

Hemel Hempstead Town Cricket Club

End of Season Newsletter 2019



Welcome to the final edition of the club's newsletter of this year. It's been a long year but another enjoyable one which has seen many highlights, both on and off the field.

Just a brief introduction in this instalment as we turn our attention back towards this past season, taking a look at each of the senior sides and their respective campaigns.

There's highlights from the club work party as well as the latest draw for the 100 Club. Are you a lucky winner this month?!

View from the Chair – Professor Richard Grayson

I have had an interesting and enjoyable time as Chairperson since I took over last March and was pleased to take on the role for another twelve months at the AGM in September. The role, if it is to be done by someone who is not able to do it full time, must be one of coordination, with others doing much of the work. I would therefore like to highlight the work done by various committee members since March:

Trevor Radcliffe – The very large role of Treasurer, which has also included a great deal of bar-related work such as ordering which is hopefully now diminishing with the appointment of Joni McNicholas as our bar manager (welcome to Joni!).

Emma Benson – Co-ordinating the Bar, Pavilion and Events, another huge role, in addition to doing much bar work herself (again, that is now reducing with Joni's appointment), and organising the Bar, Pavilion and Events Sub-committee.

Mike Samuels – Membership, making sure that people have paid subs and greatly improving communications with the membership through the work of the Membership Sub-committee, in particular the production of the monthly newsletter.

Norman Waterton – Through his Health and Safety role but also taking the lead in the project to refurbish the bar area.

Matt Judd – Initiating work on the Business Sub-Committee, working closely with Andy Turbutt.

Duncan Howard – Bringing valuable member and business perspectives to the committee.

Nick Hodgins – As Club Captain, making sure that cricketers are represented on the Committee.

Robert Lane – As Club Welfare Officer, Robert brings much expertise to the complicated work of ensuring that all those involved in running cricket have the necessary qualifications and approvals.

Caradoc Bevan – Whose work on the club's communications and collection of results is extensive and really important for recording what has happened in matches and getting media coverage.

Rebecca Kelly – Who joined the Committee over the summer and brings junior and member views to the committee.

Alan Morton – Setting up new bank accounts and the new security system.

I also want to pay tribute to work of **Andy Turbutt** and **Cyril Turbutt** who put in many hours to maintaining and improving the pavilion. Moreover, thanks are due to all those captains and vice-captains who have run teams this year, and to all those (a growing number, I am pleased to say) who have run junior teams in 2019. I would like to thank in advance **Aaron Wilson** and **Freddie Lippiatt** to have proactively offered to run a junior team in 2020 and also flag that we are looking for similar volunteers to take on the U9 Boys in 2020. Thanks very much too, to the staff who have run the bar with a friendly manner throughout the year, making the club a welcoming place for members and visitors.

Paul Thompson is our President and performs a valuable function in that role, but must also be thanked for the vast amount of practical work he does behind the scenes, not least his work on the grounds – for which **Derek Pratt** also deserves our thanks and appreciation.

A new General Committee was elected at the AGM and is listed at: <https://www.hhtcc.co.uk/about-us/>. The key decisions taken at the AGM were to have new junior nets in place for the start of the 2020 season and to refurbish the bar area, with the work on that hopefully being carried in December. More news on both will follow in the future newsletters.

Upcoming Events

Saturday 2nd November –
HHTCC Dinner & Dance

Saturday 30th November –
Emerald Kitty Adult Panto

Sunday 22nd December –
Children's Xmas Party

End of Season Working Party

On Saturday 12th October we held a working party at the pavilion in order to prepare the clubhouse and facilities for the winter months.

This had a great turnout of 20-30 members who got stuck into the activities which included: Repositioning a sightscreen onto a new base, taking down the outside nets, tidying the storage container, clearing all the changing rooms of rubbish and old socks, clearing the loft area of junk and old building materials, removing a freezer, touching up interior paintwork and a general tidy up. Not forgetting eating plenty of bacon/sausage rolls and drinking lots of tea.

By the end of the day we had completely filled the skip and would have struggled to squeeze anything else in, had it not been for the occasional scrap metal opportunist helping themselves. Well done to all that took part!



Struggling for Christmas Present ideas...?

With letters to Santa about to be written, two things for HHTCC Members to remember:

Firstly, with winter nets starting soon after Christmas, don't forget the range of HHTCC badged kit we have available.

If it's a new cricket shirt (as modelled below by our very own Finn Clark and Matt Judd) you're after, we have some in stock so please contact Andy Turbutt on 07912 105563. All other items are available from Romida at <https://www.romida.co.uk/hemel-hempstead-town-cc>. Remember that if you want to collect an item from Romida's shop in the Hemel Industrial Estate, rather than paying for postage, just add 'Spencer' as a Voucher Code.



Secondly, at no additional cost, you can raise money for the Club with virtually all your online shopping through www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/hhtcc.

It's easy to set up. From a PC or laptop all you have to do is:

1. Go to <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/hhtcc/> and click 'Support us for free' (or see the note below about getting a £5 bonus donation).
2. Create an account entering some very basic information
3. Login and set a Donation Reminder so that you will be reminded on screen whenever you are shopping on a website that makes donations to HHTCC via easyfundraising.org.uk.

