

Hemel Hempstead Town Cricket Club

August Newsletter



Who would have thought we'd be sat here with only two more fixtures to go this season. It seemed like only yesterday that members were out with their paintbrushes and rollers topping up the sightscreens questionable suntan.

Now, the nights are getting shorter and the early starts (for the 2s, 3s and 4s) are only one week away.

There have been hard fought battles on and off the pitch in the past month, from matches at Heath Park to the Quiz Night that was hosted by our very own Andy Cox and Anjam Khan.

Joking aside it has been another good month for the club. As usual, we'll dive into the fixtures and results in the Club Cricket News section, but the 1st XI remain in hot pursuit of a promotion spot come the close of the season.

The 2nd XI to have an outside chance of making the cut, be it dependent on other results, and the 3rd XI have done more than enough to consolidate and secure their position in Division 6A. Come next season, they will be ones to watch for a tilt at the title.

In Division 9A the 4th XI have similarly secured their spot in the league for next season and will also want to push on for the title.

The Sunday 1st XI have secured a top three spot at the least but will have to wait to see how the final league fixture between Hertford and Watford Town pans out to learn if they have achieved back-to-back promotions in the Chess Valley League.

Let me take this opportunity to remind you to all make sure that you purchase your tickets for the End of Season Party on Saturday 7th September. There will be a BBQ and a DJ with tickets priced at £10 for adults and £7.50 for children. Under 5s are free. Please see Emma Benson or bar staff by the end of Sunday 1st September for more information and ticketing. It should be a great way to round off the season!

After this month's edition there will be one final newsletter this calendar year looking back specifically at the club's six teams in a kind of season review style. Stay tuned!

View from the Chair – Professor Richard Grayson

As the final weekends of the season approach, the 1st, 2nd and 3rd XIs are all still in with a chance of promotion. That is a tribute to the captains and vice-captains of those teams along with all those who have played.

It is also a strong sign of the improvements made at the club in recent years, helping people feel really motivated to do their best for the club. Even if none of the teams do achieve promotion, this has still been a very good season – and also for the 4th XI – which will lay solid foundations for 2020.

We have our Annual General Meeting coming up on Wednesday 25th September at 8pm. A formal calling notice will be sent out at least 14 days before, but I want to flag it now because there are some important decisions to take, especially on new practice nets and on furnishing the bar area. Please put that in your diary, watch out for more information, and attend if you can.

Finally, our annual Junior Presentation and the Steve Cheesewright Memorial match both take place on Sunday 15th September.

The match begins at 2pm, with the presentation from 2.30pm (full timings are on the club's Facebook page and have been emailed to junior parents). It would be great to see a big turnout!

Upcoming Events

Saturday 7th September –
HHTCC End of Season Party

Sunday 15th September –
Steve Cheesewright
Memorial Game

Sunday 15th September –
Junior Presentation Day
(2:30pm)

Wednesday 25th September –
HHTCC AGM

Saturday 2nd November –
HHTCC Dinner & Dance

Graham Nixon Hangs Up His Scoring Pens

Hemel 2nd XI scorer Graham Nixon has recently announced his decision to retire from his scoring duties after 32 years of loyal service to the club.

Graham, more commonly known as Nico, began scoring for the club way back in May 1986 and has been a regular face at Saturday afternoon fixtures, both home and away.

After the 2nd XI's recent win over Harpenden, Nico was honoured at a special presentation to mark his outstanding service that is unparalleled.

Over many years Nico has handed out the Graham Nixon Trophy to a player who has caught his eye for the 2nd team during the season. However, the trophy has now been retired and was presented to the club legend to honour his contribution.

2nd XI captains of the past and present were on hand to celebrate Nico and shared their own personal memories of his tenure, whilst posing for a few photographs (bottom right)!

Current second team members were also in attendance at the event, many of whom do not know cricket without Nico.

Nico recently took time out of his schedule to sit down and chat about his scoring career at Hemel and his stats are simply astounding.

Graham has scored 1,123 games for Hemel, overseeing 526 wins, 200 draws and 397 defeats. Additionally, 64 games were called off in the middle of play meaning Graham has actually been involved in scoring 1,187 matches over the course of three decades.

