the Year" after he had not been selected for the opening two games.

Shantry registered 50 plus Championship wickets for the second successive season and Morris

confirmed the promise of his first campaign with another 44 victims.

Where the make-up of the attack faltered in four-day cricket compared to 2014 was via the relative ineffectiveness of the County's overseas players.

Saeed Ajmal ended with 16 wickets at 55 runs apiece - including eight in the home win over Hampshire - from eight appearances after being forced to remodel his action and fellow spinner Sachitra Senanayake's early season spell also proved unproductive.

A change of tack saw paceman Shannon Gabriel drafted in for the final two Championship matches and the West Indian player produced a match-winning display against Middlesex.

On the batting front Tom Fell stepped up to the plate and completed 1,000 Championship runs in a season for the first time after a superb 171 in the final match against Middlesex. It ended on a high note during a season which had begun equally impressively with a century against champions Yorkshire at New Road.

The 22-year-old was diagnosed with testicular cancer in October and underwent surgery but the initial signs were encouraging and he was able to go and play grade cricket in Perth in early December.

Ben Cox backed up an excellent season behind the stumps with more than 700 runs and Joe Clarke, promoted to the first team at the age of 19 mid-way through the season, showed just why batting coach Kevin Sharp regards him as the same sort of "special talent" as Joe Root with whom he worked at Yorkshire.

Clarke's reward was a place with the England Lions in the UAE along with Ross Whiteley who in harness with his devastating T20 form (more of that later) started to make an impact in red ball cricket including a memorable 100 against Yorkshire at Scarborough.

Skipper Daryl Mitchell is enjoying a deserved benefit year in 2016 after more than a decade's sterling service but he was unable to repeat the outstanding form of 2014 when only James Vince scored more runs in Division Two.

Newcomer Alex Gidman also managed just three half centuries following his move from Gloucestershire and will be looking for a significant improvement this summer. Rhodes, reflecting on the Championship season, said: "There have been a lot of frustrations but we shouldn't get too down. They are a young crop of players and they are going to get better and better.

"I think members and supporters can see and understand that whilst it was a tough year and ended with relegation, there is a lot of light at the end of the tunnel with some of these guys.

"We won three games and we got quite a few more points compared to the last time we got relegated. If we had got that many points in that year, we'd still be in the division so it's been no train smash at all.

"Sometimes winning three games with some bonus points will keep you in the division. It was not the case this time around but certainly the three wins against First Division opposition was encouraging.

"We've got a lot of hard work to do this coming year, but thankfully for us we've got a crop of players that will get better. Not all the teams can say that."

In white ball cricket Worcestershire Rapids enjoyed another successful NatWest T20 Blast campaign reaching the quarter-finals for the third time in four seasons.

Securing a top two position in the North Group containing five of the counties operating from Test grounds was a superb effort and ensured a home quarter-final for the first time

Worcestershire lost their opening game against Birmingham Bears at Edgbaston but then won all six remaining away fixtures.

It was a shame that bad light brought a premature end to the sold out quarter-final meeting with Hampshire although in fairness James Vince's hundred had put the visitors comfortably ahead under the Duckworth-Lewis Method.

Ironically 24 hours later a beautiful Saturday evening would have allowed play to continue to a natural conclusion.

Worcestershire are still searching for their first appearance at finals day but have been making significant strides forward in that format and some of the performances last summer were truly memorable.

Moeen Ali's demolition of the Northants attack at Wantage Road and Derbyshire at New Road and Ben Cox's enormous six off the penultimate ball from James Faulkner at Emirates Old Trafford were worthy highlights.

But even those moments were surpassed by an incredible display of hitting by Ross Whiteley against Yorkshire at Headingley. Sky TV viewers saw the former Derbyshire player hit 11 sixes in making an unbeaten 91 off 35 balls against a testing attack including Liam Plunkett.

Whiteley ended the competition as the joint leading six hitter with 29 sixes - a figure only equalled by Luke Wright (Sussex) and Chris Gayle (Somerset) and his Lions call-up was well merited.

Daryl Mitchell finished as the County's leading T20 run-scorer for the second successive season, again benefitting from his promotion to the top of the innings in Moeen Ali's absence through England's commitments.

Tom Kohler-Cadmore also batted with great flair and freedom and took this confidence into four-day cricket when earning a recall for the finale of the season.

Rhodes said: "Nine wins was a really good effort and the manner of some of those wins was absolutely terrific."

"Then when you get down to the knockout stages, it really is who turns up on the day and you look back at the eventual winners, Lancashire, and we managed to beat them up there, in a very close game.

"Northants, we also beat. We lost to them once but beat them in the group stages. The top two teams in the tournament, we can hold our heads up and say we have beaten them as well.

"It is very close when it comes to the knockout stages but it wasn't to be for us on the day against Hampshire.

"Our away form was tremendous. We had lots of highs and made good progress. It was sad it ended in such a disappointing manner (with the bad light) but that was the best I have seen James Vince play. It was a tremendous innings."

The Royal London One-Day Cup was a competition too far for Worcestershire after their concentrated efforts in the Championship and T20 Blast and they achieved only one victory.

But even then there were highlights that will remain in the memory including Joe Leach becoming the first ever player in this country to take three wickets with the first three balls of the game against Northants at New Road.

Leach dismissed Richard Levi, Rob Keogh and Ben Duckett and then there was the unusual sight of 'swan stopped play' as a low flying swan enjoyed six laps of the square!

Also worthy of mention was Joe Clarke's superb 131 not out against Gloucestershire at New Road, and the promise of all-rounder Alex Hepburn with six wickets in two appearances.

Rhodes said: "The Royal London came in the middle of waiting for a quarter-final of the T20 into which we'd put a lot of attention and effort. We played some great stuff and the lads were really looking forward to that quarter-final.

"Added to that, we'd put in a lot of effort up to that stage, and carried on doing so in the four-day stuff so I think the lads were slightly out on their feet.

"We haven't got a great deal of depth in the squad so we did give some opportunities to the young lads who did very well.

"But, no matter how hard we tried in preparation, on match days we probably weren't as switched on as we should have been but not through the lack of wanting to win or desire to win."

