



WORCESTERSHIRE
COUNTY CRICKET CLUB

2017 ANNUAL REPORT





Dear Member

The Annual General Meeting of the Club will be held on Wednesday 21st March 2018 at 7.00 p.m. in **THE GRAEME HICK PAVILION** at the County Ground. Free car parking is available on the ground.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2018

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence.
2. To confirm the Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 22nd March 2017
3. To receive the result of the ballot on the proposed rules changes and if approved in accordance with present Rule 25.1 to apply the revised Rules with immediate effect once they have been notified to the regulatory authority.
4. President's Address.
5. To receive and approve the Annual Report on behalf of the Board and the Statement of Accounts that accompany this notice
 - a) Chairman's Remarks
 - b) Cricket Report – Vice Chairman
 - c) Finance Report – Head of Audit
6. To elect a President for the forthcoming year. The Board recommends the re-election of Mr Norman Gifford MBE. and to elect Mr Andrew Manning Cox as an additional board member in accordance with present rule 18.5
7. To seek the approval of the Meeting for the re-appointment of Mr Stephen Taylor and Mr Fanos Hira as Non – Executive Additional Directors for 2018/19.
8. To confirm Mr Paul Pridgeon as an 'Elected' Director in accordance with present Rule 18.11 (The Chairman will make a further statement regarding election/appointment to the Board in due course.)
9. To propose a vote of thanks to the Club's Honorary Medical Officer – Mr Andrew Pearce.
10. To welcome Matt Rawnsley to the Club as our new CEO.
11. To receive any other business that the Chairman of the Meeting shall give permission to be raised and discussed (in accordance with present rule 22.7)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2017/18

(Subject to confirmation at the AGM)

Chairman: Stephen Taylor

Vice Chairman: Tim Curtis

Executive Directors:

Tom Scott (Chief Executive) retired 31/12/17

Matthew Rawnsley (Chief Executive)

Jon Graham (Managing Director)

Elected Non-Executive Directors:

Paul Pridgeon, Meriel Harris, Tim Jones, Richard Coles

Neal Radford (**resigned 25/01/17**)

Additional Non-Executive Directors:

Stephen Taylor, Fanos Hira

Co-opted Board Member:

Andrew Manning Cox

Club Auditors

Bishop Fleming

NOTES

1. **ADMISSION TO AGM.** Members of the Club whose subscriptions for 2018 have been paid (and also Members whose subscriptions for 2017 have been paid) will be admitted and Members may be asked to produce their 2018 or 2017 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 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 and the Tom Graveney Lounge bar will be open.

ATTENDANCES OF DIRECTORS AT BOARD MEETINGS BETWEEN OCTOBER 2016 AND SEPTEMBER 2017

	POSSIBLE	ACTUAL
S Taylor (Chairman)	9	8
T Curtis (Vice Chairman)	9	9
Lord King of Lothbury (President)	5	0
Ms M Harris	9	9
N Radford	9	8
P Pridgeon	9	8
T Jones	9	3
F Hira	9	9
T Scott (Chief Executive)	9	8
J Graham (Managing Director)	9	8
S J Rhodes (Director of Cricket)	9	8
R Coles	8	6
A Manning-Cox	5	5
Norman Gifford (President)	4	4

OFFICERS OF WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY CRICKET CLUB 2017/18

President:

Norman Gifford MBE

Patrons:

Viscount Cobham

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

Chairman:

Stephen Taylor

Vice Chairman:

Tim Curtis

Chief Executive:

Tom Scott to 31/12/17

Matthew Rawnsley from 1/3/18

Director of Cricket:

Steven Rhodes to 14/12/17

Captain:

Joe Leach

Honorary Life Vice Presidents:

Roy Booth, John Chadd, John Elliott, David Exall, Duncan Fearnley, Mike Gilhooly, Jack Randall, Peter Seward FCA, Doug Slade, Peter Radburn, Dave Broughall, Martyn Price

Honorary Life Members:

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

ANNUAL REPORT – 2017 SEASON

Chairman Introduction

A warm welcome this evening to all our members at the beginning of what feels like an exciting and productive era in the club's proud history both on and off the field.

The squad can look forward to Division One in the County Championship and the business side of the club continues to build solid foundations for future growth. From a commercial point of view, to top the North Group and get to the semi-finals of the Royal London One-Day Cup, and secure a home tie, was phenomenal, and delivered significant and welcome income.

On the playing side, if you had said at the start of the year we would be Division Two champions and home semi-finalists in the 50 over competition, we would have snapped your hand off.

It was a fantastic effort with the team showing their quality for the first two months of the season and showing their character in recovering from a disappointing T20 campaign to seal promotion.

The signing of Ravichandran Ashwin was massive for the club. It was not just what he did on the pitch and in the dressing room, but also, what a statement to make to all of the other counties, both Division 1 and Division 2, that Worcestershire have the capability to sign a world class player like Ravi.

Joe Leach had a lot of responsibility on his shoulders in his first full season as captain, for a guy who is still a young cricketer, and he responded superbly, both as player and leader.

As we look to this summer, we have got a maturing and exciting team and I'd use Essex's achievements last summer as an example of what can happen rather than our 'yo-yoing' of the past.

It's a new era on the coaching side with Kevin Sharp and Alan Richardson at the helm. The success of the previous regime is in the history books and there have been some really good times during the past decade.

However, cricket has changed and is changing massively. The new coaching team will bring different ideas, a fresh approach and they, as much as us, will be looking for some more tangible signs of success.

One thing is for sure, the players, coaches, support staff, admin and commercial teams cannot wait for the new season to start and to build towards more successes.

Off the field, 2017 was the first time we could genuinely say 'we are a 365 days a year business' with the opening of Foley's last April to the general public. If you have not tried the Foley's signature breakfast yet put it on your to do list this summer. You won't be disappointed!

Revenues have grown steadily over the year and costs continue to be under close scrutiny. The last quarter of 2017 saw year on year turnover increase significantly thanks to an incredibly talented sales team, a committed catering staff and a new front of house approach that is receiving unprecedented positive feedback from our clients.

We are by no means where we want, or indeed need, to be, but we now have more structure and a clearer understanding of customer expectations and more importantly the standards of service delivery required.

There are some important projects that will be delivered in 2018, the first of which will be a new Marquee that will provide an opportunity to open new income streams for the majority of each calendar year. The second is a new Club Shop that will look fantastic and is something the members have wanted for many years. Both of these projects are the product of a flourishing partnership with the Supporters' Association. We are hugely appreciative of and grateful for their ongoing support.

We ran multiple Outdoor Events in 2017 and we learnt lessons, good and bad, from each one. We look forward to hosting PopFest on Saturday 30th June which will be our fifth concert since September 2016.

We thank Tom Scott for his significant achievements over the last two years at WCCC. We wish Steve Rhodes well and thank him for his considerable achievements at the club.

And now looking to the future, it's a warm welcome to our new CEO Matt Rawnsley. Many will know him as an ex player here, but he also has a fantastic business record and we look forward to the club benefiting from these combined talents in years to come.

FIRST TEAM REPORT

SPECSAVERS COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

Worcestershire can look forward to another season of Specsavers County Championship Division One cricket in 2018 after a superbly timed run saw them overhaul Nottinghamshire - the leaders for the majority of last summer - to be crowned Division Two champions.

The County won their last four matches - including a vital victory at Trent Bridge - to seal a fifth promotion during the last 12 years and also finish top of the second tier for the first time since 2003.

The example of Essex, who went up 12 months ago as Division Two champions and immediately lifted the Division One crown, has not gone unnoticed at Blackfinch New Road.

New Head Coach Kevin Sharp said: "We have got back in the top division, the lads are so up for that, and we want to consolidate.

"The key would be to stay in that division - and stay there for a long time. That is what we want to do.

"I know Worcestershire have done really well and at times the club has really punched above its weight.

"It has fluctuated a bit between the two divisions but a lot of clubs don't do that. They stay in the second division.