What is even more remarkable, aside from Nico's precise statistics, is that Graham's scoring was actually self-taught. And during his time at the club he has managed to pass on his know-how to many people – young and old. Graham said that his scoring experience had come from watching games on the TV and watching cricket at Stanmore with his parents.

Nico, first visited the club in 1985, where he got his first taste of what scoring might be like after being invited to score the second innings in the old Hemel scoreboard. The following May Nico was snapped up as the permanent 2nd XI scorer and the rest is history!

Over the years Nico has seen numerous faces come and go at the club and he has been a part of some memorable matches. Graham particularly recalls a Sunday game at North London where Hemel skittled the hosts for just 41, Lee Pickard doing the majority of the damage taking 9-20.

Graham says that perhaps the most rewarding aspect of his time at Hemel has been taken from the many people he has met and the youngsters he has watched grow up and go on to have families of their own.

Enjoy your well-earned retirement Nico!

Club and Bar Opening Times

The club bar has a range of opening hours, so please feel free to join us for a drink or pop in to say hello!

Monday – (Poker Night) 7:30pm – 12am

Thursday – 7:30pm – 10:30pm

Saturday – 9am – Til late

Sunday – 12pm – 9:30pm (12pm – 6pm off-season)



President's Day

Sponsors, Debenture Holders and supporters of the Club (both past and present) joined us at HHTCC for the annual Vice Presidents Event on 7 August. The evening was hosted by Hemel legend and current sponsor Star Platforms owner Richard Miller, our Chairperson Richard Grayson and Head of Sponsorship, Andy Turbutt. Anita Moulster provided an outstanding hot and cold buffet and Emma Benson and her bar team did their usual terrific job to make everyone feel extremely welcome.

Richard Miller welcomed guests with his inimitable humour and wit, before Andy thanked our sponsors and gave everyone an update on our senior cricket performances. Richard Grayson then spoke about our tremendous success with All Stars and the Junior teams before finishing with an update on the business side of the Club and our new practice nets project. The latter resulted in some offers of potential support and a £150 donation on the night.

We were also delighted to receive confirmation on that evening that Skyjack are renewing their sponsorship of the bar ('Probably the Best Bar in the World') for 2020. To ensure this sponsorship got off to the best possible start, Richard Miller kept the tills ringing as he regaled everyone with stories at the bar until closing time.

Meanwhile, on the pitch, Jack Doodson had organised an HHTCC v Presidents' XI T20 Match, with the guests stacked full of Herts Premiership players. But it was Jack Bailey who was the hero, finishing on an unbeaten 93 as Hemel clinched victory in the fading summer light!

Quiz Night

The club's Quiz Night recently took place on Friday 23rd August.

Hosted by Hemel's own Andy Cox, with the assistance of trusty sidekick Anjam Khan teams battled it out over a range of categories including General Knowledge, Sport and an abundance of picture rounds.

Teams swapped places on the leader board at a rate of knots, with joker cards being played left, right and centre as Coxy channelled his inner Nick Knowles from 'Who Dares Wins'.

In the end there could only be one winner and that honour was bestowed upon the Junior Coaches table who were deserving champions (see below).



Thank you to Andy for hosting a brilliant quiz and well done to the winners.

The event also managed to raise just shy of £235 which is another positive note to take from the evening!

Roger Doodson Memorial Trophy

August Bank Holiday saw Hemel and Tring partake in a memorial trophy game in memory of the late, great Roger Doodson.

Roger was an integral part of the club, helping many of the club's current playing faces find their feet within the teams.

The match was played in great spirit, with a handful of youngsters getting a chance to impress.

Roger was always keen to give youth a go and fittingly young Carter Botha claimed his first senior Hemel scalp (below), whilst there were also places in the side for Max and Finn Clark.



Jack Bailey kindly filled in for Tring who only had 10 players with the visitors ending up victorious by just 12 runs.

Big thank you to Adam Locke for umpiring and Hemish Ilangaratne for running the BBQ to keep everyone everyone's tank full!

The match raised over £200 for the Hospice of St. Francis. Great work by everyone involved, Roger would be proud!

Club Cricket News

Another good summer month for Hemel, again with some standout performances that have added to a positive season for the club.