WORCESTERSHIRE HUNDREDS IN FIRST CLASS CRICKET 2015

TOM FELL

171 versus Middlesex at New Road
143 versus Middlesex at Uxbridge
114 versus Yorkshire at New Road

DARYL MITCHELL

206 not out versus Hampshire at New Road
142 not out versus Hampshire at the Ageas Bowl

ROSS WHITELEY

103 not out versus New Zealand at New Road (non -first class)
101 versus Yorkshire at Scarborough

TOM KOHLER-CADMORE

130 not out versus Middlesex at New Road

BEN COX

109 versus Somerset at New Road

JOE CLARKE

104 not out versus Sussex at New Road

RICHARD OLIVER

101 versus Sussex at Hove

WORCESTERSHIRE 5-WICKET HAULS IN FIRST CLASS CRICKET 2015

JACK SHANTRY

5-8 versus Oxford MCCU at The Parks
5-18 versus Oxford MCCU at The Parks
5-48 versus Nottinghamshire at Trent Bridge
5-51 versus Hampshire at New Road
5-92 versus Warwickshire at New Road

JOE LEACH

6-73 versus Warwickshire at Edgbaston
5-63 versus Hampshire at the Ageas Bowl

SAEED AJMAL

5-28 versus Hampshire at New Road

SHANNON GABRIEL

5-31 versus Middlesex at New Road

BRETT D'OLIVEIRA

5-48 versus Durham at Emirates ICG

CHARLIE MORRIS

5-71 versus Somerset at New Road

SHAAIQ CHOUDHRY

5-78 versus New Zealand (non- first class)

GARETH ANDREW

5-85 versus Yorkshire at New Road

WORCESTERSHIRE SECONDS REVIEW OF 2015 SEASON

There were many plus points for Worcestershire Seconds during 2015 in terms of success on the pitch and regarding the promotion of players into the first team.

Brett D'Oliveira, Joe Clarke and Ed Barnard all made the step up to senior level after earning their stripes with the Seconds.

In addition, Academy duo Josh Tongue and Ben Twohig showed enough potential when in second team action to earn their first professional contracts with the county.

It was a reward for the philosophy of Second Eleven coach Kevin Sharp and Academy coach Elliot Wilson who have been keen to promote Academy players into the Seconds to enhance their cricketing education.

Clarke made history when he became the first Worcestershire player to score two double hundreds for the Seconds.

His 201 not out off 200 balls on his 19th birthday against Gloucestershire at Cheltenham College in late May followed on from his 222 against MCC Young Cricketers at Kidderminster during 2014.

It led to Clarke's elevation into the first eleven - and he never looked back.

Barnard impressed with bat and ball for the Seconds and became a white ball regular for the Rapids and also played a handful of Championship matches.

D'Oliveira was promoted up the order to open by Coach Kevin Sharp and his form, harnessed to his developing leg spin, earned him the chance to go in alongside skipper Daryl Mitchell for the finale of the season.

Nine Worcestershire batsmen scored a combined total of 18 centuries for the County's Second Eleven during the 2015 campaign.

Alex Hepburn led the way with four centuries and he had a first taste of senior action with two Royal London One-Day Cup appearances.

On the bowling front, there were two five-wicket or more hauls for a trio of players in Chris Russell, Ed Barnard and Ben Twohig.

Tongue returned the best figures of the summer - 6-27 against Hampshire at Kidderminster in the final game of the season.

The Seconds finished third in both the Second Eleven Trophy and T20 competition North Groups.

They picked up three wins - plus a point from a wash-out - in the Trophy to finish behind Derbyshire and Durham who qualified for the knockout stages along with the top two in the South Group.

It was the same scenario in the T20 with Worcestershire again winning half of their games - six out of 12 - plus two further points from two no results.

This time it was Lancashire and Durham who progressed through to the latter stages.

In the Second Eleven Championship, Worcestershire finished eighth in the 10 team table with one win, four draws and four defeats.

The one victory was a notable one, an innings and 40 run success over Yorkshire at Barnt Green in late June.

Sharp said: "This has been my second season in the job and performance-wise, when you look at the tables, the end products, there has been some excellent development from our young players.

"The team just failed to qualify for finals day in the T20 and just fell short of the semi-final stages in the 50 over competition.

"The longer form of the game has been more mixed. I know we finished in the bottom half of the Second Eleven Championship but, in the extra three and four-day matches we've played, we tended to have some good results.

"Overall our young players are developing and performed really well. The future is bright. We have some talented young players here.

"As we can see from our first team cricket, we've probably got a bigger pool of players to pick from who are capable of playing first class cricket.

"That is great because it makes it more competitive. There are probably quite a lot of guys now who could play first team cricket."