"These lads here, they are maturing as a group. They have been together a long time, a lot of these lads, and they are ready.

"I honestly think we will be able to achieve that (consolidate). I really do.

"Then we continue to strengthen, the group gets stronger, and who knows what the future holds."

Crucially Worcestershire have grown accustomed to the winning habit in four-day cricket and they can take that momentum into 2018.

The County won nine of last summer's 14 Championship games - a programme reduced by two games in a 10 team Division Two - and 15 from the last 25.

They equalled a 53 year old club record in winning the first four Championship games - the first time it had been achieved since the title-winning season of 1964.

It signified a successful start for Joe Leach to his first term as captain as he led a team containing nine and sometimes ten Academy products.

The accent has been firmly placed on home grown talent since the 'great' flood of 2007 and after the exodus of half a dozen senior players two years later with many of them signing new long term contracts during the past 12 months.

But overseas players can also have a crucial part to play and none more so than Indian all-rounder Ravichandran Ashwin at the climax of last season.

The County suffered a mid-season downturn in fortunes and confidence after a disappointing T20 Blast campaign.

But Ashwin helped to reignite that self-belief and confidence in the dressing room and on the pitch with the result that

Worcestershire came up on the rails and overhauled Nottinghamshire in the final furlong with a quartet of victories.

He said: "I have loved it here. I've been in many dressing rooms and that is a dressing room I will cherish forever.

"It is a great set of young guys, they play for each other, there is great harmony in the dressing room, they play for a lot of pride.

"They give it all on the pitch, enjoy the day, and once the day is done, they have a good time. This is a club I will always cherish."

On the batting front, opener Daryl Mitchell had a season to remember after the end of his six year term as captain.

He amassed seven centuries - the most in a Championship season by a Worcestershire player since Tom Moody in 1996 - and rated the match-winning hundred at Trent Bridge as the best of his distinguished career.

Mitchell - the County's Players' Player Of The Year - scored 1,266 runs at an average of 55.04 and Sussex's Luke Wells was the only player to score more runs in Division Two.

He became the 25th player to complete 10,000 first class runs for the County during the game with Derbyshire at the 3aaa County Ground in May and also our highest run-getter in T20 cricket.

Mitchell's opening colleague, Brett D'Oliveira, and Joe Clarke were the other main contributors amongst the top order with the latter scoring two centuries in a game for the first time against Kent.

But on many occasions there were crucial contributions from the middle-lower order, most notably from Ed Barnard - the Supporters' Association Player Of The Year - and wicket-keeper Ben Cox.

Cox again also kept superbly and during the game with Derbyshire at the 3aaa County Ground became the eighth Worcestershire wicket-keeper to take 200 first class catches.

If ever the phrase 'leading from the front' was invented for anyone than it has to be Leach after his superb efforts with the ball in the Championship success.

He has now taken 193 Championship wickets during the past three years after a season's best haul of 69 in 2017 despite the reduction in games.

Leach defied an ankle injury and a side strain during the latter part of the season and finished as the leading wicket-taker in Division Two.

He also featured in the top 10 of the Professional Cricketers' Association's Most Valuable Player lists for the County Championship for the third year in a row.

It was a truly herculean effort and many Blackfinch New Road members and supporters were once again left scratching their heads as to why Leach has earned no international recognition.

But this was no one-man effort and there was excellent support for Leach from Josh Tongue and Barnard who both collected 47 wickets.

They, like Leach, also played in all 14 games - a feat achieved by seven players which is testament to the excellent work of Strength And Conditioning Coach, Ross Dewar, and Head Of Science And Medicine, Ben Davies.

Tongue's back problems became a thing of the past as he confirmed the promise already recognised inside New Road but recognised higher up the scale with his England Lions call-up for the winter programme.

Barnard struck a rhythm with the ball during the second half of the season which he seldom relinquished.

An attack of Leach, the returning Steve Magoffin, Tongue and Barnard suggests the County having sufficient fire-power to take Division One scalps on a consistent basis.

Leach: "When you look at the whole package, it has been brilliant really. We sat down 12 months ago and talked about what we wanted to achieve from the season – and to achieve it, is very gratifying.

"To get back in Division One is massive for the club and to do it as champions probably sends a message.

"It highlights our credentials in a division with the likes of Nottinghamshire and Sussex in particular who on paper are the two biggest names.

"If I had to pick a highlight, the win over Nottinghamshire at Trent Bridge is probably the first time I've felt since I played that when we really needed to win a game, we did."

Another highlight was the chasing down of a 399 target against Kent at New Road - the third highest most successful run chase in the County's history.

DIVISION TWO - FINAL TABLE

TEAM	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	No Result	Points
Worcestershire	14	9	3	2	0	238
Nottinghamshire	14	7	2	5	0	222
Northamptonshire	14	9	3	2	0	217
Sussex	14	7	5	2	0	196
Kent	14	4	2	7	1	175
Gloucestershire	14	3	4	7	0	147
Glamorgan	14	3	7	4	0	133
Derbyshire	14	3	7	3	1	127
Durham	14	3	6	5	0	98*
Leicestershire	14	0	9	5	0	75**

*Durham deducted 48 points and **Leicestershire deducted 16 points

CC2 Final Averages - Batting						
	Matches	Inns	Not Out	Run	Highest	Average
Mitchell	14	26	3	1266	161	55.04
Kohler-Cadmore	4	5	0	242	102	48.4
Clarke	14	26	5	920	142	43.8
Ashwin	4	6	1	214	82	42.8
Moeen	3	5	0	208	63	41.6
Barnard	14	20	4	580	75	36.25
D'Oliveira	14	25	0	891	150	35.64
Cox	14	21	1	675	124	33.75
Rhodes	8	15	2	379	52	29.15
Shantry	6	8	4	94	30*	23.5
Whiteley	5	9	1	170	53	21.25
Leach	14	19	2	347	57*	20.41
Hastings	6	8	1	139	51	19.85
Fell	13	23	1	323	47	14.68
Tongue	14	18	3	138	41	9.2
Lyon	4	5	3	15	6*	7.5
Brown	4	5	3	12	5*	6

CC2 Final Averages - Bowling								
	Matches	Inns	Overs	Mdns	Runs	Wkts	Best	Avg
Leach	14	25	397.5	73	1338	69	5-32	19.39
Barnard	14	26	321.3	48	1187	47	4-23	25.25
Tongue	14	24	333.4	46	1212	47	6-97	25.78
Shantry	6	9	100.3	19	310	11	3-54	28.18
Ashwin	4	7	184.2	29	583	20	5-68	29.15
Brown	4	7	42.4	4	199	6	3-70	33.16
Hastings	6	10	161.1	41	550	16	3-44	34.37
Mitchell	14	4	7.4	0	37	1	1-16	37
Moeen	3	3	41	4	166	3	2-104	55.33
Lyon	4	6	131.4	21	403	6	3-94	67.16
Rhodes	8	7	38	7	202	3	1-12	67.33
Whiteley	5	1	2	0	20	0	-	-
D'Oliveira	14	9	60	0	271	0	-	-