If you're using your mobile phone or tablet, download the easyfundraising App and do your shopping via that to get donations to the Club.

There are over 3,700 shops and sites that provide donations (including Amazon, eBay, John Lewis, M&S, Next, Sainsbury's, ASOS, Moonpig, Argos, Booking.com, Screwfix, etc.).

There's also a £5 bonus donation made if you register before 31/12/19 using:

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/hhtcc/?invite=IFHFU9&referral-campaign=s2s> and then generate over £5 of donations during the next 12 months.

Happy shopping!

Club and Bar Winter 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 – 11:30pm

Thursday – 7:30pm – 10:30pm

Sunday – 12:00pm – 6:00pm

Time to Party!



Hemel Hempstead Town Cricket Club
CHILDRENS CHRISTMAS PARTY!
Sunday 22nd December 2-5pm

Tickets to be purchased in advance.
£5 per Child

Contact Sarah with the Age & Name of each child.
sarahbear@btinternet.com

Music, Nibbles & Fun Activities
Meet Santa & Receive a gift

Join us on **Sunday 22nd December** from 2pm till 5pm for the HHTCC Children's Christmas Party.

This is always a very popular event so make sure to reserve your kids a space now!

All attendees will receive an age appropriate gift too!

Unfortunately there are no gifts for adults but the bar will be open throughout the party for the grown ups!

Contact Sarah Samuels to secure your kid's places!

Club Cricket News – Season Reviews

Another season has flown by and as we head into the winter months. What better way to counteract all those withdrawal symptoms from spending days scoring ducks to enjoying a few 'social' drinks after a match at Heath Park, than to reflect on what has been a good season for Hemel.

With six teams to review we kick off with the Saturday 1st XI...

Saturday 1st XI

The 1st XI ended another campaign in the Championship with a strong showing, narrowly missing out on promotion back to the big time of the Premier division. A fine achievement given the rocky start to the season which saw the side win just one of their first four games.

There were some stellar performances including completing the double over Dunstable, as well as securing crucial wins against Letchworth Garden City and Old Owens.

The season turned completely on its head in July when fears of relegation turned into genuine dreams of promotion as the team registered yet more wins against the likes of Shenley Village and Reed.

With Hoddesdon the runaway winners of the division, it was a direct shootout with Reed for second place, with Shenley Village and Flitwick in the mix. However, it wasn't to be for Hemel as with results going against them elsewhere and a few defeats in August, the side came up just short for a promotion spot in fourth.

Regardless of the disappointment, a gritty campaign from the club's premier team which showed character and determination, something that will be important to take forward into next season. The 1st XI can hope to build on this season with some exciting performers looking to return to their best next year.

Saturday 2nd XI

Similarly to the 1st XI, the 2nd team also narrowly missed out on promotion, finishing third in Division 3B. This was a decent achievement as the side saw off the likes of Southgate Adelaide, Harpenden twice and eventual champions Potters Bar, as they searched for consistency to push for the right to climb the Hert's cricketing pyramid.

The 2nd XI also completed the double over Langleybury, one win a real nail-biter, and Wheathampstead the latter of which has become a seasonal tradition, Hemel winning every game between the clubs for the third consecutive year.

However, these wins were not quite enough to push Hemel over the line as Chipperfield Clarendon and Potters Bar eventually went up. Best of the rest Hemel certainly were as they pipped West Herts to third place.

It was also a season of landmarks as Neil Morgan notched his 10,000th league run, and Will Langley and Aaron Wilson set a new all time highest 2nd XI second wicket partnership of 174 against Wheathampstead.

With a promising young side and some experienced old heads on board the 2nd XI will surely be one of the favourites for promotion next term.

Saturday 3rd XI

Another Hemel side, another top four finish, this time with the 3rd XI in Division 6A. Hemel comfortably finished ahead of fifth placed Bushey but were some way off the promotion places in the end.

That being said, with a mix of youth and club legends, the team made a good fight of their campaign, after their promotion at the end of last season.

The 3rd XI was the place to go for centuries with a joint club high of three, two belonging to Bryan Davies and one to Paul Smith AKA 'Bruiser'.

The team took to life at a higher level like a duck to water, with early season wins over Cockfosters and Preston. Wins against Bushey and the double over Old Chomelians kept them in the fight until the bitter end with the team eventually having their promotion hopes dashed by a strengthened Old Finchelians side.

Still, with a range of young debutants such as Max Clark showing they are capable of competing at this level the future looks bright and the 3rd team will sure to be there or thereabouts next year against similar looking opponents.

Saturday 4th XI

A fifth placed finish this year for the Saturday 4th XI after their promotion to Division 9A last year. More than respectable given the chopping and changing of the squad that the side is often met with.

A blend of youth and experience has given the club plenty to be ambitious about including the promising emergence of junior player Tayyab Sadiq.

Nine wins and eight defeats glossed the 4th XI's season with two victories coming against Hertford, as well as a satisfying win over Sandridge who the team managed to roll for just 84 in August.

