

January 2022 Newsletter

Mission Statement:

To be at the heart of our local community and provide the best environment and facilities to consistently compete at the highest levels of cricket in Cheshire.

Captain's Welcome - Pete Barnes

A warm welcome to the new year to all players, members and followers of Grappers. In my sixth season for GCC, it is an honour to take on the role as 1st XI Captain. I have a fantastic team around with Albert Pennington and Ben Bodha as VC's, Mike Holden and Dave Tully as 2nd XI and 3rd XI captains and Will Sharp as Director of Cricket.

There has been plenty of work going on behind the scenes over the winter as you'll find out in this newsletter. The ultimate aim of the season is to build on club culture and strengthen our position as a leading Cheshire County League club both on and off the pitch.

Off the pitch we are pushing a digital drive, enabling our followers to get more insight and access to all things Grappers. Our goal is to showcase how great this club is which will support retention and recruitment of players.

On the pitch we have a good balance of players across all three weekend teams. The exciting end to last season with the u13's and u15's winning their North Cheshire Cup's has inspired our big drive in 2022 to utilise the talent of our junior section. Nurturing key players during their transition into senior cricket is a perfect role for our experienced captains, Tully and Holden.

All teams will be highly competitive this season and we look forward to seeing how much we can achieve.

I look forward to seeing you all this season.

PB



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On-Field News



Players - We've had a fantastic Winter retaining the services of our existing player group whilst recently adding Aussie fast bowler Nick Woods to Grappers as the overseas for 2022. The 6'6' quick comes recommended by friends of the club and we're delighted to welcome him as the latest member of the GCC fast bowling cartell! He's due to arrive mid-April and is available for the full season.

Elsewhere, former First Class top order bat Grant Hodnett has re-signed for another year and we're hoping to see more of Eddie Barnes when county commitments allow. Batsman Josh Graves is available for a full season having joined the club at the back-end of last year and Josh Hayes is making a strong recovery from a shoulder injury that ruled him out for a long period in 2021.

We're always on the lookout for new members of all experience and abilities, please get in touch if you'd like to join or know of someone interested.

Fixtures - The fixture lists have just been released in the last few days! The 1s will start away at Urmston on the 23rd April with the 2s hosting Marple on the same day. The last round of fixtures are on the 17th September.

Winter Nets - Senior winter nets start Monday 7th February at Bridgewater High School Lower Site. The sessions will run from 8-930pm for 8 weeks until the 28th March when we'll head outside weather permitting. These sessions are open to all new and existing members - please drop us a message if you need any directions or have any questions.

Groundforce Day - We've lined up Saturday 2nd April as our Groundforce Day this year to tie in with an early Saturday kick-off. 9am meet at the club with lunch provided at Grappers and then a few beers during the football. More announcements released nearer the time but one for all players to get in the diary and attend.

Senior Training - Tuesday will be the main senior training night during this season with selection news released shortly after. We're looking into getting a small sheet to cover the practice wickets.



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Off-Field News



Pavilion Renovation - Winter work has commenced on a pavilion refurbishment and will be completed in time for the season. This includes new LED lighting in the function room and an uplift to the mens and womens toilets.

Sponsorships opportunities - As the 2022 season approaches, there are still lots of ways to support Grappers. We are looking for new sponsors to place around the ground on advertising boards, costing £250. Please get in touch with Pete Mills on 07836 611237 to register interest.

Additionally, we're still looking for a digital sponsor to support our livestream and social media content this season. Drop us a message via twitter or instagram and we'll be in touch.

Function Room hire - The club is available to hire for functions this year and will be looking in top shape after the Winter Renovation. For more information on hiring the function room or to come and have a look round, please email info@grappers.co.uk or call Paul on 07912966236.

Digital focus - We are looking to increase engagement with our member base this season by pushing more content across facebook, twitter, instagram and youtube.

To support this, Martyn Greaves from digital design company MIG Creative has been working incredibly hard on our artwork and social media posts ahead of the season. We hope everyone enjoys the fantastic content once the season arrives and makes our 12th man feel welcome when down for a game!



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Off-Field News (cont.)



Defib - We've got a new defib at Broad Lane, raised through fundraising and a generous donation towards the total cost from Becky Roberts PR, one of our junior parents. The community defib is located on the front of the building. Whilst we hope this is something we will never have to use, the defibrillator is available to the club and also for local emergencies where people will be directed by North West Ambulance Service.

