



Club website - www.boroughmuircc.co.uk

President's Letter – September 2010

And then it was all over.

Every year the cricket season seems to come and go in the blink of an eye, and 2010 has proved to be no different. It seems like only a couple of weeks ago that the club was preparing for 18 Saturdays of cricket, but it is all behind us now. Once again the season was back to front in terms of weather conditions. As with 2009, the early months of the season were dry and fair, but July & August turned out to be cool and damp. For the first time that I can remember, the 2s played for 10 consecutive weeks up until the start of July, when things started to break down.

As far as results go, 2010 can be viewed as a success for both sides. The 1s ambition at the start of the year was to maintain their position in Div 1. Despite a poor start and a number of hiccups on the way, Shaun McGrath and his team put together a superb run in the second half of the season, winning 5 out of their last 7 games which ultimately saw them finish 6th in the league and preserve their Div 1 status for the second successive year. This is an achievement we as a club can be proud of, given our limited player numbers, resources and finances. I asked Shaun to nominate his highlights of the season and he gave the following in no particular order:

- Ram Boyapati finishing as top wicket taker in Division 1 with 34 scalps, earning a call up to an ESCA XI
- Dave Sester's 115 and Ram's 5-60 in the win v Largo
- Ed Hutchison's 95 v Edinburgh Accies (with a brand new bat)
- Sumanth Eadala finishing in the top ten wicket takers (23)
- Ashish & Ram's 7th wicket partnership of 78 in the run chase in the win v Carlton
- But most of all – a thrilling 1 run win v Fauldhouse which provided the momentum for 5 wins from 7 and safety in Division 1

After just missing out on promotion to Div 5 last year, the 2s rectified that issue at the first time of asking, not only that, but in fine style too. The 2s finished 2nd Div 6 after a fine campaign led superbly by Neil Craigmile once again. It may well have been a league-winning season for the 2s but for a couple of ESCA decisions which went against us. C'est la vie. A slow start was followed a highly impressive run of 10 successive wins, surely a first for any Boroughmuir team. A late season defeat to Dunfermline, when the 2s put in their poorest performance of the year, probably cost us the league title, but nonetheless the 2s showed real

character on many occasions this year, winning games from positions where we looked down and out. In particular the game v Old Contemptibles at Inverleith in June saw us 27-6 and looking down the barrel until a fine knock by Arjun Gupta (more of which later) and some great lower order resistance saw us to 190ish which turned out to be more than enough. As an aside, this was the only occasion this year when the 2s were bowled out. Neil has also listed his highlights for 2010, again in no particular order:

- 3 x centurions in a season - George Dickson 103 v Imans, Danny Perry 123* v Morton and Arjun Gupta 103 v Old Contemptibles;
- Irfan Mohammed 86*, Danny Perry 63 & Kenny Skidmore 58 all in the same game v Penicuik;
- Keith Docherty's figures of 9-4-10-4 v Dunfermline Wanderers;
- Ben Read & Sashi Ghandi's vital winning partnership of 20 in the dark at Meggetland v Clackmannan;
- The overhead catches taken by Kenny v Largo & Neil v OCCC and Ben v Clackmannan, not forgetting Andy Brown's slip catch v Heriots;
- Steve Whyte's run out v Heriots with a flick of the gloves (and his cricket scoring app for his phone);
- And finally George and Keith both using their sat navs to get to Townhill and ending up at a car park miles from anywhere. By the time they got to the ground we were 20-3 but still ended up winning the game.

2010 was Shaun's last season as a Boroughmuir player and I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank him for his contribution to the club on and off the field over the past few years. From personal experience I know how much time and effort he has put in organising winter and summer nets, preparing and tending to the square, playing, captaining and much more besides. Without Shaun's sterling efforts the club would not be in the position it finds itself now and I am immensely grateful for all he has done for us. I know from talking to him that his only regrets from his time in this country have been the abysmal performances put in by Australia in 2 successive Ashes campaigns in England. Nonetheless I look forward to sharing a few beers with him and listening to him complain loudly at the MCG this winter as we watch England retain the Ashes (terms and conditions apply to that one I think). Thanks for everything Shaun, enjoy your return down under, you'll be missed. I'd also like to thank some club veterans for their support over the summer, namely Chris Sprott and Ian Welsh, who were regular visitors to Meggetland, as was Jimmy Anton, a familiar face from yesteryear. Robin Welsh managed a couple of games too, taking him into his 5th decade of representing Boroughmuir.

On a more sombre note the issue of the club's finances looms large. The good weather during this past season has put a huge strain on our funds to the point where we are fast using up our cash reserves. Can I ask all those of you who have not yet paid your playing subs to do so as a matter of urgency to allow us to plan for 2011. Thank you to all of our esteemed ex-players who have generously contributed to the club during the year, as I have said before, your contributions are all very gratefully received.

Yours in Cricket,

Kenny Skidmore, President,

Boroughmuir Cricket Club