

## **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR 2015-6 by Alf Langley**

Wins for both our men and women at Lord's, a record and royal Christmas lunch at Lord's, a ground-breaking book devoted to club cricket, and a memorable tour to Grenada and Barbados - what a great CCC Centenary Year in 2015! Particular memories for me are the last-wicket win over a strong Barbados XI and men's, women's, and vets' teams all on tour together in the Caribbean.

Thanks to all those who helped create the memories - Charlie Puckett, Stuart Whitehead, and John Poore for that Lord's lunch attended by the Duke of Edinburgh and 646 others, Steve Wright for hosting a tour party in Grenada, the office staff for a busy year, David Perrin for the idea behind the well-received and still-selling CCC book *The Show Must Go On*, and David Collier for a brilliant year as president, including a lovely day at Arundel for the match against the ECB.

Now the CCC is 101 years old, our focus again is even more the future. With strong ECB support, we continue to build the National Cricket Conference, the body which will serve the club game across the country. We are currently recruiting members of the disciplinary appeals panels agreed with the ECB and aimed at tackling bad match behaviour. The new fixtures, find-a-ground and find-a-player service is also coming together.

In a mark of our standing in the game and the role we can play, we have been asked to submit our ideas to the ECB's strategy for the next five years of the recreational game. The key goal is to increase participation, as it is in our support of the National Asian Cricket Council and the African Caribbean Cricket Association. The last two bodies also show our commitment to the essential diversity of the club game.

We have expanded our cricket programme in recent years. We will go on working with county boards to give club players better routes into first-class cricket. It's another way we can be of value to clubs and their players. We hope soon to reach an understanding with one board, Essex, for a wider range of chances to make the grade at county level.

As I stand down as chair, I must give other thanks - to Donna and Stan in the office again, to Min Patel and fellow coaches, to Simon Prodger for all his endeavours, and to the Strategy and Development Group for past work on re-structuring the CCC. Thanks, too, to two others standing down with me: Steve Wright, a sterling treasurer since 2009, and Bill Bigmore, a former president with an outstanding 40 years behind him of playing, managing tours, and administering with the Conference. Lastly, I offer my best wishes and support to my successors in their task of assisting and representing clubs and club cricket and keeping the CCC fit to do so.

Alf Langley, February 2016