



Benwell Hill Cricket Club

2018 Season Review

Chairman's Report



Simon Lunn
Chairman

In terms of that dreaded word `silverware` 2018 was a disappointing year for the Club. It is probably more than 40 years since no trophies were won by any of the Junior or Senior Teams although to be strictly accurate all is not quite lost as the Smithson Trophy was carried over to 2019 where we will compete in the semi finals. On the brighter side we reached a significant number of cup finals only to fall at the final hurdle. C'est la vie.

In the NEPL the First Team finished 7th whilst the Second and Third Teams contended almost to the last only to be pipped by Tynemouth and South Northumberland respectively. Our other 3rd teams in the C Division and West Tyne League had constructive seasons and enjoyed some notable victories.

There were some significant individual performances – most notably Ben Mussett broke the second team run scoring record in the NEPL whilst both he and Joe Fletcher scored over 1000 runs.

Overseas professional Jacques Snyman made a huge impression on and off the field and it was a grievous blow when he had to return to South Africa in early July. Four players (Rory Hanley, Mohsin Mukhtar, Luke Mussett and Max Williamson) made their full senior Northumberland debuts and as all four had yet to turn 19 the future looks bright. Philip Nicholson homed in on the all time First Team appearance record which will be a remarkable feat in this day and age.

Director of Cricket and First Team Captain Kyle Coetzer led from the front and has performed wonders in developing the young talent within our Club.

Chairman's Report (continued)

Barry Pearson in his multi-cricketing roles also must be singled out for mention and sincere thanks.

We will be a young side in 2019 as we see developing our own players as clearly the best way forward for cricket in our Club. In a tough competitive environment where `horse trading` is at a ridiculous level this may require some patience, but your support will be ever welcome by all teams – Senior, Junior or Women`s.

Off the field the Club made significant progress. The Tennis Club at the bottom of the ground has been reintegrated into BHCC after a 60 year hiatus and we will endeavour to ensure the game continues to be played at Denton Bank. The Squash Club has a new floor and spruced up changing rooms whilst the shiny new Cricket Scoreboard was purchased with the help of an ECB grant.

A new cooler system for the Bar was purchased and investment in the outfield was financed as a result of the extreme weather that was experienced in the spring and summer.

There remain significant tasks to be carried out, e.g. the Artificial Practice Nets are reaching the end of the road and the Cricket Changing Rooms, Showers and Toilets are in significant need of investment. The Club House will at some stage need a new carpet and there is always the painful topic of ongoing maintenance which is never cheap. All these goals are attainable, but it will require finance, creative thinking and member involvement. Can you help in any way? If so please contact me at simon.lunn@live.co.uk

I am ever thankful for the massive voluntary and professional effort that keeps Benwell Hill at the forefront of North East Cricket Clubs and look forward to a happy and successful 2019.



Kyle Coetzer
1st XI Captain

1st XI - North East Premier League

2018 was a year with much progression and more opportunities for the up and coming youth players. Although results were tough to come by the character shown in tough scenarios from the likes of Luke, Max, Rory and William were huge statements of intent and development within their own games and BHCC's coaching program.

Overseas pro Jacques Snyman was a huge hit on and off the field and will always be welcomed back with open arms. He single-handedly won us a few games with his bullish style with the bat and fast aggressive spin bowling. Other notable performances came in small strides from James Schofield who won the batsman of the year award with some steady performances. James will play an important role for the club in 2019 if he can build on last year's run count and keep pushing his case to be a top 10 runs scorer in the league.

2018 also saw not quite an end of an era but 2 experienced players step back and open up opportunities for the slightly more agile giving them more hot seat action in the 1st team in 2019. Both Mark Dale and Adam Heather will maintain their cricket commitments with more of a focus on midweek cricket. However if I have my way, I will still drag them on the field at weekends when the opportunity is right. However both Adam and Mark still have many playing years left in them, so this is by no means a "well done thanks for everything" statement.

1st XI - North East Premier League (continued)

In 2019 slightly senior Adam Heather with all his successful league experience and a trophy littered career will take up an assistant coach/mentor position to help fast track the clubs player development. As we prepare for the start of the 2019 season, we look to push the top of the league and cup competitions with our embraced youth direction and our dynamic exciting team. This includes the addition of the exciting Luke Doneathy from the Durham academy, left arm quick bowler Callum Harding who will also be bowling lead mentor and the services of club life member Will Smith when available from Durham duties.

2019 brings much promise and excitement to the club and we intend to not leave any unasked questions on the field. We go into the season fully committed to leave all our efforts on the park and to open up each other's games and allow true colours to shine through with ownership and expressive intent. Good luck to all in 2019.



Andrew Dawson
2nd XI Captain

2nd XI - North East Premier League

The 2018 was one filled with promise, which sadly never quite came to fruition. Looking to build on the success of 2017, we began the season with impetus when we rolled through Boldon for just 29 on the first day of the season. Aki Tassawar the star of the show that day taking 7-7. We went on to win the first five league matches including a composed victory at South North in Week 2.

In Week 6, we had the better of game at home to a strong Tynemouth side, who would eventually go on to win the league, but half-chances untaken saw Tynemouth cling on for a draw. Unfortunately, this was to be the theme of our year. We drew the following two matches and seemed to lose the momentum we had had in the early weeks. We would eventually go on to finish 3rd in the league, having been in the hunt for the entire season we came up just short at key times. While I could sit and complain about selection and availability issues, the truth is we didn't get the job done at the vital moments in games: dropped catches; batting slumps; and failure to take wickets when it mattered eventually cost us.

If our league performances were disappointing, our 20 over form was flat-out disastrous. A series of horror shows in the field meant that our midweek commitments were few and far between. We did however manage to string a cup run together in The Banks Bowl; our last grasp at glory came on the final day of the season hosting Chester-le-Street at The Hill. But once again, we underperformed at crucial moments and were comfortably beaten.