Championship Statistics - Batting

Ravichandran Ashwin

82 v Durham at New Road

Ed Barnard

59 v Glamorgan at Cardiff

60 v Glamorgan at New Road

65 v Sussex at New Road*

55 v Nottinghamshire at Trent Bridge

75 v Durham at New Road

Ben Cox

93 v Glamorgan at New Road

124 v Gloucestershire at Cheltenham

61 v Gloucestershire at New Road

77 v Leicestershire at New Road

Moeen Ali

50 v Northamptonshire at New Road

63 v Kent at New Road

58 v Durham at Durham

Joe Clarke

142 v Kent at New Road

110 v Kent at New Road*

93 v Gloucestershire at Cheltenham*

77 v Sussex at New Road

65 v Durham at New Road

Brett D'Oliveira

150 v Derbyshire at Derby

80 v Sussex at Hove

122 v Durham at Durham

93 v Gloucestershire at New Road

55 v Gloucestershire at New Road

138 v Leicestershire at New Road

John Hastings

51 v Glamorgan at Cardiff

Tom Kohler-Cadmore

102 v Glamorgan at Cardiff

76 v Northamptonshire at Northampton

Joe Leach

50 v Northamptonshire at Northampton

57 v Kent at New Road*

Daryl Mitchell

120 v Derbyshire at Derby

161 v Northamptonshire at Northampton

54 v Sussex at Hove

142 v Kent at New Road

130 v Gloucestershire at New Road

139 v Nottinghamshire at Trent Bridge*

58 v Leicestershire at New Road

123 v Durham at New Road*

George Rhodes

52 v Gloucestershire at Cheltenham

51 v Durham at New Road*

Ross Whiteley

53 v Sussex at Hove

Championship Statistics - Bowling

Ravichandran Ashwin

5-68 v Gloucestershire at New Road

5-95 v Durham at New Road

Joe Leach

5-60 v Northamptonshire at New Road

5-62 v Northamptonshire at New Road

5-32 v Derbyshire at Derby

5-69 v Nottinghamshire at Trent Bridge

Josh Tongue

5-45 v Glamorgan at Cardiff

6-97 v Glamorgan at New Road

ROYAL LONDON ONE-DAY CUP

Worcestershire enjoyed a Royal London One-Day Cup campaign to cherish after securing a home semi-final for the first time since the 50 over tournament was rebranded.

The Rapids played an exciting brand of cricket in topping a formidable North Group as they built on the previous summer's improvement in the competition when reaching the quarter-finals.

Worcestershire won six of their eight group matches to avoid any play-offs and ensure the 'house full' signs were on display for the semi-final against Surrey at Blackfinch New Road.

Although Surrey proved too strong on the day, the overall campaign gave further evidence of the strides forward that have been taken by the County in not just red ball but also white ball cricket.

Worcestershire's total of 361-8 against Leicestershire at the Fischer County Ground was their highest against first class opposition in 50 over cricket, beating the 320-8 versus Hampshire at the Rose Bowl in 2009.

Skipper Joe Leach said: "It was brilliant effort - and a bit of a shame the way structure was in the competition.

"We kind of went into that semi-final (against Surrey) a little bit cold because we hadn't played in the competition for three or four weeks.

"It was a fabulous day here (the semi-final) and it is hard not to be a bit disappointed by the performance we put in there.

"But if you had offered us to finish top of the group and secure a home semi-final, then I'm sure everyone at the club would be satisfied with that.

"But it is a shame that we didn't get to Lord's"

It was very much a team effort with six players scoring between 200 and 300 runs and the bowlers also sharing the wickets.

There was a memorable innings from Tom Kohler-Cadmore of 118 against Yorkshire whilst Brett D'Oliveira's economy rate of just 4.84 runs an over in an era of increasingly high scores and big hitting was first class.

ROYAL LONDON ONE-DAY CUP FINAL TABLE

NORTH GROUP							
TEAM	Played	Won	Lost	Tied	N/R	Points	
Worcestershire	8	6	1	1	0	13	
Yorkshire	8	4	3	0	1	12	
Nottinghamshire	8	4	3	0	1	9	
Lancashire	8	4	4	0	0	8	
Durham	8	4	3	0	1	7*	
Leicestershire	8	3	4	0	1	6	
Derbyshire	8	2	5	0	1	5	
Northamptonshire	8	1	4	1	2	5	
Warwickshire	8	2	6	0	0	4	

*Durham deducted 2 points

Final Averages - Batting						
	Matches	Inns	Not Out	Run	Highest	Average
Barnard	7	7	4	112	42*	37.33
Kohler-Cadmore	8	8	0	290	118	36.25
Mitchell	7	7	0	250	75	35.71
Whiteley	9	9	3	210	55	35
Moeen	6	6	0	186	90	31
Cox	9	9	0	277	82	30.77
Clarke	8	8	0	245	56	30.62
D'Oliveira	9	9	1	22	73*	27.75
Hastings	8	7	2	133	36	26.6
Leach	9	8	2	102	41	17
Fell	6	5	0	83	39	16.6
Tongue	4	3	2	12	11*	12
Shantry	6	1	1	12	12*	-
Lyon	1	-	-	-	-	-

Final Averages - Bowling								
	Matches	Inns	Overs	Mdns	Runs	Wkts	Best	Avge
Mitchell	7	5	36	0	201	8	3-38	25.12
Lyon	1	1	5	0	31	1	1-31	31
Tongue	4	4	23.3	0	162	4	2-46	40.5
Leach	9	9	74	2	497	12	4-66	41.41
Hastings	8	8	73.2	3	473	11	3-50	43
D'Oliveira	9	8	63	0	305	7	2-34	43.57
Barnard	9	9	49	0	314	7	3-37	44.85

Shantry	6	6	49	2	271	6	3-64	45.16
Moeen	6	6	56	0	313	5	2-49	62.6

NATWEST T20 BLAST

The only significant disappointment for Worcestershire in 2017 was their NatWest T20 Blast campaign in which they won only three of their North Group matches.

The County were always on the back foot after four successive home games at the beginning of the competition failed to produce a victory.

There was the consolation of winning away to the two eventual finalists in Birmingham Bears and Nott's Outlaws - a brief example of what the Rapids were capable of when firing on all cylinders.

Worcestershire struggled for runs and the bowlers lacked control and discipline with the exception of spinners Mitchell Santner and Brett D'Oliveira.

Leach said: "I don't really want to be as blasé as to say 'it can happen to anyone.' I think we've got a lot of improving to do in that particular format.

"If you look at the last two years, we've lost too many games for a side that on paper should be quite strong in T20 and you would say should be one of our stronger suits, on paper anyway.

"It was a horror campaign and the exact opposite of the other two and it was a tough four or five weeks for the group and we need to improve. We know that.

There were two superb individual performances that will remain in the memory for many Worcestershire supporters.

Joe Clarke was promoted to open in the short format of the game and ended as Worcestershire's leading six hitter - 19 - and top run-scorer.

The highlight undoubtedly was a magnificent unbeaten 124 off just 53 balls with eight sixes in the home encounter against Durham Jets.

The other achievement to remember came from Ross Whiteley who created history by becoming the FIRST Englishman to hit six sixes in an over.

Whiteley launched his brutal assault on Yorkshire spinner Karl Carver in a NatWest T20 Blast match at Headingley.

He became only the fifth player of all time to achieve the feat and received a 'welcome to the club' message from another of them in former South African star Herschelle Gibbs.

NATWEST T20 BLAST

NORTH GROUP						
TEAM	Played	Won	Lost	Tied	No Result	Points
Nottinghamshire	14	8	4	0	2	18
Derbyshire	14	8	5	0	1	17
Warwickshire	14	8	5	0	1	17
Leicestershire	14	8	5	0	1	17
Yorkshire	14	6	5	1	2	15
Northamptonshire	14	6	5	0	3	15

Lancashire	14	5	6	1	2	13
Worcestershire	14	3	10	0	1	7
Durham	14	3	10	0	1	3*

*Durham Deducted 2 points

Final Averages - Batting						
	Matches	Inns	Not Out	Run	Highest	Average
Clarke	13	13	1	381	124*	31.75
Mitchell	12	11	3	208	36*	26
Hastings	9	9	2	179	51	25.57
Cox	13	13	1	297	51	24.75
Whiteley	13	13	1	276	65	23
Barnard	12	10	4	122	34*	20.33
Santer	13	12	0	239	38	19.91
Rhodes	6	4	2	27	17*	13.5
Hepburn	5	3	1	25	10	12.5
Leach	13	9	1	47	24	5.87
Brown	6	2	0	0	0	-
Shantry	6	2	2	11	9*	-
Tongue	5	2	2	3	2*	-
Scrimshaw	4	1	1	1	1*	-

Final Averages - Bowling								
	Matches	Inns	Overs	Mdns	Runs	Wkts	Best	Avg
Hepburn	5	5	12.3	0	108	6	5-24	18
D'Oliveira	13	11	34	0	232	11	2-19	21.09
Santer	13	13	51	0	339	13	3-16	26.07
Scrimshaw	4	4	10	0	90	3	1-20	30
Tongue	5	5	14	0	122	3	2-32	40.66
Hastings	9	9	31.5	0	228	5	1-10	45.6
Mitchell	12	11	30	0	228	5	1-10	45.6
Leach	13	13	28.3	0	324	6	2-33	54
Shantry	6	6	16.3	0	173	2	1-29	86.5
Barnard	12	6	7.1	0	99	1	1-38	99
Brown	6	5	12	0	127	1	1-22	127
Rhodes	6	3	3	0	34	-	-	-

SECOND ELEVEN

Worcestershire Seconds enjoyed a successful season and also saw more players promoted to the senior squad as the season progressed

Josh Tongue's elevation to the senior side - and a return of 47 wickets in the Specsavers County Championship - is well documented.

