

Hemel Hempstead Town Cricket Club

July Newsletter – Welcome Back!

It seems like such a long time since we've all been together and able to even think about enjoying cricket and yet here we are in July entering the fourth week of a shortened season.

It has made a refreshing change to see good news stories like this as opposed to the unfortunate news that has dominated the headlines for the past four months or so.

Although there is effectively no competitive cricket this season, it has not been able to dampen the EM spirit and some great matches have already taken place for both the adult sides and the juniors.

More on cricket later, but first a special mention for a number of people who have worked incredibly hard to keep the club in great shape in these challenging times.

Behind the scenes, lots of work has gone on to completely transform the function of the bar in line with the new covid restrictions. So far, the bar has gone cashless, implemented a fully digital ordering system and has also fully kitted out the club to be a safe environment for all members to enjoy throughout the season and over the winter. Please do your utmost to support the club where you can and show your appreciation for all the hours of hard work that have gone into this project.

On the pitch, the ground has remained in great shape despite the lack of cricket. Junior cricket has resumed and the club have also implemented a net booking system so we continue to resemble something of what a cricket club should look like.

Nothing more needs to be said other than it's great to be back and hope to see you all in the bar for a pint at some point throughout this very different season.

View from the Chair – Professor Richard Grayson

I'm sure that you all share my pleasure at seeing the club reopen for something approaching normal. On the pitch, although we miss league competition and the presence of the new overseas players we hoped to welcome, we are once again seeing the senior teams play to a high standard. As ever, 'rain stopped play' is part of everything. For the junior teams, we have been able to restart training for all but one of our teams and run All Stars. This will all be continuing into late August and a little beyond. In a normal season, many junior teams might only play eight matches and we are at or near to that for all teams, so even if we are not in a league format the essential learning of junior cricket is taking place.

A massive amount of work was involved in reopening the bar. I'd like to thank all of the following: **Andy Turbutt, Emma Benson, Joni McNicholas, Trevor Radcliffe, Nick Hodgins, Norman Waterton, Dave Davies, Aaron Wilson, Mike Samuels, Cyril Turbutt, Alan Morton, Matt Judd**, and the Business Sub-Committee. Tasks ranged from setting up new systems and procedures to fixing new screens. In addition, the work to get games going was enormous and involved grounds staff, senior captains and vice-captains, plus junior managers, while **Paul Thompson** arranged all the fixtures. Thank you all.

As we resume cricket, I have been really struck by what a central place we play in the local community. The gratitude of parents who have valued so much what we have started to provide has been especially apparent. While it is not quite clear what the 'new normal' will be, it is clear that much of it will be local and small scale. We are ideally placed to be part of that. If we all do all that we can to support the club then we will emerge from the current difficulties in a good position.



Upcoming Events

Friday 31st July 2020

Club curry night will take place this Friday at Heath Park.

The price is **£20 per head** and you can pay on the night, but your place must be booked in advance so we can allocate tables.

Set menu includes:

1. One free drink per person, either a Pint of Lager/Cider or a Glass of Wine or any soft drink.

2. Poppadoms and chutneys/pickles

3. Onion Bhaji or Meat Samosa or Vegetable Samosa

4. Tikka Masala (Meat or Veg) or Jalfrezi (Meat or Veg) or Biryani (Meat or Veg)

5. Rice or Sag Aloo or Naan

Arrive 7pm for food served 7:30pm

Please contact Joni McNicholas (07909 178294) for reservations, food choices and any special dietary requirements by Wednesday latest.



Work in the club

Aside from the work to change the functionality of the club bar, planning has taken place to improve club facilities over the coming months.

New pumps were added to the club bar in the off season to expand the variety of draught drinks served.

New furniture has been added to make the club feel more homely and plans are in place to extend this project further once the effects of the global pandemic are further understood.

Work on the balcony is at an early stage and will continue to repair areas that have become weakened by natural wear and tear since the pavilion opened.

Work on the new nets, which was delayed due to the nationwide lockdown, is scheduled to begin in August and both senior and junior players can look forward to better training facilities from next season. With any luck, we may be back to something more like normal by then.



100 Club

It's time to announce the winners for the January, February, March, April, May and June draws of the 100 Club!

Costing just £1 a month it's a real bargain! Each number has over a one in three chance of winning a prize throughout the year and there's also a bumper jackpot Christmas draw.

Excluding prize money, all funds raised go back into the club and this year will be used to fund training equipment for the club!

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

	£20	£10	£5
January 2020	Aaron Wilson	Liz Radcliffe	Scott Radcliffe
February 2020	Caren Doodson	Kev Clark	Constance De Forest
March 2020	Olivia Wright	Roger Samuels	Bessie Howard
April 2020	Ed Grayson	Phil Smith	Steve Smith
May 2020	Mel Hones	Alan Morton	Dan Turbutt
June 2020	Nic Benson	Dave Breed	Alice Morgan

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

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!

We've added a range of new drink options so we're sure to have just the thing you fancy!

Friday – 6pm – 11pm

Saturday – 12pm – 11pm

Sunday – 12pm – 6pm

We're interested to hear your views on the bar. What would make you use the bar more? What would make you visit the bar over the winter season? What sort of events would you like to see? Please email: htcc.events@gmail.com with your opinions.

Please support the bar where you can, it's never been more important than now!



Club Cricket News

There have been several fixtures since the restart, all adopting new covid safety measures and sanitising on a regular basis. Whether that aids the ball swinging around corners still remains to be scientifically proven, but if you ask 3rd XI left arm swing bowler Ajay Savania he'll tell you cricket has never been better.

The club inter squad matches were the perfect time to experiment with this and also gave the opportunity to blood a few new faces before the regular Saturday season got underway, namely Jacob Hodgins, whose first senior scalp was none other than 3rd XI skipper Mike Samuels.

