



2021 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

FOR THE PERIOD OCTOBER 2020 - SEPTEMBER 2021

I am extremely pleased to report that 2021 was a very successful year for Oxfordshire Cricket. Winning the inaugural National Counties Championship was a very visible highlight and we congratulate Rupert, Paul, Jonny, all of the squad and all of those involved in bringing home the trophy after a gap of 32 years. In addition, in a year which really only started in March after the Covid winter lockdown we managed to deliver a busy programme of activity across Participation and Performance cricket. This was even more remarkable given the staff shortages that were evident during the season. Credit for the great delivery must go to the workforce, coaches and key volunteers for willingly covering the gaps we had in our structure.

In the year Nic Pinhol was promoted to Participation Manager for Oxfordshire Cricket effective from October 1st. Nic, Zoe, Ed, Paul and Dick all stepped up as a team to deliver a very challenging and full program which largely met our performance targets and culminated with a magnificent pinnacle event at Wormsley. This event continues to develop and provides a celebration for all people involved in the game within the County. Nic is a very popular appointment and I have every confidence that he will lead our Participation and Marketing programmes and take us to the next level on both. Zoe, Ed and Paul have all been promoted to the position of Cricket Development Manager.

I am personally very pleased with the relationship we have built with the Oxfordshire Association of Cricket Officials. We have a little bit of unfinished business to carry over into the autumn but we are well on the way to forming a solid partnership. You will recall that we already have direct representation on the Board from the Oxfordshire Coaching Association.

Matt and Alex continued to deliver a pathway programme which involved 1000 boys and girls, which only really started in April and yet through creative management delivered a programme that went on until the middle of September. Our pathway is generally recognised as a talent factory which is populating our senior squads and progressing talent into the professional game. At one point last season we had 10 Oxfordshire grown players playing in first-class games, and a new pipeline of young players are already on their journey to Sussex and the Southern Vipers. The announcement that we have signed a partnership with Sussex for the next 5 years demonstrates the mutual benefit both parties recognise from this relationship. One slight disappointment from the playing summer was the very poor offering from the ECB for womens cricket, a complete contradiction to their own strategy for growing the Women's game. The concentration of the first class game into fewer regional hubs has left a void behind it for county cricket and needs addressing in 2022. In financial terms the Pathway programme will be nearly as big in 2022 as the total business revenues in 2021, that is a significant expansion programme and Matt will be joined by two new managers. Marcus Campopiano will head up the U14-U18 talent pathway and Sam Arthurs the U10-U13 foundation pathway, Marcus will also be the strength and conditioning coach across all of the Oxfordshire cricket pathway. We have promoted Matt to the position of Performance Director in recognition of his work over the last 4 years, his expanded responsibilities and the bigger pathway program he now manages.

Tim has delivered a set of accounts which underpins our success, with much of the winter schedule cancelled and the challenges of furlough, we managed to keep our costs broadly in line with income and preserve our reserves. This will help protect us against further Covid risk this winter, minimise the impact of potential reduced income should the national Sky TV contract be less rewarding than currently and protect us against inflation over the next 5 years where 37% of our income (ECB & C2S) is fixed for the full term.

We are very fortunate that we have committed volunteer safeguarding support that underpins all of our activities; I would like to thank Lesley and Stuart for their efforts in this area over the last 4 years. We move forward into 2022 with them both in place as employees of OCB Ltd, a status which will support them in ensuring safeguarding standards throughout the Oxfordshire Cricket community are maintained at the highest possible level.

As always this is a great opportunity for us to thank our sponsors, in particular Chadlington Brewery, Serious Cricket, Hobbs reprographics, Hartwells, Unipart and Wenn Townsend, without their support, what we have achieved would not have been possible. The game of cricket in Oxfordshire is very grateful for their support.

Thanks also to our partners Sussex Cricket, Magdalen College School and Wormsley Cricket. We would also like to thank those companies who have offered their professional services in the year including Shaw Gibbs and Blake Morgan; both have provided exemplary professional support.

I would like to thank the 8 Directors who had all played their part in the year, their task is thankless and yet they do it with great professionalism. The 4 new Directors. Paul Taylor, Chris Mitty, Dave Hanson and Chris Parkinson have already added their own unique value to the team. John Patey, Margaret Stevens and Fiona Currie are all very established Directors who provide expertise and support to the workforce on a regular basis. John, as Company Secretary and Finance Director, Margaret on Schools and Safeguarding and Fiona on Womens and Girls development. As a total group we worked very hard to achieve contractual compliance with the ECB, NCCA Customer Partnership Agreement (in year 1 of 5) and to develop and protect the future of cricket by making it the sport of choice in the county. Throughout that process we identified a gap in our Board makeup and we have started the search for an individual who has legal and compliance skills.

In summary, a fantastic year for cricket in Oxfordshire. We all share in the success of the NCCA squad which is built on a solid foundation of participation and performance and the volunteer structure in clubs.

Best wishes,

Chris Clements

Chairman

Oxfordshire Cricket Board Ltd

1/10/2021



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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

- The Board for giving up their time to provide a solid platform for Oxfordshire Cricket
- Our circa 40 coaches and managers
- The Oxfordshire Officials Associations for supplying umpires and scorers to support our programme
- The Workforce
- Clubs and Schools
- Parents
- Volunteers

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