The 1st XI saw August serve up two wins and two defeats in the Championship, which included a crushing win over Dunstable and comfortable victory against Old Owens and a drubbing against league leaders Hoddesdon and a narrow defeat to Letchworth Garden City.

A welcome edition for the 1st XI has been Mukesh Bhatt, a former Essex player and talented spin bowler. His performances throughout August have certainly been eye-catching ending the month with 12 wickets from his four appearances. This included 6-40 against Old Owens and 5-49 against Letchworth.

In the batting department there was half-centuries for Hemish Ilangaratne (77), Lewis Hodgins (55), Jack Bailey (54) and a superb 91 from Brett Penny with all of the latter three coming against Letchworth.

Two games to go for the 1st team who still have a chance of promotion if they win their last two games and results go their way.

In the 2nd XI Neil Morgan who reached 10,000 league runs with a solid 43 against Langleybury. That knock, combined with 62 not out from Eranda Jayasinghe saw Hemel home to a comfortable victory, one of two in August. The 2nd team's other fixtures didn't go their way, a tense and battling defeat away to promotion-chasing Potters Bar and a frustrating washout against West Herts. Still, there was time for some good performances to be racked up including 3-30 and 3-29 for Martin Botha and Suren Perera against Harpenden. The former, was also hungry for wickets a week earlier claiming 4-32 against Langleybury.

And whilst there were few batting milestones to report, Aaron Wilson notched his second league 50 of the season against Potters Bar. In the same match, Charlie Hoskins also claimed 3-30 as Hemel pushed Potters Bar right to the wire nearly pulling off a defence of 143 on what looked like a great deck to bat on.

Still a chance for the 2nd XI to gain promotion but they will need results to go their way and will have to beat both Wheathampstead and Lutonian to topple Chipperfield and Clarendon.

Only three games in August for the 3rd XI, another team suffering from Eversholt's withdrawal from the league. And that frustration was met on the pitch as the team were only able to pick up one win due to the weather. That was a convincing one however, bowling Old Chomelians out for 115 before Rhys Fowler (68*) and Tim Wright (16*) saw them home to a 10 wicket win. Rhys' innings was particularly explosive including 12 fours and two sixes. The ever reliable Andy Turbutt was also unfortunate to end up on the losing side as he struck a patient 50 from number four against Bushey but unfortunately Hemel were just short on the day.

Darryl Barnett's 4-24 against Old Chomelians was the standout bowling performance as the rest of the bowlers all chipped in throughout the August fixtures that were completed.

The 3rd XI look best placed in the club to go up but will again need to hope for Mill Hill to slip up if they are to progress.

Two wins in August for the 4th XI which has seen the team affected by the holiday season. Will Stokes' maiden hundred against Hertford was the highlight which also saw Ajay Savania claim 3-11. Rohit Patel also cashed in hitting a solid 64. In Hemel's other victory, Sandridge were rolled for 84, John Peppett claiming 4-7, before captain Mike Samuels (38*) and Nic Benson (39*) guided their side to a 10 wicket win.

Matt Scears also had a good month, taking 4-46 against Langleybury whilst Dan Keene also pushed his claim for the 4th team bowling trophy with another couple of wickets on to his tally. A safe season, the 4th XI can't go up or down but have consolidated their position for a title tilt next year in Division 9A.



August started for the Sunday 1st XI with a T20 tournament at Harpenden and for the 2nd XI a 'friendly' at Boxmoor. The 1st XI won against Harpenden but suffered a heavy defeat against a strong Redbourn side. Will Langley notched 50 in the Harpo win. Like the 1st XI the 2nd team came up against a tough Boxmoor side who were comfortable winners.

Two league games followed, a defeat against Watford and victory over Uxbridge. Adam Locke took 3-48 against Watford as a highlight, whilst captain Lewis Hodgins (52) and vice-captain Aaron Wilson (76*) scored half centuries to down Uxbridge. Guyanan quick Rawle Merell made his debut taking 2-52 – a promising start. If Watford now fail to beat Hertford Hemel will be promoted.



