

# Hemel Hempstead Town Cricket Club

## March 2026 Newsletter

### Dear Members

As I'm writing this, the sun is shining and the cricket season is edging ever closer!

Winter nets are well underway and preparations are ongoing for what we hope will be another successful campaign.

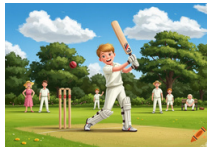
Outlined in this newsletter are a few background changes at the club, with words from a couple of the people stepping up, and a recap from the Players' Meeting a little while back.

There's plenty of positive stuff, including a look back at another brilliant Dinner & Dance and a flash forward with all you need to know ahead of the cricket season, starting with the friendly fixtures in just over a month.

Unfortunately, though, there's also some sad news to report. Our Chairman Professor Richard Grayson talks about the tragic death of one of our former junior players, Lylah Akram-White, and we also pay tribute to Clifford Spinks.

Such devastating news serves to remind us of the bigger picture in life, and how cricket makes up such a small part of it. Our game gives us an invaluable opportunity to have a laugh and make memories with friends, but ultimately worse things can happen than a bad result on a Saturday afternoon.

I hope you enjoy the newsletter.  
Callum Humphrey



*Enjoy*

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## View from The Chair...

### **Our Chairman, Richard Grayson, pays tribute after the devastating loss of one of the club's junior cricketers...**

Many of you will already know the devastating news of the passing of one of our junior players, Lylah Akram-White, at the end of January.

Lylah had been a member of our girls' teams for several years and was also, since last season, part of the visually impaired Hertfordshire Comets.

I know how much Lylah meant to many people at the club, both as a person and a cricketer. Many of you have told me about her joyfulness, her hard work, her sense of fairness, and her support for others.

I saw those qualities at first hand through coaching her. Lylah's family have also told me how much cricket meant to her, as a place she felt she truly belonged, and that is a tribute to the whole club.

There was a large attendance from the club at Lylah's burial, which offered a chance to remember Lylah and to show support for her parents, Paul and Zeena, and her brother Zayn.

I know that in time there will be an opportunity for junior and visually impaired players to honour Lylah, and we will let you know more about that in due course.

For now, I know that the deepest sympathies of all of us are with Lylah's family.



# The President's Piece

## Nick Wright gives his first message as our new Club President...

Hi everyone,

I was very pleased to be invited to take on the role of Club President last year and I am acutely aware that I am following in the footsteps of some very illustrious members of our club who have held the position in the past.

Given that I first came into HHTCC in 1963, it feels as though I have known most of them personally! I will do my best not to let them down, in particular my old opening partner for many years, Thomo, who has fulfilled the role admirably over recent years, and deserves our thanks.

You will read details of events and club business elsewhere in the newsletter so I don't propose to get into these here, however what I would like to offer, on behalf of not only me but the entire membership, is a huge vote of thanks to all those in our club who take the time and effort to get involved in the running and organisation of the club and the myriad of different things that make it work.

There are a large number of moving parts in this machine of ours and they all need looking after and nurturing to keep it functioning, which these guys do to great effect. If you get a chance, please say thanks personally to them, maybe offer them a drink, and even ask them if there is anything you can do for your club.

On that note it has been really heartening for me to see the number of young people who are sticking their hands up and volunteering to get involved in various roles across the board; the future of our club relies on youth coming through, both on and off the field, and we look to be in great shape from that point of view.

That said, there is always room for more helpers so please, don't be backwards in coming forwards to offer your support and help in whatever way you can.



# The President's Piece

The cricket season isn't far off now and winter nets are underway. I remember those well, and not always with great pleasure; facing ex-Surrey quick Pete Waterman and co. bowling off 18 yards in a freezing two-paced net in February still gives me nightmares.

They used to say that cricketing wives knew that summer had arrived when their husbands started coming home with strange looking bruises on their legs. That pain started for us in those ice cold winter months in Redbourn, although the Cricketers pub always made up for it and gave us the chance for practice of a beer-nature afterwards. I hear that is still the case, which is excellent news.

I was lucky enough to visit Australia this winter and took in the last two tests, which were great, albeit meaningless in the context of the series.