WORCESTERSHIRE HUNDREDS IN FIRST CLASS CRICKET 2015

ALEX HEPBURN

119* v Unicorns at Kidderminster - Trophy

113 v Middlesex at New Road - Friendly

112 v Durham at Darlington - Championship

101 v Warwickshire at Olton - Trophy

BRETT D'OLIVEIRA

135 v Gloucestershire at Cheltenham - Friendly

122 v Unicorns at Kidderminster - Trophy

100* v Warwickshire at Kidderminster - T20

ALEXEI KERVEZEE

127 v Durham at Darlington - Championship

102 v Warwickshire at Olton - Trophy

GEORGE RHODES

103* v Loughborough MCCU at Loughborough - Friendly

101 v Nottinghamshire at Trent College - Trophy

TOM KOHLER-CADMORE

153 v Yorkshire at Barnt Green - Championship

104 v Cardiff MCCU at Bromsgrove - Friendly

ROSS WHITELEY

135 v Nottinghamshire at Trent College - Trophy

100* v Middlesex at New Road - Friendly

JOE CLARKE

201* v Gloucestershire at Cheltenham - Friendly

ED BARNARD

133 v Warwickshire at Barnt Green - Friendly

OLLIE WESTBURY

111 v Nottinghamshire at Notts Sports Club - Championship

WORCESTERSHIRE SECONDS 5-WICKET HAULS 2015

CHRIS RUSSELL

6-104 v Northamptonshire at Milton Keynes - Championship

5-52 v Yorkshire at Barnt Green - Championship

ED BARNARD

6-31 v Nottinghamshire at Notts Sports Club - Championship

5-67 v Yorkshire at Barnt Green - Championship

BEN TWOHIG

6-74 v Lancashire at Southport - Championship

5-33 v Somerset at New Road - Friendly

JOSH TONGUE

6-27 v Hampshire at Kidderminster - Friendly

ALEX HEPBURN

5-66 v Leicestershire at Kidderminster - Championship

WORCESTERSHIRE SECONDS DOUBLE HUNDREDS

292* Richard Oliver v Warwickshire, Barnt Green, 2014, friendly

265 Charles Bull v Warwickshire, Edgbaston, 1934 friendly

222 Joe Clarke v MCC YC, Kidderminster, 2014, Championship

221 Kadeer Ali v Somerset, Kidderminster, 2004, Championship

214 Ryan Driver v Essex, Ombersley, 1998, Championship

213 Matt Pardoe v MCC YC, Barnt Green, 2011, friendly

205* Martin Weston v Gloucestershire, New Road, 1984, Championship

201* Joe Clarke v Gloucestershire, Cheltenham College, 2015, friendly

200* Phil Weston v Hampshire, Kidderminster, 1994, Championship

SECOND ELEVEN TROPHY - NORTH GROUP

TEAM	PLAYED	WON	LOST	TIED	NO RESULT	POINTS	RUN RATE
Derby	6	6	0	0	0	12	1.463
Durham	6	5	0	0	1	11	1.273
WORCS	6	3	2	0	1	7	-0.041
Unicorns	6	3	3	0	0	6	0.355
Lancs	6	3	3	0	0	6	-0.348
Leics	6	3	3	0	0	6	-0.437
Northants	6	2	4	0	0	4	-0.261
Notts	6	2	4	0	0	4	0.503
Warks	6	1	5	0	0	2	-0.283
Yorks	6	1	5	0	0	2	-1.095

SECOND ELEVEN T20 - NORTH GROUP

TEAM	PLAYED	WON	LOST	TIED	NO RESULT	POINTS	RUN RATE
Lancs	12	9	2	0	1	19	1.885
Durham	12	8	1	1	2	19	0.982
WORCS	12	6	4	0	2	14	0.097
Notts	12	7	5	0	0	14	-0.415
Derbys	12	4	4	0	4	12	-0.243
Northants	12	5	7	0	0	10	-0.329
Warks	12	5	7	0	0	10	-0.428
Yorks	12	3	6	0	3	9	-0.080
Unicorns	12	2	7	1	2	7	-0.595
Leics	12	3	9	0	0	6	-0.620

COLOURS

490 - Alex Gidman

491 - Sachitra Senanayake

492 - Joe Clarke

493 - Ed Barnard

494 - Shannon Gabriel

NEW CONTRACTS

Ross Whiteley signed a new four year contract up to and including the 2019 season.

Joe Clarke, Ed Barnard, Joe Leach, Jack Shantry, Brett D'Oliveira, Tom Fell and Charlie Morris all signed new three year contracts up to and including the 2018 season.

Tom Kohler-Cadmore signed a new two year contract up to and including the 2017 season.

George Rhodes signed a new contract up to and including the 2016 season.

Josh Tongue and Ben Twohig signed two year contracts - their first professional contracts for the County after graduating from the Academy.

NEW SIGNING

South African paceman Kyle Abbott is Worcestershire's first new signing for the 2016 season. Abbott will join up with the County in late June through until the end of the campaign in late September.

Abbott, a regular member of the Proteas ODI and T20I squads, has previous experience of county cricket with Hampshire in 2014, helping them to promotion from Division Two of the LV= County Championship with 36 wickets in nine matches at 20.33 runs apiece.

He also made 12 appearances that season for Hampshire in the NatWest T20 Blast - a competition he played in last summer for a six match spell with Middlesex.

Experienced Gloucestershire batsman, Alex Gidman was recruited on a two year contract for the 2015 and 2016 seasons. Gidman, a former Gloucestershire captain, scored 1,277 LV = County Championship runs in 2014, the third highest total in Division Two behind James Vince (Hampshire) and our own captain Daryl Mitchell. His tally included an impressive century at New Road and a career best 264 against Leicestershire at Bristol.

TOURIST MATCHES

Worcestershire CCC played host to the New Zealand tourists for a four-day match in mid-May as part of their build-up to the series with England.

At the request of New Zealand, the match surrendered its first class status with the visitors keen to involve all of their squad, several of whom were flying in from spells in the Indian Premier League.

Worcestershire were also allowed by England to field Moeen Ali although he did not participate during the final day. New Zealand were given a testing warm-up and in the end triumphed by 15 runs.

Hamish Rutherford scored 75 of New Zealand's 261-9 declared but Ross Whiteley's superb 103 not out from 176 balls with 18 fours earned Worcestershire a first innings lead of 30 at 291-7 declared.

Martin Guptill hit a splendid 150 as New Zealand reached 275-9 in their second innings when spinner Shaiq Choudhry recorded his first five wicket haul at senior level for the County - 5-78.

Worcestershire were left a 246 target and seemed on course for victory at 191-3 with the help of 55 from Tom Kohler-Cadmore.

But the last seven wickets went down for 39 runs to Mark Craig (4-56) and Matt Henry (3-58).

Worcestershire CCC were proud to host an Ashes match in 2015 with England Women taking on their Australian counterparts in a One-Day International at New Road.

The game should have been staged on July 26 but heavy rain meant the reserve day was required and Australia were convincing winners by 89 runs.

The tourists were put into bat and registered a challenging 241-7 in their 50 overs with Meg Lanning scoring 85 and Ellyse Perry 67.

England never recovered from losing skipper Charlotte Edwards for nought in the opening over and were dismissed for 152 in 43.1 overs despite useful contributions from Lydia Greenway (45), Heather Knight (38) and Katherine Brunt (31).

Brunt had worked for Worcestershire CCC in a coaching capacity for several months during the winter.

August 22 marked the eagerly awaited return to New Road of Worcestershire legend Graeme Hick with the Australian Under-19 side for a Royal London One-Day International against England Under-19s.

Hick is now a high performance coach at the Centre of Excellence in Brisbane with a responsibility for developing and implementing a national batting programme and working with development teams.

The evening before the game he agreed to join a question and answer session at New Road with the club's president, Mervyn King, Lord King of Lothbury, at an event which was part of the County's 150th Anniversary Year Celebrations.

On this visit, Hick's charges were on the losing side 24 hours later as England chased down a challenging 295 target.

Openers Caleb Jewell (106) and Jordan Gauci (93) laid the foundations of Australia's 294-6 in 50 overs after England had put them into bat.

England opener Daniel Lawrence (106) shared in stands of 104 with Adam Hickey (43) and Jack Burnham (53) as England won by four wickets with just two balls to spare to level the series at 2-2.

WORCS CCC 2015 GALA-AWARDS EVENING

Worcestershire CCC staged a joint 150th Anniversary Gala-Awards Evening in a giant marquee erected on the New Road outfield at the beginning of October.

Around 500 players and officials past and present, members, supporters and sponsors attended this memorable evening which was compered by broadcaster Matt Teale.

Joe Leach capped an excellent all round season by winning the Arctic Spas Players' Player of the Year award.

Joe was not chosen for the opening two games of the season but ended as the County's leading wicket-taker in the LV = County Championship - 59 - and nearly 500 runs.