Like the other three regular Saturday sides if the 4th team can maintain a relatively similar squad then they will feel quietly confident about reaching the heights of Division 8A come the end of next season.

Saturday 5th XI

Just the one fixture this season for the club's new friendly 5th XI. With availability needed higher up the club there hasn't been much of a chance this season, but the positive news is that the 5th team are the only side in the club to maintain a 100% win rate.

The team travelled to Rickmansworth for their sole fixture winning by four wickets in a chase of 159, aided by Rohit Patel's unbeaten 53. A couple of stand out youngsters made a mark for themselves and showed the future will be an exciting one.

Tom Bisgrove took 3-40 whilst 4th XI breakthrough star Tayyab Sadiq took two wickets and young Finn Clark claimed his first men's scalp, returning 1-24 from eight overs.

Plenty to look forward to next season for the 5th team and with a host of new promising players in the junior section Hemel's future is a bright one.

Sunday 1st XI

Perhaps the biggest achievement for the Sunday team in Division 2 was keeping a side afloat, with several teams in the league dropping out, including Radlett who withdrew before a ball was even bowled. Leverstock Green and Harrow St. Mary's soon followed announcing they would not be able to fulfil their fixtures against Hemel.

However, wins against Ealing Hanwellians, Hertford and Uxbridge were enough to seal promotion (with a little help from Hertford beating Watford Town) confirming back to back (to back) promotions!

A couple of blips against Eastcote and Watford were an unwelcome interlude, but overall a solid season which also saw an additional eight friendly wins to add to a successful campaign. Harder challenges await next season.

100 Club

It's time to announce the winners for the July, August and September draws of the 100 Club!
Entry to this year's 100 club is now closed, and re-opens again in January 2020.

Costing just £1 a month it's a real bargain! Excluding prize money, all funds raised go back into the club and this year will be used to fund training equipment for the Junior Section!

Look out for the next results drawn in December which includes the bumper Christmas draw with a top prize of £100 up for grabs!

All the details about the 100 club can be found here: <https://www.hhtcc.co.uk/membership#100Club>

	£20	£10	£5
July 2019	Shay Smith	Trevor Radcliffe	Felicity Birnie
August 2019	Paul Frogley	Casey Clark	Steve May
Sept 2019	Phil Smith	Kim Morgan	Danielle Samuels

Congratulations to the winners! For those of you that haven't already received your cheques they will be in the post shortly!

Bar Improvements

Following hard work by the Bar and Events Sub-Committee, the club are moving forward with plans to update and renovate the bar and downstairs area.

Led determinedly by Norman Waterton, the plans to furnish the bar were recently approved at the club AGM in September.

New carpets, seating and other exciting features will all begin to be fitted to the downstairs area this December.

The improvements should help create a warm, inviting and comfortable area for players, opposition, members and visitors to relax and socialise on match days and out of season.

Don't forget the bar is still open ALL winter EVERY Sunday 12pm till 6pm, so there will be plenty of opportunities to test out the new furniture before the 2020 season kicks off again in May!

Thanks to our very own Brett Penny we can now present the proposed layout of the improvements and how they might look.

When work is complete we will update members and share photos of the finished project!

Introducing Joni

Having 6 years experience managing the bar and co-ordinating functions at Bovingdon Football Club, Joni decided it was time for a change of venue and sport, so we are pleased to announce she has joined HHTCC as our permanent Bar Manager.

Joni will now be a regular face behind the bar, so please make her feel welcome into our HHTCC family.



Clubmark Renewal

Good news!

Hemel's clubmark accreditation renewal has recently been confirmed. It will be in place until 2022.

This confirms the club's commitment to being a safe, welcoming and family friendly cricket club.

Thanks to Paul Thompson and Robert Lane for their work to maintain this!



Editor's Note

As this is the final newsletter of this year I thought I would take this opportunity to thank a few people for their support in creating this monthly newsletter.

Thanks to **Mike Samuels** for helping to provide content for the newsletter (and helpfully reminding me of deadlines!)

Thank you to **Emma Benson** for keeping us up to date with all the latest on events at the club. Without her we'd have no idea!

Thanks also to **Richard Grayson** for providing us with an insightful view into the latest behind-the-scenes news within the club. I'm sure he has really enjoyed my monthly reminder for the *View from the Chair*.

And finally, thank you to everyone who has bothered to pick up and take the time to read the newsletter and also to those who have provided feedback. It is nice to know it's been a worthwhile investment of time!

Hope to see most of you at the Dinner & Dance on November 2nd and to everyone else have a great Christmas and stay tuned for the next newsletter in 2020!

Aaron

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!



www.hemeltrophy.co.uk



He's behind you...!



It's panto season again and Emerald Kitty returns to the club to bring *Jack & His Giant Stalk* just for adults!

Everyone loves a panto but this one has a twist which is not suitable for kids!

This is bound to sell out so get your tickets ASAP!

Members get a 20% discount!

Contact hhtcc.events@gmail.com now!

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 on this season's content then please email: aaronrwilson96@gmail.com. We'd love to hear from you!

Keep your eyes peeled for the next newsletter in 2020!

~ Aaron ~

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