Watching some of the shots played by our guys got me to thinking about why we failed with the bat so dismally, especially since the players are undoubtedly very talented. I concluded, rightly or wrongly (what do I know about it?), that there seemed to be a lack of respect and humility by some players, both for the game and for the opposition and that, combined with the apparent absence of accountability, meant that some players seemed to consider themselves bigger than the sport. This is never the case, at any level.

She is a fickle mistress our great game and, if you don't show her due deference, will bite you where it hurts, so the only advice you will hear from this old sage is to show respect to the game and all involved in it, enjoy your successes and those of others, learn from your failures and, above all, have great fun while you can. It is all too soon part of your life history, I can tell you that.

I look forward to seeing you at the club at some point.

Nick Wright



# Introduction from our new Head of Junior Cricket

**Owen McGinty, who is taking over from Neil Morgan, outlines his aims in his new role...**

Hello, fellow HHTCC members.

Firstly, many thanks to Neil Morgan, who is taking a well-earned retirement, for all the help he has given on the handover, as well as over the last couple of years with the team running.

I have had some involvement at the club for around 30 years now, whether it was socialising in my younger days, being a social member, a lower-team player, a 5th team vice-captain, a 6th team captain, a Sunday 2s captain, an All Stars coach, and then a coach of my son's team, who are now Under-12.

In all that time I have learnt the importance to the whole club of a strong junior setup and then a good flow of junior cricketers into the adult teams.

## **The future is bright...**

We have a very high-quality group of under-17 players heading into the ranks now and we expect great things from them. It is a great honour and responsibility to try and keep the great work done by others going so that more juniors come through to the senior levels over the next five to 10 years.

We have Under-9, Under-11a, Under-11b (containing a few U10 players), Under-12, Under-13 and Under-17 squads and have plans to start gathering under-8 aged players from All Stars together so that they are ready to go next season.

If anyone knows of kids at this age please point them my way - [omcginty@hotmail.com](mailto:omcginty@hotmail.com). For the Grand Union girls group we have three teams (Under-11, Under-13 and Under-15), brilliantly run by Rebecca, and we expect to see some outstanding progress by all nine teams this season.



# Introduction from our new Head of Junior Cricket

## Thanks for the help...

I'd like to thank all parents who have so far signed their children up for the season ahead and for taking them to the winter training. This is very important for them to hit the ground running when the season starts, and it's also great to hear of so many training with Dacorum, West Herts and Herts programmes over the winter too.

I'd like to thank Andy Turbutt, Richard Grayson, Neil Morgan, Robert Lane and Paul Thompson for their help in getting things prepared for the season ahead and all the coaches and team managers for their support too.

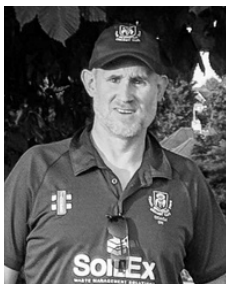
## Sponsor heroes...

Lastly, I'd like to thank our sponsors again for helping get the teams and coaches kitted out and prepared. We will always be grateful for their support:

- Carrob Controls & Services (Dave Corrigan), our Junior Sponsor.
- Soilex (Alex Collman), our Junior Coaches Sponsor
- Vertex Agility (Mark Beard), our Match Ball Sponsor

Thanks all and good luck for the season ahead,

Owen.



**Our new Head of Junior Cricket, Owen McGinty**



**Owen with his own junior team**



# Hear from our new First Team Captain

## Mark Brazier speaks for the first time since his new role was confirmed...

It's a real honour to have the opportunity to captain the club.

I think if you said to me a year ago, when I rejoined, that I would be doing this, I would have laughed as it wasn't even on my radar. Coming back to the club last year, though, gave me a new lease of life for cricket, and I'm really excited to take on this role.

Firstly, I want to say a word on Hemish, someone who will be continuing to support me in the vice-captain role. He's done a fantastic job leading the team in recent years and I'm very glad he's still very much part of it going forward.

One of the main reasons I'm really excited about this opportunity is, having spent a season at the club, I've seen how much potential there is in a lot of the younger players, and I'm really keen to help with their development.