Kit - Kit for 2022 is available to order via our kit manufacturer Kukri Sports - <https://grappers.co.uk/grappers-clothing>. The sizing is an athletic fit, if you're between sizes we'd recommend going for the bigger one. Additionally to the online site, we have a T20 shirt available in short and long sleeve at £25, please get in touch with Iain Wright directly to order.

Junior Section

Following on from last seasons trophy winning success for our talented under 13s and under 15s, we can't wait to get the season started again! The club has a strong junior set up with age groups from Under 7s to Under 18s and outdoor training on Friday nights during the season with a bar and bbq on!

We have a number of very promising young players with at least half a dozen playing representative cricket in the 13s and 15s last season.

As mentioned earlier by Pete, we are looking to transition more of our older juniors into senior cricket in 2022 with the 3rd XI proving a successful breeding ground. The future looks promising for the club!

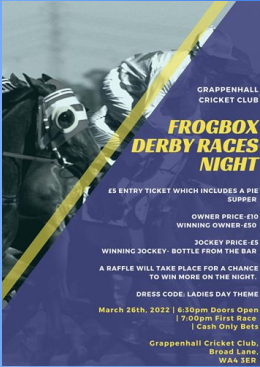


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Grappers Live-Stream & Fundraisers



Livestream at Broad Lane - The news you've all been waiting for! We're bringing a live-stream to Broad Lane to take Grappers global! Along with the match-streams, we'll produce shortened highlight packages / best shots / funny moments and push content across our social channels. Can someone remind Bodha to walk off calmly when he gets out next year or else! This is being supported by our big fundraiser event on March 26th, with all details below.

The inaugural **Grappers Races Night** is on the 26th March at the club, doors open 6:30pm until late! The dress code is Ladies Day theme. Tickets to the event are £5 which includes a pie supper.

8 pre-recorded races will be played on the big screen at Grappers, all horses having an owner (£10) and a jockey (£5). The winning horse for each race will receive £50 and the winning jockey will receive a bottle of choice from the bar. The GCC bookies will be in town for one night only and the bar fully stocked up!

Tickets and donations to be made via the link [here](#).

Sportsman's Dinner

We're holding our annual Sportsman's Dinner, all being well with restrictions allowing, on Monday 7th March 2022. This is an annual fundraiser and is a great evenings entertainment. Tickets are priced at £34 and the evening includes an excellent 4 course meal. This years main speaker is Dermot Reeve, the former England and Warwickshire cricketer. Dermot was a real character in the England dressing room and was part of the side that lost the Cricket World Cup Final to Pakistan in 1992. This years comedian is Gary Marshall, an excellent stand up comedian who is sure to have the audience in stitches. To purchase tickets please contact Paul Tyerman on 07912 966236 or ptyerman@hotmail.com



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Women's and Girls Cricket



We are pleased to announce a major landmark in our aim to fully develop womens and girls cricket at the club in 2022. We have been awarded an ECB grant via the Cheshire Cricket Board to help facilitate the refurbishment of the clubhouse to create a welcoming environment for women and girls. The club will provide partner funding to the grant and we'll look to have the work complete in time for the start of the season.

Whilst we have always encouraged girls to be part of our junior section and currently having 20 members playing softball cricket, a womens team has never been established. One of our main objectives in 2022 is to fully develop the womens and girls programme to provide competitive cricket for all and 'future proof' our mission statement to be at the heart of our entire community. To kick off the activity we have enlisted the help of Jessica Lewis, director of cheshire womens & girls cricket, and will meet with her at the club in the next few weeks. Details to follow in future newsletters.

Countdown to the season - Key Dates

- 7th February - First senior indoor session
- 7th March - Sportsman's dinner
- 26th March - Frogbox Races night
- 28th March - Last indoor session
- 2nd April - Groundforce day
- 9th April - Weekend off
- 13th April - Overseas arrives
- 14th April - Outdoor training and beer with overseas
- 16th April - Saturday pre-season training and season launch social
- 23rd April - Game 1



Chairman's Closing Remarks - Ian Hayes

We enter 2022 in an upbeat mood as we look to further escape the clutches of the COVID pandemic. Exciting times are ahead, and we've made great strides already this winter with the pavilion work, retaining of key players, our enhanced program with women's and girl's cricket and a local recruitment initiative FOR ALL kicked-off, to name just a few. Here's to a successful, prosperous and safe season!



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