Leach said: "It is nice to get recognition from all the other lads. It is not really something I thought about at the time. It is only after reflecting on it, to see how far I've come, from starting the season, and then to get the recognition from the lads is really gratifying.

"For the guys to have voted for me shows that they respected my performances which was really nice.

"The whole season from a personal point of view could not have gone better. Obviously it tailed away a little at the end but as an overall package it was fantastic.

"It is something you want to achieve as a professional and really pleasing.

"I am a competitor and Mase (bowling Coach Matt Mason) said something along the lines of I would do whatever it takes to succeed - and that is my character."

Leach admits he was determined to make an impact after regaining his place following Gareth Andrew suffering a recurrence of a back problem.

He said: "It stung me a little bit being left out of the side. I respected the decision but I wasn't overly happy and wanted to make sure when I got back in, I took my chance.

"Bumpy (Director of Cricket Steve Rhodes) and I, have got a very open and honest relationship. He knows exactly where I want to be. I'm ambitious but I also want to do well for the club.

"I speak my mind, I suppose. I wouldn't say I'm bullish but I'm very open and honest. I don't like stuff to be festering. We had a conversation about it at the start of the season and I was almost like 'alright then, watch this' when I got back in the side.

"That's kind of my character really."

WORCESTERSHIRE CRICKET SOCIETY CHAMPAGNE MOMENT 2015 - JOE LEACH

The Cricket Society award for their 'champagne moment' of the season went to Joe Leach for his hat-trick with the first three balls of the game against Northamptonshire at New Road in the Royal London One-Day Cup.

Leach dismissed Richard Levi and Rob Keogh - both caught behind - and then had Ben Duckett caught at gully - and after that trio of ducks it was a low flying swan which stopped play!

Vice-captain Leach became the first player in this country - and only the second ever - to take three wickets with the first three balls of a match. The other was ex Worcestershire player Chaminda Vaas.

THE ARCTIC SPAS PLAYERS' PLAYER AWARD - JOE LEACH

The Arctic Spas Players' Player award was won by Joe Leach after an excellent season with bat and ball. Leach took 50 Championship wickets for the first time in a season including a career best 6-73 against Warwickshire at Edgbaston.

He also made useful contributions down the order with the bat including 95 in the innings victory over Somerset at New Road. Leach has also been appointed the County's new vice-captain.

THE BBC HEREFORD-WORCESTER ALMOST LOST FOR WORDS AWARD - TOM FELL

The bottle of champagne for the "lost for words" award went to Tom Fell who scored 1,000 Championship runs in a season for the first time but was involved in a bizarre run out incident with Tom Kohler-Cadmore against Durham at the ICG Emirates.

The two Toms thought a shot from Tom Fell had gone off Paul Collingwood and gone for four and both stopped running.

Unfortunately the ball stopped short of the boundary and Graham Onions threw the ball back to keeper Michael Richardson and then onto Collingwood with Fell out of his ground.

THE FANS FORUM FIELDER OF THE YEAR AWARD - BEN COX

Throughout the season, members of the Fans Forum vote for the best fielding performance by a Worcestershire player on a match to match basis and the Trophy again went to Ben Cox who enjoyed another excellent season behind the stumps and with the bat.

Steve Rhodes described Cox's dismissal of Warwickshire tail-ender Chris Wright at Edgbaston - high away to his right off the bowling of Joe Leach - as "one of the best wicket-keeping catches I've ever seen."

Cox also earned the Champagne Moment award at the county's 2014 awards night for his catch to dismiss Gloucestershire opener Michael Klinger off Mitchell McClenaghan bowling at express pace at Cheltenham.

THE KENYON AWARD - DARYL MITCHELL AND CHARLIE MORRIS

The Kenyon award is presented to the player who has put in the finest first class performance to guide Worcestershire to victory and there was a joint winner in skipper Daryl Mitchell and paceman Charlie Morris.

Mitchell has shown a liking for the Hampshire attack in recent seasons and last summer scored a superb 206 not out in the innings victory at New Road.

Morris bowled two excellent new ball spells of 11 overs apiece in another innings victory over Somerset at New Road and finished with career best match figures of 9-109.

THE EBC GROUP T20 PLAYER OF THE YEAR - ROSS WHITELEY

This award was presented to the player it was felt had made the most significant contribution for the county in the short format of the game in the NatWest T20 Blast and the Glass Trophy went to Ross Whiteley who enjoyed a sensational season for The Rapids.

Whiteley finished as the joint leading six-hitter in the country in the T20 Blast with 29 sixes, a figure only equalled by Chris Gayle and Luke Wright.

He also produced one of the innings of the summer with his 91 off 35 balls against Yorkshire at Headingley including 11 sixes.

YOUNG PLAYER OF THE YEAR AWARD - JOE CLARKE

Joe Clarke was rewarded for his excellent form during the second half of the season with an England Lions call-up and he also lifted Worcestershire's Young Player of the Year Award.

Clarke became the first player to score two double hundreds for Worcestershire Seconds and after his elevation to the first team in late June has demonstrated his potential in red ball and white ball cricket.

Nineteen-year-old Joe scored a superb 131 not out off 109 balls against Gloucestershire in the Royal London One-Day Cup and 101 not out against Sussex in the LV = County Championship.

THE DAMIAN D'OLIVEIRA ACADEMY PLAYER OF THE YEAR AWARD - JOSH DELL

The trophy is awarded to the young player who shows the most positive combination of results, potential and improvement throughout the season.

Many products of the Worcestershire Academy are in the current first team squad with as many as seven or eight playing regularly.

This season many members of the current Academy intake have been bloodied in the Second Eleven with the winner of the Foster Trophy & Book for 2015 being batsman Josh Dell who has been a prolific scorer in development programme cricket.

THE DICK LYGON AWARD - JACK SHANTRY

This award was established to perpetuate the memory of the Hon. Richard Lygon, a great friend of cricket and ambassador for the County.

The award takes the form of a set of silver buttons bearing the Beauchamp Crest, the crest of the Lygon family, which are incorporated onto a specially tailored blazer.

This is always regarded as one of the most prestigious awards, and the winner was Jack Shantry who again typified the never say die spirit evident among the players and staff at New Road.

Shantry once again made a major contribution with the ball, taking 50 plus Championship wickets for the second successive season and ending with 57 in total - just two behind Joe Leach.

LONG SERVICE AWARD - STEVE RHODES AND DAVID LEATHERDALE

Director of Cricket Steve Rhodes and Chief Executive David Leatherdale were honoured by chairman Stephen Taylor for their sterling service to the County with both having celebrated being at New Road for 30 years.