Dinner & Dance - Event News

HHTCC is please to announce this year's Dinner and Dance, and Presentation Evening

Saturday 2nd November 2019 at The Noke Hotel, Watford Rd, St Albans AL2 3DS

Tickets: £40.00 per person, Students/Under 21's £35.00

****Bucks Fizz Reception, 3 Course Meal with ½ bottle of wine per person****

Menu Options to be chosen in advance – See below



Tickets can be purchased from the bar or through Sarah Samuels/Team Captains. Payment can be made directly via the till or by direct bank transfer – Account Number 33768664 Sort Code – 23-05-80

Please ensure you state YOUR NAME on the reference preceded by D&D so we know what the money is for and can allocate accordingly.

Contact sarahbear@btinternet.com if you have any questions

BOOK NOW TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT as numbers are limited! We look forward to seeing everyone there!

Special discount available on overnight stay, rooms to be booked directly with the hotel.

£70.00 Single, £80.00 Double - Call 01727 885 459 and quote "Cricket Presentation 2nd November" to gain access to the special rates.

Dinner and Dance Menu 2019

Bucks Fizz Reception from 6.00-6.30pm

Starters

Duck and chicken terrine (df)
Served with tomato and oregano bread,
apricot and ginger chutney, pea shoots

Sweet potato soup (v)
Served with croutons and herb oil

Scottish smoked trout fillet (v) (gf)
Served with red beetroot and mix leaves salad,
dill and crème fraiche dressing

Main Courses

Corn fed chicken stuffed with chorizo (gf)
Served with chateau potatoes, green beans,
chantey carrots and café au lait sauce

Wild mushroom ravioli with tomato
and basil sauce (v)(df)
Garnished with rocket and parmesan

Seared fillet of sea bream (gf)
Served with lemon and herb crushed new potato,
sautéed spinach, citrus beurre blanc sauce

Desserts

Chocolate and salted caramel torte
Served with Chantilly cream

Cheese and Biscuits

Served with grapes and celery

Followed by tea, coffee and chocolate mints

**** If you have any allergies, please inform Sarah Samuels in advance so we can ensure your needs are catered for**

Support HHTCC as You Shop Online

Taking just 3 easy steps, you could help the Club to raise money as you shop online at over 3,700 shops and sites (including Amazon, eBay, John Lewis, M&S, Next, Sainsbury's, ASOS, Moonpig, Argos, Booking.com, Screwfix, etc.) without any cost to you.

HHTCC are now a registered good cause at [easyfunding.co.uk](https://www.easyfunding.co.uk), so all you have to do to is:

1. Go to <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/hhtcc/> and click 'Support us for free'
2. Create an account with Facebook or Email, entering some very basic information
3. Login and set a Donation Reminder so that you will be reminded whenever you are shopping on a website that makes donations to HHTCC via [easyfunding.org.uk](https://www.easyfunding.org.uk).

Thereafter, all you have to do is 'Activate your Donation' when you are reminded that you are using a website that is affiliated to [easyfunding.org.uk](https://www.easyfunding.org.uk). It's as simple as that and costs you nothing.

Donations from retailers vary (usually between 0.5% and 7.5% of your purchase) whilst the Club can earn big donations if you book travel and hotels, buy insurance, make business purchases, take out mobile & broadband deals, purchase electrical goods or compare deals and make purchases. We also get a £5 bonus if we refer a friend.

So please take the time to follow the 3 easy steps and get free donations to the Club as you shop online.

Whilst you're here...

The club would like to thank all of our sponsors for their support for this season. Why not check out their websites below? You might find one of the brilliant exclusive offers to HHTCC members is just what you're looking for!



Club Notice

The club is saddened to announce the passing of long-term friend of the club John Abraham.

John was a key figure at Bovingdon Cricket Club often helping with general tasks on a match day.

A regular on Sundays at Heath Park, John will be sorely missed by everyone that knew him.



Useful Contacts

Chairman: Professor Richard Grayson – hhtcc.chair@gmail.com

Membership Secretary: Mike Samuels – hhtcc.membership@gmail.com

Bar and Functions Manager: Emma Benson – hhtcc.events@gmail.com

Got a story?

If you have any news or photos you'd like to share in the next newsletter or have any feedback then please email: aaronwilson96@gmail.com. We'd love to hear from you!

Keep your eyes peeled for the end of season review in the next newsletter!

~ Aaron ~

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