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|  | BLAGDON CRICKET CLUB  Ground: The BARTONS, Bath Road, BLAGDON BS40 7RG  Web site: [www.blagdoncricketclub.com](http://www.blagdoncricketclub.com)  CASC Number: 03443 | clubmark_RGB |

**Vice Presidents Spring News Letter 2018**

Dear Vice Presidents

Well it’s that time of year again and with 8 weeks to go the count down to the start of a new cricket season begins.

I trust you have wintered well and this letter finds you eagerly anticipating the start of spring and another cricket campaign for the Blagdon CC Vice Presidents Club

As always, the Club is indebted to The Vice Presidents section and with over 120 in its ranks it continues to be a vital part of the Club without which the Club would not be able to support its development strategy and yearly plans.

Our cricket in 2017 was a challenge and with some excellent team performances both teams acquitted themselves well although the Saturday team where unable to avoid the “drop”. This was attributable to a lack of playing consistency largely due to the ongoing challenges around senior player availability.

The Sunday team performed excellently in their debut league season producing creditable performances and finishing mid table and providing a platform for our talented youths to enter senior cricket with a great deal of success.

As is common with many clubs, Blagdon struggled throughout the season with player availability in the 20 to 40-year age group. This doesn’t show any signs of improving and the way we attract and retain players remains a key focus of the Club. To mitigate the impact of these senior player issues the Club continues to successfully integrate its youth’s players into the senior team and this is something we will be building upon in 2018. We are focused on ensuring our Youths continue to be well represented in the Senior teams

Our Junior section had another successful year with many teams performing well, just not quite able to go on to win titles.

In 2018 our Junior Section will consist of: -

* Kwik Cricket for boys and girls in years 2-4.
* U11 team (boy’s years 4-6 and girl’s years 4-8),
* U13, U15 and U17 Team’s.

All these teams welcome both boys and girls and have a training session and a match at least once a week.

This summer the club has also entered the “The NatWest U19 Club T20” competition with matches held locally on mid-week nights

Financially the club remains in a stable position however we survive from season to season with little resilience for major project expenditure such as boundary fencing which is in dire need of an over haul. This season we will be applying for funding to support a programme of perimeter fence replacement and maintenance together with specific funding through the ECB small grants scheme for the purchase of a new sight screen for the Old Vicarage end of the Ground

2018 will also see us welcome Claverham to the Barton’s who will be using our ground on Saturdays for their 3rd Team which plays in the B&D league. This will provide vital funding and hopefully open opportunities for both Club to attract players of all levels and abilities

A full Blagdon fixture list for 2018 is available at [www.blagdoncricketclub.com](http://www.blagdoncricketclub.com) the club website. We are always keen to recruit new players so if you fancy a game or if you know somebody else who wants to play, please let us know.

Your continued support for the Club remains as vital as ever and the attached form invites you to remit your VP membership and includes details of this year’s payment which are to be made to Blagdon Cricket Club.

As we have previously advised Blagdon Cricket Club is a Community Amateur Sports Club which allows the Club to accept gift aid payments and benefit from the associated tax financial benefit. The HMRC position is that the VP subscription unfortunately does not attract Gift Aid. However, if you are considering making a donation beyond the subscription then these can be made by Gift Aid directly to the Club.

Finally, we would love to see you as spectators at our matches especially our President’s XI match and we hope you can join us as our guest on day and to enjoy the VP complementary hospitality as a thank you all your support. We will be contacting you later in the year with more details on the President’s XI match.

Once again thank you for your continued support and I look forward to seeing you over the Summer



Mike Leveratt

Chairman

Blagdon CC