Whilst we have a few brilliant young players in the first team already, there's more coming through who will get there in the years ahead. As captain, it's really important to me to support that development, not just focus on who's good enough to play in the first team.

It's about working with the teams all the way down to make sure younger players have every opportunity to step up and play as high as they can.

That kind of project really appealed to me, as well as, obviously, captaining the team on a Saturday afternoon, which I've always enjoyed.

I'm pleased about how we are shaping up as a team and I'm really looking forward to the season ahead, which will hopefully be a successful one for the club at all levels.



# Grand Union Girls Update

## **Our Head of Girls' Cricket, Rebecca Kelly, gives an update on the strength of the Grand Union team...**

Girls cricket is going from strength to strength around the country and we are proud to see our girls' section continue to grow with a record number of players.

Grand Union is a collaboration with Boxmoor CC, which has provided a girls' only cricket offering for over eight years now.

We provide hardball cricket for girls of all abilities in the Under-11, Under-13 and Under-15 age categories and enter these teams into the Herts Junior Cricket League.

We continue to welcome new players into all our age groups and put a strong emphasis on having fun, being inclusive and supporting player development.

With the Women's T20 World Cup being hosted in England and Wales this year, we are expecting to see an even bigger spotlight on the women's and girls' game.

Please do signpost parents of girls who are interested in cricket to our club. We can offer girls cricket from five to 16 years old, with All Stars and Dynamos from five to 10.

We'd like to extend a big thank you to our new sponsor; Sanper Residential, who will support the Grand Union over the next three years. This includes our coloured playing kit.



# Players' Meeting overview

**The club held its annual Players' Meeting on Tuesday 3 February. Here's all the important information discussed...**

## 5th XI Announcement

It is with regret we made the decision to withdraw the 5th XI from the league for the upcoming season. With uncertainty around availability and increasing ground costs, attention will turn to pushing the young players who have made a huge impression further up the club.

## Election of Captains

The club announced the captains for the upcoming season, layed out below...

	Captain	Vice-Captain
<b>1st XI</b>	Mark Brazier	Hemish Ilangaratne
<b>2nd XI</b>	Stanley Hayden	Aaron Wilson
<b>3rd XI</b>	Adam Moulster	Jimmy Smart
<b>4th XI</b>	Mike Samuels	Tony Linfoot/Sam Wheeler
<b>Sun 1st XI</b>	Freddie Lowe	Max Clark
<b>Sun 2nd XI</b>	Matthew Scears	Tayyab Sadiq

Further to this, Tom Waterton was announced as the new Club Captain and Owen McGinty as the new Junior Manager, replacing Nick Hodgins and Neil Morgan respectively.

## Annual Subscription and Match Fees

The Club announced a 10% increase in annual playing subscriptions, while match fees remained the same, despite huge increases in the club's own costs.



# Hertfordshire Cricket League 2026

## Championship

Dunstable Town  
**Hemel Hempstead Town**  
 Hoddesdon  
 Luton Town & Indians  
 North Mymms  
 Preston  
 Redbourn  
 Sawbridgeworth  
 Shenley Village  
 Welwyn GC

## Division 5B

Botany Bay  
 Clifton  
 Frogmore  
**Hemel Hempstead III**  
 Holtwhites-Trinibis II  
 Northwood II  
 Old Elizabethans II  
 Rickmansworth II  
 Sawbridgeworth II  
 Weston

## Division 3A

Bushey  
 Chipperfield Clarendon  
 Cockfosters  
**Hemel Hempstead Town II**  
 Ickleford  
 Old Camdenians  
 Rickmansworth  
 St Albans II  
 Totteridge Millhillians II  
 Welwyn GC II

## Division 8 West

Berkhamsted III  
 Boxmoor II  
 Great Gaddesden  
**Hemel Hempstead IV**  
 Luton Town & Indians III  
 Northchurch II  
 Northwood III  
 Old Eastcotians  
 Pinner II  
 Rickmansworth III

## Friendly Fixtures

	1st XI	2nd XI	3rd/4th XI
<b>Sat 18 April</b>	St Albans (H)		
<b>Sat 25 April</b>	Lev Green (H)	Lev Green (A)	
<b>Sun 26 April</b>	North Harrow (H)		
<b>Sat 2 May</b>	Herts T20	Redbourn (H)	Redbourn (A)
<b>Sun 3 May</b>	Boxmoor (H)		