Rhodes and Leatherdale both played for Worcestershire for the best part of two decades, helping the club to enjoy one of their golden periods in the late 1980s and early 1990s.

They then retired within 12 months of each other, with Steve initially working as assistant to Tom Moody before taking up his current role in 2005, and David operating as commercial manager before stepping into the CEO position five years ago after Mark Newton's departure

THE ACADEMY

There were many positive aspects of the Worcestershire Academy on which to reflect during the past 12 months, but the ultimate aim is eventually to produce players with sufficient potential and quality to graduate into the first team squad at New Road.

This happened in the case of all-rounder Josh Tongue and spinner Ben Twohig who signed their first professional contracts with the County - up to the end of the 2017 season.

They followed in the footsteps of the many current first team players who went down the same route in their career paths and showed so much promise last summer despite the County being relegated by a narrow margin from Division One of the County Championship.

Tongue and Twohig reported with the first team squad in early November for fitness work with Strengthening and Conditioning Coach, Ross Dewar.

The duo impressed as part of the 2014-2015 Academy intake and when making the step up into the Second Eleven, and have been rewarded via the two year deals.

Tongue has moved a step nearer to realising his dream of playing for the County which he has harboured since first playing for Worcestershire in Under-10s cricket as a six-year-old.

Academy coach Elliot Wilson is relishing the challenge of trying to ensure the conveyor belt of young talent produced by Worcestershire continues.

Wilson, who completed his first full season in charge in 2015 after the untimely death of our Academy Director Damian D'Oliveira, said: "If you were to get one player through every two years, you'd be doing quite well.

"To get two through in one year (Tongue and Twohig), and to look at ones we've got sitting on the radar behind them, means we might be in a very fortunate position at the moment.

"Now we've got to start working on the next batch."

Wilson is already working closely with the new intake of 2015-2016 Academy players who reported for their winter duties at Malvern College in November.

But his focus is also on developing the age groups below that level so they will be ready to replace the current Academy group when, if all goes to plan, they are ready to progress into the senior squad.

For the past couple of years Elliot has worked alongside Steve Rhodes, Matt Mason, Kevin Sharp, Gavin Haynes and, until his sad death, Damien D'Oliveira in developing a 'pathway' to ensure Worcestershire spot, attract and recruit the best young cricketing talent.

There is a strong link between Wilson and the other coaches with independent schools such as Malvern College, RGS Worcester, Shrewsbury, Bromsgrove and the King's School, Worcester who support and enable players to develop through their scholarship schemes.

The 2015-2016 Academy intake includes two newcomers, all-rounder George Newton and batsman Jack Haynes - younger son of ex Worcestershire all-rounder Gavin Haynes.

It consists of 11 players - eight who initially joined up in 2014-2015 plus paceman Pat Brown, who became part of the Academy in February 2015, and the two newcomers.

Wilson has highlighted the qualities of the two new players and Brown.

PAT BROWN

Wilson: "He joined us half-way through last year, February-March time, impressed everyone in the winter when he came over to us. He had a great level of commitment considering he travels from, Lincolnshire.

"He does a fair bit of commuting but he looks forward to coming over and is a pleasure to be with when he's here. He is an opening bowler, another nasty-fastie, to join the ranks of Josh Tongue and George Scrimshaw and it will be interesting to see how he develops."

GEORGE NEWTON

Wilson: "He has just started at Shrewsbury School with Paul Pridgeon. He is a really exciting cricketer. He does both skills, bowls medium pace and bats, he has opened the batting for Cheshire at Under-17 level for the last year and has done okay.

"He bowls some nice medium pace and reminds Pridge of Ed Barnard Mark Two. If he is anywhere near as good as that, we will be doing alright!

"He is an exciting one and we are going to be able to support him through his work at Shrewsbury School and the family are fully supportive of his commitment to our programme."

JACK HAYNES

Wilson: "This year he will be Under-15s. Very exciting in terms of what he has achieved but we have to keep on reminding ourselves that he is very young. Lots can go on, lots will go on, lots can go wrong as well, and we will see what happens, but at this stage he couldn't have done anymore and he has impressed a lot of people.

"He scored runs for Malvern College first team as a year nine against 17-18 year-olds, he scored runs for our County Under-17s in one and two-day cricket, he scored runs in regional cricket for the Bunburys.

"He scored runs for his own County age-group, Under-15s, and he made his debut for Ombersley in the Birmingham Premier League aged 14 and opened the batting."

The full Academy group is just the top of the Worcestershire CCC pyramid trying to ensure a conveyor belt of talent is constantly produced.

Underneath the full Academy squad is a full Worcestershire development programme in place from Under-10s through to Under-17s.

The next level behind the full Academy group is the elite player group that consists of Ryan Wheldon, Xavier Clarke - younger brother of Joe Clarke - Musharraf Shazad and Ewan Wilcox.

Wilson said: "We are in a situation this year where we've got four or five other guys in our programme who are quite exciting but a bit younger.

"But with the rapid progress they've all made in the last 12 months, and the fact they are coming into their GCSE year at school, we just felt the flexibility of coming in and out of programmes when it worked around their commitments, was going to be better."

The next level is the emerging players programme, then the junior emerging players programme and underneath that is Worcestershire CCC's satellite academy programme.

These are situated in Shropshire and the Black Country and are run so effectively by former Worcestershire paceman Paul Pridgeon, one of very few players to be part of three Championship winning squads at New Road, and Dave Manning respectively.

Wilson said: "We are really pleased not just with the Academy group we have pulled together but the programme as a whole with the introduction of a few tiers of players in terms of our Elite Player Group and Emerging Player Group, our Junior Emerging Player Groups and the Satellite Academies.

"We've got a development programme from Under-10 through to Under-17 and then the cream of that crop are involved in our performance programme which is things like our Junior Emerging Player Programme, our Emerging Player Programme and our Elite Players Programme which leads into the full Academy programme."

The full WCCC Academy intake for 2015-2016 is:

OLIVER WESTBURY

NICK HAMMOND

JOSH DELL

DAN LLOYD

ZEN MALIK

GEORGE SCRIMSHAW

PAT BROWN

JACK CHARTERS

JOSH HAYNES

GEORGE NEWTON

JACK HAYNES

Members of the Worcestershire Academy have enjoyed plenty of recognition at regional and England level during the past 12 months.

During this current winter Dell, Tongue and Twohig have been part of England's Development Programme, forming part of the group of youngsters where the focus will be on the post 2016 Under-19 World Cup period.

They attended three training camps at the National Performance Centre at Loughborough.

Twohig had previous involvement with the EDP and played for the Under-17s against Pakistan in the United Arab Emirates last year.

