

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR 2014-5

Supporting clubs, enabling them to find players and grounds and fixtures, providing high-level playing opportunities, and bringing all parts of the club game together ó these have been the focus of our work yet again, and in our centenary year I am pleased to tell you that, following the CCC's re-structuring reported last year, we have made strong progress.

There has been much joint effort with the ECB preparing the on-line bureau which is intended from next year to be a one-stop fixture, player, and ground-hire service run for the whole country via the new National Cricket Conference. We mean it to be responsive to all the different ways people now want to play cricket. So, for example, it will help a casual side find on a Friday the last players for a match on a Sunday, and will put them in touch with a club wanting to hire out its ground. The idea behind it all is to keep more players in the game and bring more in.

To this end, we have also been striving to draw 'park' or 'nomad' sides into the mainstream, giving them access to funding. I am most happy to report that, with development manager Gulfray Riaz's excellent guidance, the National Asian Cricket Council has been formally established, embracing representatives from across the country and creating a stronger voice for this thriving part of the cricket family. The aim is also to make into a national body very soon the African-Caribbean Cricket Association, which Gulfray has also assisted in launching and which continues to tackle the decline in cricket participation in its community.

Much is changing in cricket, as well as in the social and other factors bearing on it. Be assured that we are doing our utmost to adapt and innovate so as to keep the CCC a valuable resource and voice for club cricket. The full support of our member clubs will help us help them.

In our proud centenary year, it is time to mark the CCC's achievements, and above all, to celebrate a hundred years of the club game which we are here to serve. To do so, we are publishing, besides a special Yearbook, an independently edited collection of writings on club cricket. There will also be matches for our men's and women's teams and a dinner at Lord's, as well as the November tour to Grenada and Barbados. Our President for the year, I am delighted to say, is the ECB's former chief executive, David Collier. Already through his offices we have another centenary match ó against an ECB eleven in the wonderful setting of Arundel Castle. Our website will keep you informed of all events.

It remains to give thanks for important contributions in the last year - to Donna, Stan, and Val in the office; to Charlie Puckett, Stuart Whitehead and all those behind the ever-successful CCC Annual Lunch at Lord's; to Simon Prodger, Mark Stear, Min Patel, and Pauline Osborn, for the growing success of our men's and women's representative cricket programme; and to Paul Hooper for an exemplarily active year as president during 2014.

Alf Langley, March 2015