On the front pitch there were notable performances from 1st XI keeper Tom Elborn and 2nd XI vice captain Aaron Wilson who both retired against two bowling attacks that showed little sign of being rusty despite the long break.

Fast forward a week and the teams were lining up for what would be the start of their second round of league fixtures.



The 1st XI took on Flitwick away, getting their campaign off to a winning start. There was a 1st team debut for Will Hodgins and Steve Reader returned for the first time in 12 months as Hemel restricted Flitwick to 176 a/o. In reply, Hemel lost Ed Langley in the first over but the ship was steadied by decent knocks from Brett Penny, Hemish Ilangaratne, Jack Doodson and Matt Dale, as well as Tom Elborn who helped guide Hemel home to victory.

The 2nd XI got their season off to a winning start, posting a mammoth 337 against Southgate Adelaide. Will Kriehn smashed 152 on debut, whilst he was amply supported by a steady fifty from Will Langley and 42 not out from another debutant, Phil Costard. Southgate never looked like chasing down the target and fell way short in the end with wickets shared around the bowlers. Give them their due though they did hang around after the game for a well earned beer!

The 3rd XI suffered a rather rude awakening in their first game since the restart. A newly promoted Berko 2nd XI fielded a strong side and bowled tight line and length, causing havoc amongst the Hemel ranks. Three Hemel players made it to double figures as they were ousted for 84. Hemel put up a good fight in response with two wickets apiece for Ajay Savania and Dil Khan, but the horse had already bolted with Berko reaching their target fairly comfortably.

A young 4th XI, which must be pushing a club record for youngest average age of a team, took on an experienced Hoddesdon 3rd team. Bowling first Hemel had the visitors in all sorts of trouble at 39-5 but a 104 partnership down the order came to Hoddy's rescue, as they eventually reached 189 a/o. The pick of the bowlers were Jacob Hodgins and Freddie Lowe as they snared 4-33 and 2-32 respectively. Inexperience told in the end as only Andy Turbutt (20) and Taia Bisgrove (11) reached double figures – Hemel losing by 108 runs. Plenty of positives and a bright 4th team future to take from the game though!

All the games were washed out for Hemel the following Saturday, but a special mention for Neil Morgan who scored the 2nd XI's second hundred in as many games against West Herts at Heath Park – a pleasure to watch!

(Continued from Page 3) Sunday's have also been another strong point for Hemel in recent years and fielding two teams despite the ongoing situation is not to be snuffed at. The 1st XI have so far managed three games back – 1 win and two losses, while the unofficial 2nd XI claimed victory away at Cockfosters.

Filling in as an eleventh hour replacement, Mike Samuels struck 73, and Dawood Iqbal 54 not out, to help chase down Cockfosters' 204. Hemel also used 10 bowlers in the game, club legend Adam Locke the pick of the bunch claiming 3-21.

The Sunday 1st XI were comprehensively beaten by a strong USC Old Boys side, which would have been a league game in the regular season. However, Will Hodgins found a golden touch with the bat hitting 45 and then whacking a big 64 not out against Harrow St Mary's the following week to give Hemel their first Sunday win of the season. Youngster Max Clark claimed four scalps in the latter fixture as Hemel dominated the London side. Well done to Max for his dedication in helping out the opposition to field when one of their players suffered a nasty injury!

Away at Middlesex side Brondesbury Eagles this past Sunday, whose 1st XI captain is Middlesex wicketkeeper John Simpson, Hemel couldn't repeat another win, but there were good bowling performances with the ball from Ajay Savania, Tayyab Sadiq and Will Hodgins. Undone by losing 10 overs and a suspiciously high Duckworth Lewis target Hemel were always on the back foot, with Aaron Wilson's knock of 73 not out the only score of note as Hemel finished up 135-8 after 30 overs.

Junior Cricket News

It was 'Super Sunday' down at Heath Park as junior cricket returned for the first time since winter nets.

There was a clean sweep for the boys in the Under 9s, both Under 10 sides, and Under 12 team, beating Tring, Berko twice and Northchurch respectively.

The Under 9 side scored 266-3 compared to Tring's 221-7 to claim the first victory of the day.

On the back pitch, the Under 10B side got their campaign off to a good start with a comprehensive win against Berko. The boys chased down the visitor's 238-5 with relative ease, batting their allotment of overs and hitting 289-3. In the reverse fixtures the boys came up 20 runs short as the talented squad was rotated with a lot of the lads playing their first game with a hard ball.

The 10A side were next up – also against Berko – 293 for 4 played 273 for 6 a win by 20 runs. Since their first game two more wins followed, both away games. They beat Berko comfortably by 38 runs and then earlier this week downed Kings Langley by an even larger 48 runs.

In the Under 12 game there was some big hitting as Hemel scored 130-3 with Miles Barnard retiring on 26 and Krish Bhatt also retiring on 25 from just 11 balls. In reply, Northchurch ended up on 60-7 – a convincing win.

Girls cricket has also returned under the Grand Union banner which looks to be progressing nicely and developing some great young players!

Special thanks also goes out to all the junior coaches who have returned to operate our young teams and find new ways to coach whilst adhering to social distancing requirements.

If you have match reports please send them to hhtcc.newsletter@gmail.com for them to be included in the next newsletter!



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!



Need new kit?

Been caught out by covid?

Romida is back open and can fulfil all your late season equipment needs.

You can check out their range of equipment and order your personalised Hemel gear today.

Follow the link to visit our club shop and see the full range of available gear today!

<https://www.romida.co.uk/hemel-hempstead-town-cc>

ROMIDA
CRICKET

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: hhtcc.newsletter@gmail.com. We'd love to hear from you!

Keep your eyes peeled for the next newsletter!

~ Aaron ~

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