**League fixtures start on Sat 9 May**



# Dinner & Dance Winners

## 1st XI

**Batting:** Hemish Ilangaratne  
**Bowling:** Parth Metha  
**Performance:** Tom Elborn

## 2nd XI

**Batting:** Brad Finch  
**Bowling:** Lucas Bertin  
**Performance:** Will Langley

## 3rd XI

**Batting:** Kam Akhtar  
**Bowling:** Callum Humphrey  
**Performance:** Max Clark

## 4th XI

**Batting:** Neil Morgan  
**Bowling:** Carter Botha  
**Performance:** Akshay Shah

## 5th XI

**Batting:** Tony Linfoot  
**Bowling:** Matthew Scears  
**Performance:** Teddy Butler

## Sunday 1st XI

**Batting:** Lutero Corrigan  
**Bowling:** Jacob Hodgins  
**Performance:** Freddie Lowe

## Sunday 2nd XI

**Batting:** Ed Pike  
**Bowling:** Matthew Scears  
**Performance:** Matthew Scears

**Chairman's Award:** Lucas Bertin  
**Niftylift Award:** Neil Morgan  
**Clubman of the Year:** Paul Thompson

**Congratulations to Freddie Lowe, who was awarded the Under-18 Boys All-Round Achievement trophy at the 2025 Hertfordshire County Cricket awards. Well done, Fred!**



# Looking back on the D&D

We remember another brilliant end-of-season event with some fantastic photos. Thanks as always to Sarah Samuels for her work in organising and Martin Botha for the pictures.



# Looking back on the D&D



# Remembering a Club Legend

**In our first newsletter since the passing of Clifford Spinks, we pay our tributes to a true club legend...**

'Spinsky' joined the Club as a colt when his Dad, Reg, was 1st XI Captain in the mid-1970s. He went on to become one of the best left-arm spinners the club's ever seen, also playing for Northants 2nd XI in his pomp.

Cliff took 218 Herts League wickets for us at an average of just 17.03 with 11 5fers. He is still our top wicket taker for the 1st XI in the Home Counties League with 124 at 12.32. He also played 23 Championship matches for Herts, taking 43 wickets.

Ironically, his best figures were 8-47 in 1984, at home to Langleybury, who he went on to play for with distinction.

Spinsky was a feisty competitor (which led to a few run-ins with authority on and off the pitch). Nick Wright still tells the story of when he was bowled at Watford and decided to walk off with one of the stumps. When captain Martin Wright shouted out "No Spinsky!", Cliff launched the stump back over his shoulder, sending fielders and umpires scattering!

He also had an enormously strong throw, which was never demonstrated better than at Welwyn Garden City, when he was challenged to a golf ball throwing competition and launched one into the pavilion from the far side of the ground.

The sound of the ball pinging around the bar also sent people scrambling for safety... a bit of a theme with Spinsky around!

His talent was never in doubt and in his latter years, we enjoyed many nostalgic visits from a much calmer Spinsky.



# Social Event Diary

**Sunday 29 March** - Quiz Night – Repeats Every Two Months

**April TBC (Friday)** – “Golden Meal Ticket” Event and Prize Draw – Repeats Monthly

**Saturday 11 April** - Cash Bingo

**Saturday 16 May** - Season Kick-off Party

**Saturday 13 June** - Karaoke Night

**Saturday 25 July** - Bobby’s Birthday Bash

**Saturday 1 August** - Beer Pong Tournament

**Sunday 30 August** - Hemel Hundred Tournament

**Saturday 5 September** – Saturday – Karaoke Night / End of Season Party

**October TBC** – HHTCC Dinner and Dance

**Sunday 13 December** - HHTCC Xmas Family Party

**Thursday 24 December** - Xmas Eve Drinks

**Sunday 27 December** - Ethan King Memorial Darts Tournament

## Working Party

Please make every effort to attend this year’s working party, beginning at 9.30am on Saturday 11 April, as we get our club ready for the cricket season.

