

AGM Feb 2011
Chairman's Report 2010

Last year was a difficult year on the playing side, particularly at the start of the season, with a few of our better younger players going off to university and unavailability due to school commitments. However, this did enable some of our even younger colts to start playing regularly in the adult sides and they certainly demonstrated what a pool of good young talent we have at this club. Things did of course improve once we got back more of these players and by the end of the season all the sides had managed to make a good account of themselves. The one exception was our Sunday 1st team who played consistently well throughout the season and managed a really creditable 4th place in the PDQ premier league beating the likes of Clacton and Colchester into the bargain. It was also a mixed season for our colts section and with a lack of players in the u13 age group our Peter Coe side did struggle in the face of some really good opposition, but we are hopeful that a year on they should do much better this season. The Matchplay side, which included a few good young players from other local clubs, swept all before them in the initial stages of the competition and reached the quarter finals in which they put up a really creditable performance despite not being able to field their strongest side due to holiday commitments. On the day the side was admirably led by James West who displayed a maturity well beyond his years in controlling his side in the face of what proved to be a difficult match. Our Ladies once again excelled themselves by winning the Southern league and in reaching the final of the Beamont Seymour League at the County ground. Sadly on this occasion they came runners up but given the age of the team that played in the final this bodes well for the future.

Once again our ground staff did a magnificent job in ensuring that our playing surfaces are on a par with the best around and my special thanks go to Simon Gibbs and Bryan Paige for all their hard work. They have been ably assisted by Robert Adams, Mike Rayner, John Fisher and Vic Forshaw in keeping our ground looking as idyllic as ever. I apologise profusely if I have missed out anyone from this list. However, a testament to all their hard work is that once again we won the Best Kept Ground in Essex in our class.

I have to say that during the year we have attended many events put on by the ECCB and the ECB. At many of these events they always try and promote the use of volunteers to help improve clubs. Well I would say to you that we already have this culture at KFCC and we are extremely fortunate to have so many willing and able people who freely give of their time. As a club we are often quoted at meetings as being a model example of how things should be done and I can assure you at such times it makes me incredibly proud to be a small part of this.

Although not much sign can be seen with regard to the clubhouse development this does not mean to say we have been idle. We have now got all the plans and necessary consents in place and we have had several meetings with potential builders. The main stumbling block has been our inability to gain Sports Club Status. Despite changing our constitution at the previous AGM to accommodate HMRC they still seem unable to grasp the fact that we are a sports club and that cricket is in fact a sport. We have had long and

protracted correspondence with them during the year in which they have turned us down yet again. This has been a huge disappointment and has taken a lot of work particularly on the part of Barry Whiffin. We have an appeal outstanding at the moment but it is felt that a minor amendment to our memorandum and articles of association may well resolve the situation, hence you will see that the committee has placed a special resolution before you under any other business which hopefully may clear any of the obstacles that still lie in our path. However, we are not relying solely on HMRC to come to their senses as we have also raised the issue with the ECB and our local MP, Priti Patel, with whom we have a meeting later this month. We are not alone in having difficulties with HMRC over this issue as we know of another club in the area that had the status and have subsequently had it removed. The difficulty that this presents is that many grant giving bodies will not give grants to organizations that are not considered to be of charitable status and the sort of money we need to raise does mean that we need to have this status in place. But please rest assured that we will continue to do our best to ensure that we can eventually proceed with the improvements albeit in a longer timeframe than we had originally envisaged.

The club has been busier than ever this year in terms of lettings. It does seem that more and more people appreciate the facilities that we offer and this of course brings in valuable revenue to the club without which we would struggle. However, this does also bring with it a lot of work, particularly for our lettings secretary Kathy Lees and our bar manager Vic Forshaw who both do an excellent job in ensuring that things go smoothly. I know I have said it before but it is worth repeating that the revenue from the bar does help to subsidise the playing side of the club and it is so important to the well being of the club. Thus I would make my annual plea to the players to ensure that they give Vic every possible assistance, particularly on match days and colts managers, when you can, try and get the bar open for home matches. Do not wait to be asked to go behind the bar if you see that help is required, after all it is your club that benefits from the revenue that it brings.

On the financial side we have managed our affairs quite well and you will hear more about this from our treasurer later on. Prudent management of our affairs has enabled us to be able once again keep the subscriptions and match fees at last years level. We managed to keep within our budgets and have drawn up similar budgets for the coming season to ensure that in the current financial climate we do closely monitor and manage our affairs. However, I am mindful that one of the spiraling costs over which the club has no control is the cost of getting players to games. This is becoming more and more expensive and the burden generally falls upon a few players. During the course of a season this can amount to a considerable amount of money. I would therefore request that the other players contribute towards the driver's petrol in order that it does not all fall onto those same few players just because their car happens to have a large boot.

We have once again also had some good sponsorship during the past year including amongst others the Jack Petchey Foundation, Whiffins, Boxtainers and Sheperd Neame. The club is of course grateful to all our sponsors. We intend to try and see if we are able to get some more advertisers this season along our boundary. The advertising banners

along the boundary could bring in much needed revenue. We have a prime site here with the railway line in such close proximity so if anyone does know of any companies that would like to take up the opportunity please let me know.

Before closing on financial matters I would just like to thank Pete Monaghan for all his hard work as treasurer for the past two seasons. He has done a terrific job in balancing the books but has decided that he is no longer in a position to continue. However, we have already found an able replacement in John Hackworth who has already taken over the duties from Peter and so far so good. Peter will still be involved and will be assisting with some of the social events during the year.

We are also losing our membership secretary, Jane Groves. Jane has also done some great work for us over the past couple of seasons, but with her children no longer involved at the club and with all her other commitments around the village she has decided to call it a day. Once again we have been extremely fortunate to find an excellent replacement in Jacci Sexton. You will all have seen Jacci around the club as her son Matt seems to live here at weekends and is undoubtedly going to be one of our stars of the future. One of the changes we will be implementing this season to try and make her job a little easier and at the same time save the club a small fortune on postage is a registration evening. This will take place towards the end of March. We will send everyone an e-mail with the date and will also send reminders so there will be no excuse for not attending and re-newing your memberships. We will also publish this information on the club web site.

There have been many other people who have helped to make the last year go smoothly so I would like to thank all of those people and apologies if I leave anyone off the list. First and foremost, I would like to thank my fellow committee members. It is never easy to get people to serve on any committee but without the work they put in behind the scenes the club would simply not operate. Martin Griffiths and all the coaches who put in an enormous amount of work in ensuring our pipeline of good young players does not dry up. In addition they also provide an amazing service to the local community by instilling the values of good manners and discipline into their young charges. I would like to thank all of our team captains whose duties do not start and finish when they take the field, but start as soon as one game finishes in order to ensure that they have everything in place for the next game. All the volunteers and fund raisers who bring in valuable money to the club, including Andrew Wild who runs our 100 club, Dawn Peperell who organizes Sunday lunches, Matt Bridger our web master, Malcolm Hards our scorer and many others.

Having mentioned Matt I would urge everyone to look regularly at our club web site. Matt has made some great improvements to the site and we intend to use it even more this season in an attempt to keep members up to date on any developments. We are currently looking at ways in which we can reduce costs and the paperwork burden and some of this can be achieved by modern communication. You will already have seen that you are getting more e-mails to notify you about things that are taking place at the club and many of these will also be posted on the club notice board on our web site. It just leaves me to wish everyone at the club a successful 2011.