He was also on stand-by as a reserve for the pre World Cup camp in Sri Lanka.

Wilson said: "It's exciting times and I'm pleased for all three of them. There have been two parts to the EDP programme this year. The full programme is the group of players they are preparing for the Under-19 World Cup in February-March time.

"Then they have also identified a group of 10 players to work underneath this group with an eye on the next 18 months - next summer and the winter and summer after that really.

"The three guys were invited into the EDP group with an eye on the future. It is just another opportunity to work with good coaches with the best Under-16s, Under-17s in the country, one for their own development and also good to see where you are in relation to your peers, all the other good players in your age group."

BUNBURY FESTIVAL

The English School Cricket Association 29th Bunbury Cricket Festival was hosted by Malvern College in July but New Road played its part by staging the festival's T20 competition with teams representing the North, London and the South East, South and South West and the Midlands.

Four members of the Worcestershire CCC development programme were amongst the 56 Under-15 players showcasing their skills - Jack Haynes, Musharraf Shahzad, who is a cousin of Moeen Ali, Ewan Wilcox and Ryan Wheldon who represented the Midlands.

EDP INVITATIONAL XI V AUSTRALIA UNDER-19S

Academy opener Ollie Westbury impressed when playing for the England Development Programme Invitational XI against Australia Under-19s in a two-day fixture at Loughborough National Performance Centre.

Westbury scored 57 off 124 balls in the first innings and 26 from 49 deliveries in the second innings.

It followed on from Westbury's successful season with Shrewsbury School before he joined up with the Worcestershire Second Eleven and this winter he has been in good form in Australia playing grade cricket for Hay Park.

Ben Twohig and Josh Tongue were also chosen to face Australia.

ACADEMY SEXTET PART OF SUPER FOURS SUCCESS

Six of Worcestershire CCC's 2014-2015 Academy players helped the Midlands Under-17s to win the final of the England Development Programme 'Super Fours' competition with a 62 run success over the North Under-17s at the National Performance Centre, Loughborough.

Skipper Ben Twohig, Josh Dell, Nick Hammond, Zen Malik, Josh Haynes and Josh Tongue were all part of the Midlands side which was unbeaten throughout the competition.

Twohig was voted man of the match in the final and received his award from England Development Programme chairman David Graveney.

WISDEN'S CRICKETERS OF THE YEAR 2015

Moeen Ali was named as one of Wisden's five Cricketers of the Year for 2015 and the Worcestershire and England all-rounder was delighted to follow in the footsteps of legends such as Kumar Sangakkara - one of his major batting influences - and Sachin Tendulkar.

The 28-year-old enjoyed a memorable 12 months after making his full international breakthrough in February 2014 during the tour of the West Indies.

Moeen, who was also pictured on the front cover of the 2015 Wisden, became a regular member of the England side in all formats of the game - and has continued to be so.

During his first 12 months as an international player, Moeen scored his maiden Test hundred against Sri Lanka at Headingley, filled the spinning role vacated by Graeme Swann in the series win over India and scored ODI hundreds against Sri Lanka and then, in the World Cup, against Scotland.

Moeen also averaged over 60 with the bat in eight LV = County Championship appearances for Worcestershire and helped them gain promotion to Division One in 2014.

Moeen said after winning the award: "I'm very, very happy. I see it as one of my biggest awards. It's a once in a lifetime award, and with the names I've seen who have won it and to be on the front cover, is huge for me and my family.

"It's been a great year, the best time cricketing-wise of my life. Just to be playing for England for a year, I'm very pleased. To get that award after one season is a great achievement.

"Every year I'd look to see who has won the Wisden honours. It's quite big. I know Richo (Alan Richardson) has got it and Bumpy (Steve Rhodes) and Hicky (Graeme Hick) from Worcestershire.

"Everyone looks and it's something you all want to be, just like you want to play international cricket.

"You want to be number one in the world as well at some stage so hopefully that's still to come but the Wisden Cricketers of the Year is something we all look at.

"I'm so happy. I know Kumar Sangakkara got it last year and he is one of the guys I really look up to in terms of my batting.

"I also know Sachin Tendulkar was on the cover of one before so to be behind those guys, it's a great achievement and my family is very happy."

Moeen added: "I always wanted to play for England. Once I did that, no-one could take away that I was a Test player, a 50 over player, a T20 player, but I want keep going and to keep playing.

"I don't take it for granted. I approach every game like it's my first or my last. I appreciate the position I'm in and try and continue the best I can.

"What are the highlights? It was nice to get my first hundred at Headingley although we didn't quite save the game.

"My six-for (at the Ageas Bowl) and my four-for at Old Trafford against India, I was really pleased about because we won the games and I felt like I contributed to the team.

"Then just being around, opening the batting for my country in a World Cup, is a great achievement even though it wasn't a great World Cup."

Moeen was presented with a special leather bound copy of the cricketing bible at the Wisden dinner in the Long Room at Lord's.

THE BOARD

Former players Tim Curtis and Neal Radford have been elected to the Worcestershire CCC Board to serve for a three year period with their elections to be fully ratified at the Club's AGM in March 2016.

Tim Curtis polled 1348 votes and Neal Radford 923 votes in the 2015 elections, with Richard Coles receiving 621 votes.

Tim was a prolific opening batsman in first class and limited overs cricket during a 14 year career with Worcestershire, captaining the County and chairing the Professional Cricketer's Association.

He is currently Director of Sport at RGS Worcester and is the County's vice-chairman.

Neal twice took 100 first class wickets in a season in 1985 and 1987 and like Tim was a key member of the 'Golden Era' of the late 1980s and early 1990s.

He ended his career with 994 first class wickets, was one of the Wisden Cricketers Of The Year and also PCA Player Of The Year. Neal is now the Managing Director of a private limited business.

HAIL AND FAREWELL

All-rounder Gareth Andrew, opening batsman Richard Oliver and spinner Shaaq Choudhry have parted company with the County and we wish them all the best in their future careers.

South African paceman Kyle Abbott will join the playing staff for the second half of the 2016 season.

