



Club website - www.boroughmuircc.co.uk

President's Letter – April 2011

Greetings and welcome to another in a long line of Presidential letters. Winter did the dirty on us last year by naughtily appearing a month or so earlier than it normally does, covering everything and everywhere in snow in November. Fingers crossed, we have seen the last of the white stuff until next winter and we can now concentrate on the approaching cricket season.

It seems an eternity since we played our last game, and a lot has gone on over the winter. In my last note of 2010 I paid tribute to Shaun McGrath and bade him well on his return to Australia. I relished meeting up with him in Melbourne to cast an eye over the Boxing Day Ashes test, but sadly it wasn't to be. Technical issues with visas etc meant that his departure has been delayed, so much so that he is likely to play the first round of league matches later this month. He won't thank me for reminding him, but considering how shabbily Australia performed on Boxing Day, it was as well he wasn't there to see it or it may have ended in tears. If ever there was a time to catch the Ashes down under, last winter was it. We've also had the cricket world cup, and India's victory last weekend has kept the club's large contingent of Indian players very happy.

As far as the club itself goes, there have been some major developments. For various reasons, we have lost a few key players, such as Sumanth Eadala, Ram Boyapati, Jason Burnett, Dave Sester & Hassan Durrani, all in addition to Shaun. We have attracted some new faces and hope to bring in more as the season unfolds. The biggest development has resulted in us attracting 2 sponsors to the club. For the first time, the club will display named sponsors on our shirts, dragging us into the 21st century. Buckstone Roofing and The Morningside Glory have both generously donated to the club and we hope to repay them in the season ahead. I am immensely grateful to both companies for helping bring some financial stability to the club. Still on the subject of finances, we have decided to try a new tack in terms of match fees and annual subscriptions. Since time immemorial the club has set subs at a particular level and then spent the rest of the year (usually unsuccessfully) chasing them up. For 2011, we are doing away with subs and levying a flat match fee of £10 a head, which will cover everything, including teas, normal match fees, umpires costs etc. Revolutionary perhaps, but nothing ventured, nothing gained.

As always at this time of the year, we are looking forward to another summer of cricket. Since our return to Meggetland, the wicket has been superb, and we hope for more of the same in 2011. Like every year, I also hope for good weather to see us through to August, perhaps this year we will even get a traditional summer, cool and damp in the early weeks, warm and dry thereafter. Or is that just wishful thinking?

Those of you who are able to make it down to Meggetland on a Saturday will, as always, be much welcomed. It is always good to see our esteemed ex-players at our home games to maintain our links with the past. Please note that due to difficulties with SCNL fixture arrangements, and for reasons that are much too complicated to try to explain in less than 5000 words, not every Saturday sees one of our teams at Meggetland. As such, Meggetland is not being used by Boroughmuir on either 30th July or 6th

August. Other teams may make use of it on those dates, so if you choose to come along, please pick a date other than those 2 Saturdays. Complicated – doesn't even begin to describe it. In any case, I hope to see some of you during the coming season. To those of you who have again generously made contributions to the club's finances over the past year, once again I thank you sincerely. In these difficult financial times, the club appreciates every donation it receives.

As per years gone by, I'll keep you all posted about results and events both on and off the field as the season progresses. I send this note via email and by post to those ex-players for whom I don't have an email address. If you know of any ex-players whom I inadvertently miss out, please let me know of either their email or postal address and I'll be happy to dispatch a note to them. Please feel free to visit the club's website on www.boroughmuircc.co.uk for up-to-date news, photos, results etc or follow us on twitter for live updates from the matches.

I look forward to seeing you during the forthcoming summer,

Kenny Skidmore, President,

Boroughmuir Cricket Club