But fellow pace duo Pat Brown and George Scrimshaw also had their first taste of first team cricket with the former playing the final four Championship matches and sharing in the euphoria of the Division Two title success.

Scrimshaw, part of the ECB Pace Programme this winter, made his breakthrough in the T20 Blast.

George Rhodes also established himself in the County Championship side during the second half of the season.

On the pitch the Seconds performed with great credit under the then Coach Kevin Sharp in finishing third in the Second Eleven Championship.

They came within a whisker of qualifying for the semi-finals in the 50 over competition - after losing the deciding game against Lancashire at Neston by one wicket - as well as improving their record in T20 in which Ben Twohig was given the captaincy role.

Sharp said: "The white ball stuff definitely improved and developed. We were unfortunate not to reach the semi-final of the 50 over competition after some excellent performances.

"The T20 was not as good yet we still managed to win some games which we didn't really do the previous season.

"You saw some of the younger lads who have played for a year or two developing in that and learning the skills required to play in that format of the game.

"There definitely was some development, in red ball cricket, certainly the Second Eleven Championship, finishing third, was a good performance and there were good performances in that all-round from a number of players."

"We were not as strong in the friendly games. We didn't do as well in those. I don't think there was any particular reason for that. It was just the way it worked out really.

"You don't approach these games any differently to a Championship match. They are all competitive games."

Worcestershire may have come even closer to Championship title glory but for a complete wash-out against Durham at Burnopfield - something champions Yorkshire and runners-up Warwickshire did not encounter all season.

Sharp said: "The key thing in second eleven cricket is to prepare guys to play first team cricket and have guys who are ready to play first team cricket. That is the key."

Sharp was always willing to gamble on winning or losing in red ball cricket by trying to set up a competitive game on the final day.

He said: "The performances are very important but it is also important to make sure you play competitively in second team cricket.

"Sometimes in three day games, you might set things up if it is not taking its natural course and you have to be prepared to lose to win.

"That in turn prepares guys for playing competitively at this level.

"It is our philosophy of playing it. Some clubs tend to look at three day cricket slightly differently. Some tend to play it with a little bit more of a four-day mentality.

"We tend to do that for the first two days and then have a look where the game sits.

"What we don't want is to have dead cricket for the last two or three hours where there is not to play for apart from an early declaration and an early finish.

"We would always try and get the game into a position where we could play a real competitive three or four hours cricket on the last day if at all possible."

Tom Fell set a new Worcestershire record for the highest score in the SEC with 223 against MCC Young Cricketers at Kidderminster

SECOND ELEVEN CHAMPIONSHIP

NORTH GROUP								
TEAM	Played	Won	Lost	Tied	Abandoned	Bat	Bowl	Points
Lancashire	9	4	1	4	0	32	27	143
Warwickshire	9	3	1	5	0	28	24	125
Worcestershire	9	3	2	3	1	26	28	122
Yorkshire	9	2	0	6	1	28	25	120
Derbyshire	9	2	1	6	0	29	21	112
Nottinghamshire	9	3	2	3	1	14	26	108
Leicestershire	9	2	4	3		28	33	108
Durham	9	2	2	4	1	19	27	103
MCC YK	9	0	4	5	0	26	21	71*
Northamptonshire	9	0	4	5	0	10	23	58

*MCC deducted 1 point

SECOND ELEVEN TROPHY

NORTH GROUP							
TEAM	Played	Won	Lost	Tied	N/R	Points	
Lancashire	6	5	0	0	1	11	
Yorkshire	6	3	0	0	3	9	
Worcestershire	6	4	2	0	0	8	
Warwickshire	6	3	2	0	1	7	
Nottinghamshire	6	3	3	0	0	6	
Northamptonshire	6	3	3	0	0	6	
Derbyshire	6	2	4	0	0	4	
MCC YC	6	1	4	0	1	3	
Durham	6	1	4	0	1	3	
Leicestershire	6	0	3	0	3	3	

SECOND ELEVEN TWENTY20

NORTH GROUP						
TEAM	Played	Won	Lost	Tied	N/R	Points
Yorkshire	12	7	2	0	3	17
Lancashire	12	7	3	0	2	16
MCC YC	12	7	5	0	0	14
Warwickshire	12	5	5	1	1	12
Durham	12	5	7	0	0	10
Northamptonshire	12	5	7	0	0	10
Nottinghamshire	12	4	6	0	2	10
Leicestershire	12	4	8	0	0	8
Derbyshire	12	1	6	1	4	7

Worcestershire Seconds						
Final Three-Four Day Averages						
Batting	Matches	Inns	Not Out	Runs	Highest	Average
R Tongue	1	1	0	70	70	70
Dudley	1	2	1	50	35	50
Fell	9	15	0	730	223	48.67
Kohler-Cadmore	1	2	0	92	55	46
Rhodes	8	15	1	620	125	44.29
Dell	10	14	1	529	95*	40.69
Hepburn	13	22	3	753	98	39.63
Kervezee	7	12	0	423	140	35.25
Shantry	3	5	2		61*	34.33
Milton	9	15	2	434	91	33.38
Whiteley	6	10	2	235	65	29.38
Wiffen	3	5	1	117	77	29.25
Twohig	14	20	3	400	83	23.53
Morris	9	11	4	161	44*	23
Malik	11	14	1	268	63*	20.62
Simpson	1	1	0	20	20	20
Westbury	14	24	0	417	118	17.38
Ul-Hassan	3	3	0	51	28	17
Brown	9	10	3	118	34	16.86
Dodd	5	7	2	81	27	16.2
Pennington	5	6	1	71	49	14.2
Hammond	1	1	0	8	8	8
Jack Haynes	5	8	0	59	21	7.38
Scrimshaw	5	8	4	25	10*	6.25

Finch	8	3	1	7	4	3.5
Wilkinson	2	1	1	7	7*	-

Worcestershire Seconds						
Final Three-Four Day Averages						
Bowling	Overs	Mdns	Runs	Wkts	Best	Avge
Wearing	15	1	57	3	3-48	19
Wilkinson	31	2	140	7	4-53	20
Hepburn	268.4	49	930	37	5-43	25.25
Malik	100.5	10	405	15	4-55	27
Finch	130.3	15	488	15	5-19	32.53
Morris	194.4	38	664	20	4-80	33.2
Rhodes	144.5	14	599	17	4-55	35.24
Scrimshaw	78	10	380	10	4-63	38
Ul-Hassan	50	6	192	5	3-78	38.4
Brown	177.5	34	727	18	4-34	40.39
Twohig	281.1	21	1173	26	5-87	45.12
Pennington	65	13	256	4	1-8	64
Simpson	10	0	69	1	1-69	69
Westbury	18	1	82	1	1-24	82
Davis	16	0	82	1	1-42	82
Kervezee	22	4	97	1	1-24	97
Whiteley	48	5	188	1	1-40	188
Wheldon	2	0	12	0	0-12	-

ACADEMY REPORT

The Worcestershire CCC Academy continues to develop and flourish under the charge of Coach Elliot Wilson.