WITH THANKS

The club wishes to thank and give appropriate appreciation to

- BBC Hereford and Worcester for providing ball by ball commentary of all matches on the radio and on the internet. It was a service well received and much appreciated by many thousands of Worcestershire CCC supporters in all parts of the world.
- Our television partner BSkyB who continue to underpin the finances of English cricket and provide such extensive and innovative coverage of the game. Matches televised live at New Road gave valuable exposure to our corporate partners.
- King's School for allowing the club to use their playing fields whenever they are available, for car parking on busy days.
- The Worcestershire Supporters' Association for their ongoing and generous support to the club.
- The volunteers of the Ladies Pavilion who continue to provide wonderful tea and cakes on match days at New Road. It is an institution without parallel on the county circuit and should be, and is, treasured.
- The WCCC Heritage Group under the chairmanship of Tim Jones who continue to give their time in ensuring the club's heritage is fully documented and archived.
- Our honorary New Road PA announcers Clive Feith and Ernie Mann who continue to provide an informative and entertaining service on match days.
- The officials of Kidderminster, Bromsgrove and Barnt Green Cricket Clubs and RGS Worcester for hosting Second X1 matches during the 2015 season and providing such good wickets.
- The media who always play such an important part in the life of Worcestershire County Cricket Club. They continue to support the club and provide an excellent service to local supporters. Thanks go to regular New Road journalists - Mike Beddow (ECB match reports and freelance), Chris Oldnall (Cricket Paper and freelance), John Curtis (Worcestershire CCC website and twitter feed), Dave Bradley, Trevor Owens and Graham Hill (BBC Hereford-Worcester), Worcester News, various Sky TV presenters, Dan Pallett (BBC Midlands Today), Steve Lee (freelance broadcaster), Central TV and various national newspaper journalists and websites.
- All the club's stakeholders including members, supporters, sponsors, advertisers, hospitality clients and the media for their support throughout the year.
- The non-executive members of the board who continue to devote many unpaid hours of their time to the club.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Yorkshire on winning Division One of the LV = County Championship, to Surrey and Lancashire for being promoted from Division Two, to Lancashire Lightning for winning the NatWest T20 Blast and to Gloucestershire for winning the Royal London One-Day Cup (50 over competition).

WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY
CRICKET CLUB LIMITED
&
WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY
CRICKET TRADING LIMITED

MERGED ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2015

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WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY CRICKET CLUB LIMITED
& WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY CRICKET TRADING LIMITED

COMMENTARY

The accounts for the year ending 31 December 2015 are a consolidation extracted from the audited accounts of Worcestershire County Cricket Club Limited and Worcestershire County Cricket Trading Limited. Both these entities have accounts which are prepared and audited annually by Bishop Fleming. Signed copies of these audited accounts are held at the club's offices and are available for inspection throughout the year. Copies will also be available at the AGM should anyone wish to see them after the meeting.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

The accounts show a surplus for the 12 months ending 31st December 2015 of £182,412, compared to the surplus in the 15 months ending 31st December 2014 of £58,770. The 15 month period in 2014 was the result of a year end change to the 31st December which was voted for by the members. We have included a 6 year summary of financial results in our report, and it can be seen that we have declared profits in each of the past 6 years. However it must be noted that 2010 and 2011 produced operational profits whereas the years 2012-2015 have suffered from a mix of disruption from a major build program and the need to spend money to promote and market our facilities, but have benefited from a lease to Premier Inns, loan forgiveness in 2013 and 2014 and in 2015 from a successful mis-selling claim against our bank. We have made progress, but our P&L has not as yet achieved the full potential from our stadium, so our focus in 2016 is to improve profit by reviewing our structures and synergies to enable cost savings and to seek additional income.

In the longer term we are aiming for a period of consolidation, we have undertaken an ambitious build program and now have a stadium which provides a platform for future growth. We also have some very exciting opportunities for further development of our business – e.g Phase 3 development, which would not be solely for cricket but would be aimed at achieving the maximum commercial benefit from a new build at New Road, a cricket school as part of the Worcester University plan for a sports centre, and possibly allowing Premier Inn to lease part of our ground for an extension of their very successful hotel.

BALANCE SHEET

The balance sheet as at 31st December 2015 shows a net asset value of £1,509,467, an increase of £182,412 on the previous year. This increase is the surplus in the year which is retained in the business. However, the balance sheet shows that we have stretched our resources to carry out our build programme. We are therefore reviewing our loans with the intention of reducing loan costs and have succeeded in the case of the pavilion loan whereby interest costs are now LIBOR plus a fixed margin of 1.5% until 2029, previously the interest rate was 6.56%. Most of our loans are at very low rates of interest, some are interest free, and we intend to reduce the expensive loans in early 2017 when we will receive a payment from ECB for the purpose of improving our business sustainability. This should allow us to undertake some of the attractive opportunities that are becoming available to us.

WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY CRICKET CLUB INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2015

		2015 £	2014 £
		(15 months)	
Income	Notes		
Subscriptions	2	429082	408371
Match Receipts	3	406954	330617
Fund raising and other income	4	328943	206903
England and Wales Cricket Board		1838689	2360707
Catering surplus/deficit	5	155328	51209
Commercial Department surplus	6	69716	156070
		3228712	3513877
Expenditure			
Administration expenses	7	289743	276206
Cricket expenses	8	1978835	2054781
Match expenses	9	195338	155367
Upkeep of ground and buildings	10	603147	499028
		3067063	2985382
Surplus before Exceptional item/ Interest		161649	528497
exceptional loss- year end change			-169954
Interest and finance costs		20763	-299771
		182412	58770
Surplus before Tax		182412	58770
Deferred Tax Credit		0	0
Surplus after tax		182412	58770

The notes on pages 34 to 39 form part of these accounts.

WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY CRICKET CLUB BALANCE SHEET

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2015

	Notes	2015 £	2014 £
Share Capital		112	153
Reserves	11	1509355	1326902
Shareholders Funds		1509467	1327055
Employment of capital			
Fixed assets	12	7902849	7879581
Investments	13	15390	15390
Current assets			
Stock		18376	26790
Debtors	14	174359	260177
Cash at Bank		38441	26654
		231176	313621
Less current liabilities	15	1886894	1973631
Net current liabilities		-1655718	-1660010
Total assets less current liabilities		6262521	6234961
Loans	16	4753054	4907906
Total net assets		1509467	1327055

Approved by authority of the Board on 16 February 2016



David Leatherdale
Chief Executive



P A E Jewell
Audit Chairman

WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY CRICKET CLUB NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

Period to 31st December 2015

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The following accounting policies have been used consistently in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to the Club's accounts:

ACCOUNTING CONVENTION

The accounts are prepared under the historical cost convention, as modified by the revaluation of land and buildings. These unaudited merged accounts are an informal consolidation prepared from audited statutory accounts of Worcestershire County Cricket Club Limited and Worcestershire County Cricket Trading Limited.

DEPRECIATION

Depreciation is provided on all fixed assets on a straight line basis, at rates calculated to write off the cost or value of each asset over its expected useful life.