Remember, many hands make light work, and you can relax afterwards by taking in a drink and our cash bingo night.



# Sponsorship Update...

HHTCC are delighted to confirm that **GRS** have agreed to renew their Club Sponsorship for the 2026 season. GRS have now been sponsoring our Club for over 13 years, becoming Club Sponsor in 2022. We are hugely grateful for the tremendous support we receive from ex-HHTCC player and long term friend of the Club, Antony Beamish and his team.

GRS are Britain's leading supply-chain partner for sourcing, production, transportation and processing of construction aggregates and waste materials. Their enduring success is built on people, relationships and their drive to 'go beyond' to offer a great customer experience. Antony would be delighted to hear from you about any enquiries into their business. Please visit their website at <https://grs-group.com/>.

We are also delighted to have renewed our Junior Section Sponsorship with **Carrob Controls & Services**, our Junior Coaches Sponsorship (for another three years) with **Soilex** and our Match Ball Sponsorship with **Vertex-Agility**, which we will be spotlighting in future editions of our Newsletter.

Other 2026 sponsorship renewals include our great friends at **PACAIR**, **Pictons Solicitors** and **Star Platforms**.

We are truly blessed at HHTCC with incredibly loyal and generous sponsors, also including **Skyjack** (Bar Sponsors), **Niftylift** (Scoreboard Sponsors), **Adex Interiors** (also Heath Park Cup Sponsors), **Bedford Plant Hire**, **Britton Roofing**, **Hicks Accountants**, **CRK Windows**, **Raja Tandoori Restaurant**, **Hillier Hopkins Accountants**, **Hemel Trophies & Jewellers**, **Cricket But Different**, **Focus Rigging & Scaffolding** and **KeyNet Solutions**. Our thanks goes out to all of them.

If you are reading an online version of this newsletter, please just click on the sponsors' names on this page to find out more about them and get HHTCC Members' rates for their products and services.



# Grand Union Girls Cricket Sponsorship

HHTCC and Boxmoor CC are very grateful to **Sanper Residential** for becoming the Grand Union Girls Cricket sponsors for at least the next three years.

Based in Hemel Hempstead and started by two friends from Longdean School, Sanper Residential turn your dream home into reality.

Born from the success of Sanper Construction LTD, Sanper Residential bring the same passion, drive, and meticulous care to the residential market.

With over 25 years of construction experience, Sanper Residential pride themselves on seamlessly integrating innovation and cutting-edge technology to manage your project entirely in-house.

As part of the Sanper Group, Sanper Residential has quickly established an exceptional reputation for delivering high-quality services on time, every time. Their primary goal is to provide cost-effective solutions without compromising the superior quality you deserve.

Further details will be provided in a joint HHTCC and BCC release shortly.

Both clubs would also like to express their thanks to Brightwell Aerials who have sponsored GU Girls Cricket for the past three years.

**SANPER**  
*Residential*

A trusted name in construction, now delivering elegant and enduring homes.



## Player Sponsorship

Thank you to those players who have agreed to get themselves sponsored for the coming season or donated to the club to promote their favourite charities. Funds raised from this will be used towards enhancing senior coaching and related facilities.

As a reminder, sponsors or your favourite charity will be promoted through dedicated social media posts thanking them, player profiles, weekly team sheets and player mentions in the weekly programme.

There is still time to get involved in this initiative - please contact Andy Turbutt at [sueandyturbutt@hotmail.com](mailto:sueandyturbutt@hotmail.com) for more information.

## Kitchen Redevelopment Project Update

As you will be aware, we received a £20,000 National Lottery Community Grant towards the refurbishment of our kitchen in 2025.

Due to unforeseen challenges with ventilation for the planned gas cooker that were costed at up to £7,000, we had to amend our plans and switch to an electric option, which added considerable time to completion of the project.

However, thanks to the wizardry and building mastery of our own Nick Hodgins and help from Duncan Howard and Joni McNicholas, the project will be completed imminently and food will be provided from the start of the cricket season.

Watch out for more announcements on the offering and please be patient whilst we get it exactly to where we want it for the long term.