The rise of Academy products Pat Brown, George Scrimshaw and Josh Tongue into the senior squad last summer is documented elsewhere (see Seconds review).

But current Academy products Dillon Pennington and Adam Finch have also made great strides forward, breaking into the Second Eleven and then both being part of the England Under-19 squad for the ICC World Cup.

It was a proud sight for Wilson and Worcestershire supporters to see Pennington and Finch sharing the new ball in the final game against New Zealand (full details elsewhere).

Wilson is in charge of trying to ensure the conveyor belt of young talent produced by Worcestershire continues although to flourish.

He is already working closely with the 2017-2018 Academy intake but also the age groups below that level who, if all comes to fruition, will be in line to become full Academy members.

Worcestershire CCC's 2017-2018 Academy intake includes six newcomers.

Leg spinner Josh Dickenson, wicket-keeper batsman Henry Cullen and slow left armed-batsman Peter Clark linked up with the full Academy for the first time from October 1, 2017 and for the next 12 months.

Then batsman Callum Lea and pace duo Riecko Parker-Cole and Mitchell Stanley were added on February 1 for the remainder of the 2017-2018 programme.

Dickenson, who plays Birmingham League cricket for Barnards Green, is into his second year at Malvern College and his elevation onto the Academy is another example of the benefit of the strong link between the College and Worcestershire CCC.

Cullen's potential is highly rated by new Head Coach Kevin Sharp and he also plays in the Birmingham League for Barnt Green.

Clark is a product of the Shropshire Satellite Academy programme under the guidance of former County paceman Paul Pridgeon and he was a member of the Midlands squad at the Bunbury Festival this summer.

Lea, who plays in the Birmingham League for Himley, showed his quality when scoring a double hundred for Worcestershire Under-17s in the Championship match with Hampshire at Basingstoke.

Lea, Parker-Cole and Stanley were awarded Academy places in mid-stream after impressing Wilson with their performances and work ethic during the first part of the winter.

Lea and Parker-Cole secured places after a successful probationary period and, along with Stanley, who impressed as part of the Elite Player Group, boosted the number of players on the full Academy to 11 for 2017-2018.

Wilson said: "We don't tend to bring them in mid-term but, with having only a small intake for 2017-2018 (eight), I thought these guys were worthwhile bringing onto the programme.

"We all felt that here, all the coaches. We are all excited by all three of them. Our profile of the squad is a bit younger this year so we had some scope at Under-17s, Under-18s – and these three guys fit the bill nicely."

Worcestershire also announced their Emerging Player Programme squad for 2017-2018 and it consists of 13 players.

Wilson explained: "The group of players in the EPP are involved in our pathways at different stages based on their age, their state of development etc.

"Some are heavily involved in the Academy Programme and train full-time with the Academy.

"Others train partly with the Academy and partly in a Development Of Excellence Programme.

"Some are involved in our Satellite Academy's run by David Manning and Paul Pridgeon and join in with our Academy or Development Of Excellence Programmes.

"But they are all players we consider to be of a similar level of potential and current levels of performance that justify the recognition of being known as one of Worcestershire's EPP players."

ACADEMY INTAKE 2017-2018

Jack Haynes, Adam Finch, Matt Davis, Xavie Clarke, Josh Dickenson, Henry Cullen, Pete Clark, Zain ul Hassan, Callum Lea, Riecko Parker-Cole, Mitchell Stanley

EMERGING PLAYER PROGRAMME

Dan Holland, Alex Hinkley, Rehaan Edavalet, Aaron Tomson, Mitchell Stanley, Lewis Evans, Oliver Walker, Oliver Halion, Josh Baker, Luke Tulacz, Zak Abbass, Alex Jordan, Harry Cooke

ACADEMY COACH WILSON LEADS MIDLANDS TO SUPER FOURS DOUBLE SUCCESS

A trio of Worcestershire players helped the Midlands - coached by the County's Academy coach Elliot Wilson - to complete a 'Super Fours' double at the National Performance Centre, Loughborough.

Jack Haynes, Adam Finch – with his second call-up – and Zain Ul-Hassan were chosen to represent the Midlands in what is effectively the Under-17s equivalent of the Bunburys.

The tournament offered the cream of the players in that age group the opportunity to show off their skills in front of watching England Development Programme coaches and selectors.

Finch, of course, went onto represent England in the ICC Under-19 World Cup this winter along with Dillon Pennington.

He impressed throughout the Super Fours with the ball as the Midlands defeated South West, North and London-East to win the 50 over competition.

Haynes was a consistent performer with the bat in the same tournament while Ul-Hassan chipped in with useful contributions with bat and ball.

Then in the T20 final Haynes produced a superb innings of 79 from 59 balls to power the Midlands to a nine wicket win over South West after previously defeating North by 36 runs in the semi-final.

Wilson said after the double triumph: “We couldn’t have asked for more from the lads, and they’ve really deserved their success.

“It’s my first time coaching a team here and I’ve been really impressed, both by the organisation of the event and the quality of the cricket.

“And wearing my Worcestershire hat, it was great to see our lads all making contributions to the Midlands team success.”

Worcestershire players have figured prominently in the tournament in recent years.

Six County players – including current first team regular Josh Tongue – helped the Midlands to win the prestigious tournament in 2015.

Then in 2016 Josh Haynes and Finch, who had initially been named on stand-by, were involved.

ELEVEN WORCESTERSHIRE PLAYERS SIGN NEW CONTRACTS

Eleven Worcestershire players who will be available for first or second team action this summer have signed new contracts which will come into force from 2018 onwards.

It is a positive sign of intent for the future that so many of the County's established or developing players have put pen to paper on extended deals.

Those to have signed include the County's established England star Moeen Ali and County Captain and all-rounder Joe Leach.

The full list of players who have committed their future to Blackfinch New Road is:

FIVE YEARS - Moeen Ali (until end of 2022 season)

FIVE YEARS - Brett D'Oliveira (until end of 2022 season)

FOUR YEARS - Ben Cox (until end of 2021 season)

FOUR YEARS - Josh Tongue (until end of 2021 season)

THREE YEARS - Joe Leach (until end of 2020 season)

THREE YEARS - Ed Barnard (until end of 2020 season)

THREE YEARS - George Scrimshaw (until end of 2020 season)

TWO YEARS - Tom Fell (until end of 2019 season)

TWO YEARS - George Rhodes (until end of 2019 season)

TWO YEARS - Ollie Westbury (until end of 2019 season)

TWO YEARS - Alex Milton (2018 University Scholarship and 2019 full professional contract)

TRAVIS HEAD LINKING UP AS MAIN OVERSEAS PLAYER

Worcestershire have snapped up exciting Australian batsman Travis Head as their main overseas player for 2018.

Head will link up with the County for the start of the campaign in the Specsavers County Championship and be available to play in all formats right through to mid-September apart from Australia's five ODIs and one T20 against England half-way through the season.

The 24-year-old skippered Adelaide Strikers to a Big Bash triumph, scoring 85 not out in the semi-final win over Melbourne Renegades and an unbeaten 44 in the final triumph over Hobart Hurricanes on his home ground in Adelaide.

Head is a regular member of his country's side in white ball cricket, having played in 34 ODI's and nine T20Is and scored 96 for Australia in the fourth ODI of the home series against England in January.

But the left hander is also hungry to play Test cricket and has been encouraged by Cricket Australia to broaden his experience by playing county cricket this summer - with Worcestershire swooping to obtain his signature.

Worcestershire used four overseas players during the 2017 campaign.

John Hastings was initially signed on a two year contract but announced his retirement from all cricket except T20 in early August because of injury.

The Australian had defied initial predictions that he would miss the first half of last season with a patella problem and reported for duty at New Road in March.

Hastings had a big influence on the players in the dressing room and produced typically whole-hearted performances either side of being called up by Australia for the ICC Trophy.