STOCK

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

LEASES AND HIRE PURCHASE CONTRACTS

Tangible fixed assets acquired under finance leases and hire purchase contracts are capitalised at the estimated fair value at the date of inception of each lease or contract. The total finance charges are allocated over the period of the lease in such a way as to give a reasonably consistent charge on the outstanding liability. Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the income and expenditure account as incurred.

PENSION

The Club contributes towards personal pension schemes for players and staff administered by the England and Wales Cricket Board. The pension costs are charged to the Income and Expenditure Account as they are incurred.

DEFERRED TAX

Deferred Tax is provided in full in respect of taxation deferred by timing differences between the treatment of certain items for taxation and accounting purposes.

NOTES THE THE ACCOUNTS

	2015	2014
		£
		15 months
2 Subscriptions		
General	406480	367423
Members' car park tickets	22602	40948
		0
	429082	408371
3 Match Receipts		
LVCC County Championship	82461	68730
Royal London 1 Day Cup	34212	32205
Twenty/20 matches	217301	139187
Twenty/20 insurance claim/tourist insurance claim	45000	70000
Tourist Match	27980	7834
prize money		12661
	406954	330617
4 Fund raising and other income		
match day parking	6903	5908
other income/ loan waivers /ecb non cricket	280198	6014
Donations/ Legacies/Development income	41842	194981
	328943	206903
5 Catering surplus		
Sales	1116791	948509
Cost of sales	-417745	-381142
Gross profit	699046	567367
Less direct expenses		
Wages	464251	461326
Other overheads	79467	54832
Total overheads	543718	516158
Surplus/Deficit for year	155328	51209

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

	2015	2014 15 months £
6 Commercial Department surplus		
Commercial income:		
Sponsorship and advertising etc less direct expenses	561063	408930
Salaries	151748	130267
Other expenses	339599	122593
Commercial costs	491347	252860
Surplus for year	69716	156070
7 Administrative expenses		
Gross Salaries and expenses	268716	248188
Salary recharges	-75000	-85465
Audit	15000	15400
Accountancy/ professional fees	29421	20590
postage	0	14891
general expenses	51606	62602
	289743	276206
8 Cricket expenses		
Players' / coaches'/physios' salaries, insurance, meals, healthcare and expenses	1909299	1990568
Players' pension scheme	69536	64213
	1978835	2054781
9 Match expenses		
Second X1 umpires	600	1105
Gatemen's and scoring costs	125878	92246
Sundries	68860	62016
	195338	155367
10 Upkeep of ground and buildings		
Ground staff wages	127983	129246
Upkeep of mowers and rollers	16375	12521
Ground&building upkeep	420364	225789
Insurances	30488	29650
Heat and light	79161	61312
Rent and rates	45265	37639
flood cost	2944	62336
pay and display parking	-119433	-59465
	603147	499028

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

	Capital Redemption Reserve £	Revaluation Reserve £	General Fund £	Total £
At 31 December 2014	242	66516	1260144	1326902
Surplus/Deficit for year			182412	182412
Revaluation in year				
Depreciation written back				
Other movement	41			41
At 31 December 2015	283	66516	1442556	1509355

Tangible fixed Assets

	Land & buildings £	Equipment £	Leasehold Property £	Total £
Cost or valuation				
At 31 December 2014	7879581	636416	0	8515997
Additions	23268			23268
disposals				0
Revaluation				0
At 31 December 2015	7902849	636416	0	8539265
Depreciation				
At 31 December 2014	0	636416		636416
Charge for year	0	0		0
Disposals				0
Revaluation				0
At 31 December 2015	0	636416	0	636416
Net book value				
At 31 December 2015	7902849	0	0	7902849
At 31 December 2014	7879581	0	0	7879581

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

	Investments 2015 £	Investments 2014 £
Cost or valuation		
At 31 December 2014	15390	15390
Disposals	0	0
At 31 December 2015	15390	15390
Other investments consist of a partial set of Wisdens.		
Debtors	£	£
Trade debtors	27066	145083
England and Wales Cricket Board	48493	54411
Prepayments and accrued income	52046	13929
Deferred Tax Asset	46754	46754
	174359	260177
Current liabilities		
bank loans and overdrafts	353609	454208
trade creditors	409337	453540
taxation and social security	235726	347354
loans	454000	342766
Accruals and deferred income	434222	375763
	1886894	1973631
Other loans	4753054	4907906
	4753054	4907906
Instalments due		
1- 2 years	1335623	786384
2 to 5 years	1287851	1667934
Over 5 years	2129580	2453588
	4753054	4907906

SIX YEAR SUMMARY

	2015	2014 (15 months)	2013	2012	2011	2010
Income						£
Subscriptions	429082	408371	373159	387901	382536	367626
Match Receipts	406954	330617	316255	207018	286700	208763
Fund Raising and other income	328943	206903	154341	62722	119238	234570
ECB distributions	1838689	2360707	1879422	1769278	1739286	1881996
Catering surplus/deficit	155328	51209	-9594	21021	118336	64251
Commercial department surplus	69716	156070	113267	174370	247240	151038
Total Income	3228712	3513877	2826850	2622310	2893336	2908244
Expenditure						
Administrative expenses	289743	276204	237892	251974	286873	301953
Cricket Expenses	1978835	2054781	1726578	1836288	1732053	1757598
Match Expenses	195338	155367	137302	99537	105590	110409
Upkeep of ground & buildings	603147	499028	466907	374678	377627	460478
Total Expenditure	3067063	2985380	2568679	2562477	2502143	2630438
Surplus pre-exceptional item/ interest/finance	161649	528497	258171	59833	391193	277806
exceptional loss/profit	0	-169954		350000		
interest/finance costs	20763	-299771	-198422	-184824	-179300	-188825
PreTax Surplus	182412	58772	59749	225009	211893	88981
Deferred Tax Credit	0	0	-12375	2303	-25237	14646
Surplus after Tax	182412	58772	47374	227312	186656	103627
Balance sheets						
Shareholders Funds	1509467	1327055	1268283	1880937	1653625	1466969
Fixed assets	7902849	7879581	7660000	5057010	5198915	5167349
Investments	15390	15390	15390	15390	15390	15390
	7918239	7894971	7675390	5072400	5214305	5182739
Current assets	231176	313621	741115	1186211	961394	934640
Current liabilities	1886894	1973631	2225061	1688597	1795755	2159319
Net current liabilities	-655718	-1660010	-1483946	-502386	-834361	-1224679
Loans	4753054	4907906	4923161	2689077	2726319	2491091
Total net assets	1509467	1327055	1268283	1880937	1653625	1466969



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