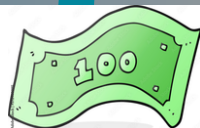
## Solar Panel & Building Energy Management System (BEMS) Project Update

Sadly our grant funding application to Veolia for solar panels, batteries and a BEMS has been declined, so we are now reviewing our options. Thank you to everyone who provided feedback and invested time in helping us put the application together.

Hopefully it will not be in vain and we can find another way to reduce our energy bills and carbon footprint, especially with the likely price hikes resulting from recent world events.



# Hundred Club winners...



## January:

- 1st: Lesley Cheeswright - £35
- 2nd: Lilian Ikin - £25
- 3rd: Phil Costard - £15
- 4th: Jackie Wilson - £10

## March:

- 1st: Georgie Benson - £35
- 2nd: Nick Hodgins - £25
- 3rd: Phil Freebrey - £15
- 4th: Donation - £10

## May:

- 1st: Cian Moriarty - £35
- 2nd: Tom Willets - £25
- 3rd: Derek Tomlin - £15
- 4th: Sue Turbutt - £10

## July:

- 1st: Max Clark - £35
- 2nd: Antony Lynch - £25
- 3rd: Harry Howard - £15
- 4th: Jacob Hodgins - £10

## September:

- 1st: Richard Miller - £35
- 2nd: Lesley Cheeswright - £25
- 3rd: Tina Hodgins - £15
- 4th: Ben Dumpleton - £10

## November:

- 1st: Dudley Wamford - £35
- 2nd: Caren Coles - £25
- 3rd: Akshay Shah - £15
- 4th: Mia Turbutt - £10

## February:

- 1st: Rosie Miller - £35
- 2nd: Sam Wheeler - £25
- 3rd: Carol Pine - £15
- 4th: Steve Smith - £10

## April:

- 1st: Emma Judd - £35
- 2nd: Darren James - £25
- 3rd: Mel Hones - £15
- 4th: Paul Frogley - £10

## June:

- 1st: Ron Cornish - £35
- 2nd: Martin Botha - £25
- 3rd: Sophie Samuels - £15
- 4th: Georgina Howard - £10

## August:

- 1st: Tina Hodgins - £35
- 2nd: Ben Clark - £25
- 3rd: Kevin Sears - £15
- 4th: Brad Finch - £10

## October:

- 1st: Dan Turbutt - £35
- 2nd: Nick Wright - £25
- 3rd: Brad Finch - £15
- 4th: Kim Morgan - £10

## December:

- 1st: Trevor Radcliffe - £100
- 2nd: Ben Dumpleton - £75
- 3rd: Kevin Sears - £50
- 4th: Phil Freebrey - £25
- 5th: Clementine Birnie - £15

**If you're interested in getting your name in the draw, email Mike Samuels at [hhtcc.members@gmail.com](mailto:hhtcc.members@gmail.com)**



# HHTCC Team Wear

Introducing the all-new HHTCC clothing range for 2026...

## New HHTCC Casual Clothing Range



Head to our club shop [here](#) to explore this range, and much more!

## Event Hire...

Members are reminded to promote Hemel Hempstead Town Cricket Club for Event Hire across our community...

As a Community Club, we offer our modern pavilion for hire, for:

- Parties
- Celebrations
- Wedding Receptions
- Reunions
- Other Events

We offer:

- A Licensed Bar
- New Sound & Light System
- Hugely Flexible Hall Space
- Beautiful Surroundings
- Safe Outside Areas



## Useful contacts...

**Chairperson:** Professor Richard Grayson –  
*hhtcc.chair@gmail.com*

**Membership Secretary:** Mike Samuels –  
*hhtcc.members@gmail.com*

**Bar and Functions Coordinator:** Sam Wheeler –  
*samowheeler@hotmail.co.uk*

**Bar and Functions Manager:** Joni McNicholas –  
*hhtcc.events@gmail.com*

**Social Media Manager:** Stan Hayden –  
*hhtcc.media@gmail.com*

### Follow us on social media!



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If you have any news or photos you'd like to share in the next newsletter or have any feedback, then please email: [hhtcc.members@gmail.com](mailto:hhtcc.members@gmail.com). We'd love to hear from you!

**Thanks for reading, make sure to look out for the next edition of the newsletter soon!**