But in early August he was recalled by Cricket Australia after an injury setback and subsequently announced his retirement from all but T20 cricket.

Worcestershire turned to another Australian in Nathan Lyon to fill the breach in Hastings' absence when on ICC Trophy duty.

The off spinner played four Championship matches, helping the County to victory over Derbyshire, Northamptonshire and Glamorgan.

After Hastings early departure, Indian all-rounder Ravichandran Ashwin was brought in for the finale of the season and his 20 wickets and useful runs helped the County win their final four Championship matches on their way to sealing promotion.

New Zealand all-rounder Mitchell Santner returned for a second stint as the Rapids overseas player for the T20 Blast.

Although the team suffered a disappointing campaign, Santner showed his quality after a broken finger had curtailed his involvement in 2016.

He only conceded 6.64 runs per over which was one of the best economy rates in the entire competition and also made useful runs.

COUNTY PROUD TO ANNOUNCE MATT RAWNSLEY AS NEW CEO

Matt Rawnsley was appointed as the new CEO of Worcestershire CCC at the turn of the year and will take up his role officially on 1st March 2018.

The Chairman said "We are delighted to announce the appointment of Matthew Rawnsley as the new CEO of Worcestershire CCC.

"It has been a lengthy and extensive process and we were greatly impressed with the standard of applicants, but we believe Matt is the right man for the CEO post and he brings very relevant commercial experience, as well as strong cricket experience as a former player of the club.

"The appointment builds on the first class work that Tom Scott, the outgoing CEO, has performed in his two years at the club.

"Matt inherits an exciting team and a club well set to continue to grow – on and off the pitch. The future is exciting in all areas of this great cricket club and we feel Matt can help us to continue to grow."

Matt commented following his appointment: "I'm delighted to have accepted the opportunity to lead such a wonderful club, where I have so many fond memories as a player.

"There have been some significant changes in the past few months across the leadership team. I am confident the decisions that have been made recently, have ensured stability within a highly energised playing group who are looking forward to competing in Division One of the Championship, and realising their potential in shorter forms of the game.

"Also, some great work has been done by the commercial team under Tom's stewardship over the last two years and I look forward to taking up the baton in what is an exciting time for the club and the game in general over the next few years.

WELCOME BACK TO STEVE MAGOFFIN

It is a warm welcome back to Blackfinch New Road to Steve Magoffin who has re-joined Worcestershire for the 2018 season.

The Australian paceman - now with a UK passport - first played for Worcestershire during the 2008 season.

Now he has re-signed for the club after spending the last six seasons with Sussex.

Magoffin needs just 19 more wickets to reach the 600 mark in first class cricket. His impressive tally of 581 victims contains 27 five wicket hauls at an average of 23.23.

COUNTY PLAYERS IN INTERNATIONAL ACTION

It is now four years since Moeen Ali made his England debut - against the West Indies in an ODI series in February 2014 - and he continues to be a regular player for his country.

The Worcestershire all-rounder produced his career best Test figures last summer with 6-53 against South Africa at Lord's which gave him match figures of 35-11-112-10 - his first 10 wicket haul at that level.

Moeen then delivered one of the memorable moments of 2017 last July with his hat-trick to complete England's victory over South Africa in the 100th Test match at The Oval.

Moeen dismissed Dean Edgar and Kagiso Rabada - both caught at slip - and then completed the hat-trick by trapping Morne Morkel lbw on review.

He became the first player for 59 years to end a Test with a hat-trick and the first England spinner to claim a Test hat-trick for 79 years.

It led to him enjoying a spell at the top of the England PCA Most Valuable Player Test rankings.

Moeen said afterwards: "I've never taken a hat-trick in any sort of cricket. I've scored a few (hat-tricks) in football warm-ups but this is a different sort of feeling – and a better one!"

Moeen is in contention to make his 50th Test appearance tomorrow (Thursday March 22) in the first Test against New Zealand in Auckland.

So far he has missed only one Test since making his debut versus Sri Lanka at Lord's and that was due to injury.

Joe Clarke continues to be a regular for the England Lions and was selected for this winter's tour of the West Indies after being part of a training camp in Australia during the first half of the winter.

He made his senior England bow in a two-day friendly against a Cricket Australia X1 in Perth before Christmas and scored 45.

Adam Finch made his England Under-19s debut in two ODIs last summer against India and went onto be part of the squad for the Tri-Nations Series in South Africa, making three appearances, and then the ICC Under-19s World Cup where he also was selected on three occasions.

Fellow paceman Dillon Pennington followed the same path in being chosen for the Tri-Nations Series and the World Cup. He played in three Tri-Nations matches and five at the World Cup where he bowled with some success with the new ball.

Both players received praise after the tournament from England Under-19s head coach Jon Lewis, the former Gloucestershire and Sussex bowler.

COX ELECTED NEW WORCESTERSHIRE PCA REPRESENTATIVE

Worcestershire wicketkeeper Ben Cox became Worcestershire CCC's new PCA representative last season and succeeded Daryl Mitchell.

Mitchell stepped down after nine years as Worcestershire's PCA representative following his election as the Association's new chairman.

Mitchell said after standing down: "The PCA representative role is an extremely important one. You are the mouth piece for your dressing room, responsible for communicating PCA issues to your county members, providing feedback and communicating club issues back to the PCA.

"From a personal development point of view it's a great opportunity to demonstrate and develop skills such as organisation, networking, leadership and communication.

"Ben Cox is the perfect candidate for the PCA rep role, very well respected within the dressing room and although still relatively young in age has a vast amount of experience in cricket and good knowledge of current affairs within the game."

DARYL MITCHELL BENEFIT

Worcestershire opener Daryl Mitchell's 2016 benefit year at New Road raised £76,000 after tax, it was announced by his benefit committee.

But £4,000 of that figure was split between Daryl's two designated charities – the Oddballs Foundation for research into testicular cancer and the Professional Cricketers' Association Benevolent Fund.

Mitchell said: "It was an enjoyable year. Very busy but very enjoyable and I would like to thank all the members and supporters for all their contributions throughout all of the events and donations.

"A lot of the events were well supported and it was nice also to get out and play some games of cricket in local clubs as well.

"I would have to say the highlight was the dinner in the Long Room at Lord's which was really special but it was great to meet so many people throughout the 12 months."

PCA chairman Daryl added: "I would also like to thank my benefit committee for all their sterling work in organising and participating in the various events.

"Their efforts took a lot of work off my shoulders and enabled me to continue to concentrate 100 per cent on cricket."

DRINKWATER ACHIEVES PINNACLE OF CAREER

Worcestershire CCC scorer Sue Drinkwater achieved the pinnacle of her career by officiating at last summer's Lord's Test between England and South Africa.

Sue was proud to be the designated official scorer for the South Africa touring side for the opening Test of the series at the home of cricket.

It followed on from her having also officiated in her first Women's World Cup match between the same two nations at Bristol the previous week.

Sue has been scoring for 40 years after first learning the ropes with Cheltenham club side Prestbury CC and then graduating to Chedworth CC

WORCESTERSHIRE CCC 2017 AWARDS NIGHT WINNERS

Worcestershire CCC held their 2017 annual Awards Night in late September in the McMinn Developments Marquee at New Road.

Opener Daryl Mitchell and paceman Josh Tongue scooped the Player's Player and Young Player Of The Year awards respectively while Ed Barnard was the overwhelming winner of the Supporters' Association Player Of The Year award.

Here is a full list of all the award winners in what was a memorable season for the County.

