

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR 2016-17

In my first year in the Chair, I would like to share with you the agenda which your Board has outlined for action in 2016/17.

Two important and innovative projects have already commenced which will show how we are representing the grass roots levels of cricket, not only in our own region, but also, with our colleagues at the National Cricket Conference and the National Asian Cricket Council, as well as our friends and mentors at the England and Wales Cricket Board.

The Club Cricket Charity, our sister organisation, with our partners at All Out Cricket Magazine, published a questionnaire asking for the wants and needs of cricket clubs and organisations. An amazing 51% of those answering the question on Health and Safety (11% of the total respondents!) chose a defibrillator as their most urgent need. As a result, the Charity has launched a fund to supply these wonders of technology to any cricket organisation who might apply. We launched the **Wendy Grossmith Defibrillator Fund** and we continue to look for donations and help to fulfil our aim of supplying 200 units to clubs during 2017. Because of the generosity of the Grossmith family we have been able to present the first 5 defibrillators to clubs in the South-east who have expressed a need for the equipment. Please contact the Club Cricket Charity (Registration Number 1156096). tel: 07813 813908.

After 2 years of massive success in Kenya, 'Character Through Cricket', a venture which has been implemented by The East African Cricket and Education Foundation, chaired by our own Simon Prodger, is now being brought to the UK in two pilot projects in Birmingham and West London. Teaching existing cricket coaches how to instil British values to potentially radicalised youngsters, and then recruiting those youngsters, is a project where CCC is delighted to be central to its success. We are pleased to be associated in this project with our partners Sport for Life International, The Unity of Faith Foundation and Nick Gandon.

In our role as founding members of the National Cricket Conference, we continue to work closely with the ECB in support of the club game across England and Wales. With a new strategy for the game now made public by ECB, Cricket Unleashed, the NCC will continue to be a recognised and active partner to drive through outcomes that will benefit amateur cricket.

CCC continues to be committed to providing club cricketers with a unique high performance representative programme, taking in regular fixtures against County 2nd XIs, Minor Counties and touring sides from overseas in both Men's and Women's teams. We remain equally committed to providing opportunities for amateur cricketers to tour overseas on a regular basis, and to the introduction of talented young cricketers from all cricketing communities - whether traditional club cricket, South Asian, or African Caribbean - to experiencing the special environment of representative sport.

Through the hard work of Gulfray Riaz and the office team, of Stan Nicholson, Donna Black and Val Baker, the fixture bureau and the backup work for the National Asian Cricket Council and the NCC continues. In addition, through our ongoing commitment to assisting the Asian Cricket Awards, I was privileged to present the inaugural annual **CCC Inspiration Award** to Maryam Ali from Leeds, whose activities in the local area are truly inspirational.

We have continued to communicate with our membership and wider readership of our Newsletter and we are rejuvenating our website, Twitter and Facebook offerings.

We have a new and more representative Board of Directors, most of whom are standing again this year. Last year we had the retirement of Steve Wright and Bill Bigmore, both of whom were recognised at the hugely successful annual lunch. This year we are losing Keir Hopley, who has served on the Board for many years. I am glad that he is still going to give us his experience in the running of our Umpires Panel however.

Finally, I want to thank my predecessor, Alf Langley, who chaired the Conference through a difficult and reforming period and is still on the Board, as well as representing CCC at the NCC table.

I look forward to the coming year with optimism and excitement.

Robbie Book, February 2017