Worcester Cricket Society's Moment of the Season

Winner – Ross Whiteley

The Fans' Forum Fielder of the Year Award

Winner – Ed Barnard

The BBC Hereford & Worcester Lost For Words Award

Winner – Brett D'Oliveira

Worcestershire County Cricket Supporters' Association Award

Winner – Ed Barnard

The Kenyon Award

Winner – Joe Leach

The Damian D'Oliveira Academy Player Of The Year Award

Winner – Adam Finch

The Players' Player Award – Sponsored by Blackfinch

Winner – Daryl Mitchell

The Young Player of the year Award – Sponsored by GTECH

Winner – Josh Tongue

The T20 Player of the Year Award – Sponsored by EBC Group

Winner – Joe Clarke

The Dick Lygon Award

Winner – Ben Cox

WORCESTERSHIRE CCC SECURE GROUND NAMING RIGHTS DEAL WITH BLACKFINCH INVESTMENTS

Worcestershire CCC further strengthened their already flourishing relationship with Blackfinch Investments who signed a five year deal to secure the ground naming rights at New Road.

The County's headquarters now goes under the official name of 'Blackfinch New Road'.

Blackfinch Investments originally linked up with the County as official shirt sponsor across all formats for the 2016 season.

That fruitful and beneficial tie-up with Worcestershire was further enhanced when Blackfinch Investments became the club's new official main sponsors last year for three years.

Now the partnership has been extended again with the ground naming rights sponsorship.

It will net the club an annual figure in excess of six figures and is the first time that New Road will share its name with a commercial partner.

Worcestershire Sales Executive Paul Biggerstaff played a major role in securing the five year sponsorship.

Blackfinch Chief CEO, Richard Cook, said: "I am immensely proud of this new (ground naming) deal and it is a significant moment for Blackfinch to become the main commercial partner of Worcestershire County Cricket Club - an institution with so much history and tradition, as well as so much optimism for the future.

"The current direction of cricket means that the Club must be innovative to ensure that they can compete at the highest level on the pitch, and to create more success and historic moments for future generations to remember.

"This aligns with Blackfinch who are a company that relies on a wealth of experience and history, yet remains agile and dynamic in order to remain competitive. For this reason, I think there is a strong synergy inherent within this partnership."

Paul Biggerstaff said "Our partnership with Blackfinch has developed considerably since they came on board at the start of the 2016 season and for them to commit to a deal of this nature is absolutely fantastic for the Club.

"From the moment we mentioned the possibility of ground naming rights, Richard (Cook) was very keen to be at the front of the queue to discuss this exciting opportunity and we are delighted to announce this on the back of a superb season."

FRIENDS OF THE CLUB THAT HAVE PASSED SINCE THE 2017 AGM

TREE PLANTING CEREMONY IN MEMORY OF VIC WHITTINGHAM

Worcestershire honoured their late committee member Vic Whittingham by planting a tree at his beloved New Road last summer.

The Reverend Mike Vockins presided over the ceremony next to the McMinn Developments Marquee.

Vic became a member of the Worcestershire CCC committee in 1984 after being encouraged by Roy Booth to stand for election.

He became chairman of the Ground Committee and was responsible for the development of the club's own full-time catering operation.

After standing down as Ground Committee chairman in 1998, Vic was appointed a Vice-President.

DEATH OF FIRST TEAM SCORER DAWN PUGH

Members of the cricketing 'family' came together to pay their respects to the late Worcestershire first team scorer Dawn Pugh whose funeral was held at Christ Church, Broadheath in early November.

Dawn, 65, sadly passed away after a brave and lengthy battle against cancer.

One of Dawn's sons, David, gave a moving address and spoke of her love for sport and animals and how she was also a keen footballer for Kays Ladies and even played in a match at White Hart Lane.

He thanked on behalf of the family everyone for their messages of condolence and support.

Cannon Michael Nott also spoke warmly of Dawn – who was married to husband John in the same church 44 years ago – as a person and there was a poignant reading of the poem 'She Is Gone' by Geoffrey Kington.

THANKSGIVING SERVICE FOR NAOMI D'OLIVEIRA

What read like an A to Z of Worcestershire CCC turned out in force to pay their last respects at a service of Celebration and Thanksgiving for the life of Naomi D'Oliveira at Worcester Crematorium.

It was a case of standing room only at the service for Naomi who was married to County legend Basil D'Oliveira for more than 50 years. Naomi sadly passed away in St. Richard's Hospice after a short illness.

She was the mother of Damian and Shaun D'Oliveira and grandmother of Brett, Ryan, Dominic and Marcus D'Oliveira.

Those present heard a moving reading from Celebrant Father Hugh Sinclair who had also presided over the services for Basil and Damian D'Oliveira.

WITH THANKS

The club wishes to thank and give appropriate appreciation to

* BBC Hereford and Worcester for again providing ball by ball commentary of all matches on the radio and on line during 2017. 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 B SkyB 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.

* Kings's School for allowing the club to use their playing fields for car parking on busy days when it is available.

* 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.

* Tim Jones who continues to give his 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 service on match days.

* The officials of our official second ground RGS Worcester, Kidderminster, Bromsgrove, Stourbridge and Barnt Green for hosting Second X1-Academy matches during the 2017 season.

* 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 in Mike Beddow (freelance), Chris Oldnall (Cricket Paper and freelance), John Curtis (Worcestershire CCC website and twitter feed and ECB match reports), Dave Bradley, Trevor Owens, Chris Williams, Graham Hill and fellow commentators (BBC Hereford-Worcester), Worcester News, various Sky TV presenters, 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 and hospitality clients.

* The non-executive members of the board who continue to devote many unpaid hours of their time to the club.

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**WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY CRICKET CLUB LIMITED
&
WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY CRICKET TRADING LIMITED**

Consolidated Accounts

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2017

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COMMENTARY

The consolidated accounts for the year ending 31 December 2017 are extracted from the audited accounts of Worcestershire County Cricket Club Limited and Worcestershire County Cricket Trading Limited. The accounts for both of these entities were prepared and audited by Bishop Fleming LLP.

Copies of the full signed audited accounts are held at the club's offices and are available for inspection throughout the year. Copies are also available at the AGM should anyone wish to see them after the meeting.

Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income

Although the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2017 show a seemingly strong profit of £449,426 compared to a reported profit of £428,673 in 2016, the underlying position remains loss making. The last two years have shown steady progress in improving the club's financial position.

Both 2017 and 2016's results were flattered by exceptional items. In both years additional distributions of £500,000 were received from the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) which the club has treated as income. Excluding these amounts results in an underlying loss of £50,574 for 2017 and loss of £71,327 for 2016. In 2015, as previously reported, the results were boosted by a successful miss-selling claim against our bank – without which our underlying loss would have been £181,621.

The sequential underlying loss has markedly reduced, reflecting the increased focus under CEO Tom Scott's leadership on catering and commercial activities, lower levels of interest rates on debt and reduced costs – however there remains plenty of challenges ahead, not least wage inflation in cricket. We continue to focus on cost reductions in the business and seeking additional income from our assets. The club's focus will be on improving its return on its enviable facilities and reducing its debt levels, so that more can be put back into its cricket operations.

Consolidated Statement of Financial Position

The balance sheet as at 31st December 2017 shows total equity of £2,387,566, compared to £1,938,140 in 2016. As in previous years the balance sheet reveals that debt levels were stretched in previous years to support the build program.

Overall debt levels total £4,909,905 at 31st December 2017, an overall reduction of £314,013 from £5,223,918 at 31st December 2016. In terms of debt profile, short-term loans that become due in 2017 have been restructured at lower values and at lower interest rates. This accounts for the decrease in Other Loans within Creditors falling due within one year and reduced interest payable.

Despite the board continuing to recognise that opportunities exist for future development of our business (for example Phase 3), the immediate focus is to maintain liquidity and reduce debt levels.

The board is confident that the steps it has taken in 2017 and changes anticipated throughout 2018 under the leadership of the newly appointed Chief Executive will enable the club to focus on reducing its debt levels, improving utilisation of its excellent facilities and investing in cricket for the future.

WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY CRICKET CLUB LTD
COSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

For the year ended 31st December 2017

	Notes	2017 £	2016 £	2015 £
Turnover	1	5,459,875	4,777,742	4,195,923
Cost of Sales		(3,135,950)	(2,382,555)	(2,312,549)
Gross Profit		2,323,925	2,395,187	1,883,374
Administrative expenses		(1,945,269)	(1,986,163)	(2,332,162)
Other operating income	2	217,461	172,478	850,872
Operating Profit		596,117	581,502	402,084
Interest payable and similar charges		(111,722)	(149,280)	(219,672)
Profit on Ordinary Activities before Taxation		484,395	432,222	182,412
Taxation on profit on ordinary activities		(34,969)	(3,549)	-
Profit for the Financial Year		449,426	428,673	182,412

WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY CRICKET CLUB LTD
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2017

	Notes	2017 £	2016 £	2015 £
Fixed Assets				
Tangible assets	3	7,933,524	8,005,122	7,902,849
Investments		15,390	15,390	15,390
		<u>7,948,914</u>	<u>8,020,512</u>	<u>7,918,239</u>
Current assets				
Stock		35,235	29,828	18,376
Debtors	4	242,006	165,013	174,359
Cash at bank and in hand		40,410	179,247	38,441
		<u>317,651</u>	<u>374,088</u>	<u>231,176</u>
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	5	(2,082,419)	(2,625,359)	(1,886,894)
Net current liabilities		<u>(1,764,768)</u>	<u>(2,251,271)</u>	<u>(1,655,718)</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		6,184,146	5,769,241	6,262,521
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year	6	(3,796,580)	(3,831,101)	(4,753,054)
Net Assets		<u>2,387,566</u>	<u>1,938,140</u>	<u>1,509,467</u>
Share Capital		119	124	112
Reserves		2,387,447	1,938,016	1,509,355
Shareholder Funds		<u>2,387,566</u>	<u>1,938,140</u>	<u>1,509,467</u>

WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY CRICKET CLUB

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

Year to 31st December 2017

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The following principal accounting policies have been applied:

BASIS OF PREPARATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention unless otherwise specified and in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 102.

BASIS OF CONSOLIDATION

The consolidated financial statements present the results of Worcestershire County Cricket Club Ltd and Worcestershire County Cricket Trading Ltd ("the group") as they formed a single entity. Intercompany transactions and balances between group companies are therefore eliminated in full.

TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

All plant and machinery over £500 are capitalised and are held at cost, net of depreciation and any provision for impairment. Depreciation is charged so as to allocate the cost of assets less their residual value over their estimated useful lives, using the straight-line method. Plant and machinery depreciation is provided at 20%. Freehold land and buildings are not depreciated.

STOCK

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

FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The Group only enters into basic financial instruments transactions that result in the recognition of financial assets and liabilities like trade and other debtors and creditors, loans from banks and other third parties, loans to related parties and investments in non-puttable ordinary shares.

PENSIONS

The Group operates a defined contribution plan for its employees. A defined contribution plan is a pension plan under which the Group pays fixed contributions into a separate entity. Once the contributions have been paid the Group has no further payment obligations.

DEFERRED TAXATION

Deferred tax balances are recognised in respect of the timing differences that have originated but not reversed by the Statement of Financial Position date.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

	2017	2016	2015
	£	£	£
1. Turnover			
Subscriptions	442,458	402,223	429,083
Match receipts	458,322	310,596	406,955
England & Wales Cricket Board	2,549,038	2,530,389	1,838,690
Catering	1,086,151	892,922	910,649
Commercial	840,463	641,612	610,546
Worcestershire County Age Group (Pathway)	83,443	-	-
	5,459,875	4,777,742	4,195,923

2. Other operating income			
Sundry income	64,081	40,098	683,104
Donations received	16,909	8,794	43,660
Car parking income	136,471	123,586	124,108
	217,461	172,478	850,872

3. Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold property £	Plant & machinery £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 January 2017	7,992,574	535,305	8,527,879
Additions	-	24,992	24,992
Disposals	(86,650)	-	(86,650)
At 31 December 2017	7,905,924	560,297	8,466,221

Depreciation

At 1 January 2017	-	522,757	522,757
Charge for the year	-	9,940	9,940
At 31 December 2017	-	532,697	532,697

Net book value

At 31 December 2017	7,905,924	27,600	7,933,524
At 31 December 2016	7,992,574	12,548	8,005,122

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

	2017	2016	2015
	£	£	£
4. Debtors			
Trade debtors	117,595	34,797	27,066
Other debtors	26,825	26,676	-
Prepayments and accrued income	76,347	60,335	100,539
Deferred taxation	21,239	43,205	46,754
	242,006	165,013	174,359
5. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year			
Bank overdrafts	538,629	17,638	120,410
Bank loans	203,680	197,123	233,199
Other loans	381,502	1,197,500	454,000
Trade creditors	245,674	317,163	409,337
Corporation tax	13,003	-	-
Other taxation and social security	170,287	312,875	235,726
Other creditors	35,605	398	455
Accruals and deferred income	494,039	582,662	433,767
	2,082,419	2,625,359	1,886,894
6. Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year			
Bank loans	1,669,951	1,883,507	2,069,538
Other loans	2,116,143	1,928,150	2,683,516
Accruals and deferred income	10,486	19,444	-
	3,796,580	3,831,101	4,753,054
7. Loans			
Amount falling due within 1 year	585,182	1,394,623	687,199
Amount falling due within 1 – 2 years	406,271	472,184	1,335,623
Amount falling due within 2 – 5 years	1,435,205	1,161,376	1,287,851
Amount falling due after 5 years	1,944,618	2,178,097	2,129,580
	4,371,276	5,206,280	5,440,253

ADDITIONAL ANALYSIS, NOT FORMING PART OF THE AUDITED ACCOUNTS

	2017	2016	2015
	£	£	£
8. Exceptional items			
Refund of overpaid bank interest	-	-	404,725
Fees associated with bank interest claim	-	-	(40,692)
ECB PRFP one off payment	500,000	500,000	-
	500,000	500,000	364,033
Reported profit for the financial year	449,426	428,673	182,412
Underlying profit/(loss)	(50,574)	(71,327)	(181,621)
9. Catering analysis			
Sales	1,086,151	892,922	910,649
Cost of sales	(598,111)	(503,441)	(347,464)
Gross profit	488,040	389,481	563,185
Wages	(418,214)	(391,977)	(464,251)
Other overheads	(89,051)	(61,855)	(77,283)
Profit/(loss) for the year	(19,225)	(64,351)	21,651
10. Commercial analysis			
Sales	840,463	642,455	610,546
Cost of sales	(329,935)	(91,250)	(33)
Gross profit	510,524	551,205	610,513
Wages	(164,233)	(170,316)	(212,581)
Other overheads	(98,242)	(138,714)	(339,566)
Profit/(loss) for the year	248,053	242,175	58,366
11. Cricket expenses			
Players and other cricket staff wages	2,040,525	1,633,683	1,844,756
Cricket balls	13,820	15,162	14,229
Sundry cricket costs	27,824	41,941	32,091
Gatemen	90,674	123,242	126,478
Tickets	1,442	3,174	9,270
Total	2,174,285	1,817,202	2,026,824

ADDITIONAL ANALYSIS, NOT FORMING PART OF THE AUDITED ACCOUNTS

	2017	2016	2015
	£	£	£
12. Administration expenses			
Insurance	55,614	53,119	76,556
Directors and administration wages	415,116	342,950	377,485
Legal & professional fees	77,579	66,635	70,113
Auditors remuneration	9,480	14,930	15,000
Postage, phone & IT	102,116	93,103	106,425
Bank charges	42,808	40,368	35,311
Bad debts	(26,146)	25,038	13,288
Sundry expenses	66,649	56,924	47,823
Total	743,216	693,067	742,001
13. Establishment expenses			
Maintenance	36,416	61,949	1,457
Rates	25,794	26,731	26,442
Light, heat & water	92,599	83,740	97,984
Sundry expenses	147,815	243,702	271,410
Total	302,624	416,122	397,293



All information correct at time of printing on Thursday 22nd February 2018.



WORCESTERSHIRE
COUNTY CRICKET CLUB



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