2nd XI - North East Premier League (continued)

While it might sound like I've channelled my inner Coolio to write this review ("I can sum the season up in one word... disappointing."), there are still a host of positives to build on from 2018: Ben Mussett scored over 1100 league runs in just 18 innings with an average of over 93; Peter Jones finished the league's leading wicket taker with 35 wickets; Joe Kilpatrick also featured in that list (28 wickets); Darshana Thiranga, Dave Haxon and Joe Anderson all averaged more than 40 in the league; Joe Fletcher scored an outstanding 140 in the Banks Bowl; and William Archbold also registered his maiden 2nd team century to name but a few.

The fact that a third place finish and being cup runners-up is such a disappointment, goes to show the high expectations that we have for ourselves as a team. Though 2018 didn't provide the success we had aspired to, it was still a hugely enjoyable one with many moments worthy of celebrating. I'd like to thank all of the players involved, the tea ladies, Joe Barnes for breaking his finger in a manner that still allowed him to score, and the countless people behind the scenes that make cricket at BHCC possible. With the wealth of talent within the club, continued hard work and a little composure under pressure, I'm confident 2019 will hold far greater success.



3rd XI - West Tyne League

At the start of the season we set ourselves 2 aims:

- A mid table finish
- Cup success

Unfortunately, neither bore fruit and after a first round win away to Mitford we lost our second round game comprehensively to eventual winners Humshaugh.

Ross Marley
3rd XI Captain

The league was a more positive story and had it finished at the end of July (like Rushton seems to think every year as he jets off to a 3rd world country to build hospitals and get acquainted with the native women in August) we would have secured a top half finish. Unfortunately, no wins in our last 7 games left us 9th in the league.

Some outstanding performances against Haydon Bridge, South North and Newton at home we're overshadowed by our trip to Allendale in mid June. Having lost the toss (as per) Tim Raglan decided he would have a bat. As the game began the captain and Askeel were still making their way to the ground as the latter decided to 'borrow his mams car to save fuel'

At this point your biggest fears set in on a hot day with possibly the league's best batsmen at the crease. However, 28 overs later and we had SKITTLED Allendale for 92 without an Aussie bowler in sight. Excellent bowling from a veteran Askeel to get the dangerous Raglan put us in a commanding position mixed with disciplined bowling from Rushton and Darsh. The returning Luke Mussett bowled fast and with anger claiming 4/11. We knocked it off 2 down and had there been an open top bus we would have used it.

3rd XI—West Tyne League (continued)

In terms of figures Darsh headed the batting scoring 256 runs including a 99 away to Hexham Leazes. He was supported well by Sarwar (248) and Davy Ladd (213) both scoring 50s throughout the season.

Bowling wise the captain led the way with the ball claiming 14 wickets with Mason and Rushton on 13 and 12 respectively (a career best 6/10 against Stocksfield for Shaun which I'm sure he's told you about).

A final thank you to Matt Reeves who as VC provided the team with experience and calmness when it got heated ****cough**** Newton ****cough****. Also, Shaun Mussett who provides the best tea in the league sometimes the only thing people look forward to on a Saturday.

Hopefully we can finish the 2019 season with some silverware and not allow the season to fizzle out in August.



Barry Pearson
3rd XI Coach

3rd XI - North East Premier League

The Sunday 3rd XI team had a very enjoyable season in the first division of the North East Premier League in 2018 and ended up finishing in second place behind South North. Had it not been for some fixture congestion on Sundays, there is no doubt we could easily have come out on top. A close defeat in the final game at Blaydon sealed our fate.

The highlight of the season was undoubtedly the win at eventual champions South North, where we chased down 237 mainly thanks to an excellent 114* from Saeem Korim. We always endeavoured to play as many of our talented youngsters as possible alongside some senior cricketers and this mix worked well throughout the season with some impressive performances from many people. Some of the other highlights include:

| | |
|------------------|------------------------------------|
| Joe Fletcher | 116 and 113 against Gateshead Fell |
| Joe Fletcher | 80* against Washington |
| Harry Reeves | 93* against Tynemouth |
| Zain Ahmad | 69 against Tynemouth |
| Jeff Mason | 77 against Tynemouth |
| William Archbold | 75 against Gateshead Fell |
| Ben Moody | 69 against Blaydon |
| Joe Anderson | 58 against Newcastle |
| Joe Anderson | 51 against Washington |
| Andy Jewitt | 6 for 37 against Washington |
| Matthew Lockey | 5 for 41 against Gateshead |

The Under 15s Rohan Aatif, Ben Moody, Haroon Malik and Matthew Lockey have all shown lots of potential, and even more is expected from them in 2019.

3rd XI - North East Premier League (continued)

Joe Fletcher had a fantastic season and was the leading run scorer with 371 runs at an average of 74, unfortunately he was just pipped for the NEPL Player of the Year award at the end of season dinner.

My thanks go to the various people who captained the team in 2018, especially Andy Jewitt who stepped in and did a great job on several occasions. So we had a very good season in 2018, let's hope for more of the same in 2019 and perhaps go one better.



Mark Wright
3rd XI Captain

3rd XI - Northumberland C Division

While one of the main objectives of the mid-week team is to help those who miss out on weekend cricket stay involved within the cricket or more importantly stay involved within our cricket club! We also use it to help those who maybe don't get much of a chance to bat or bowl at the weekend to get some game time in. We finished 2nd in the league behind Humshaugh who regardless of how strong a team we put out against them we just crumbled for some reason.

So next year's number one priority has to be to beat them as man for man we are a far better team so need to prove it! The league was made up of a few decent teams and quite a few weak sides however we showed our ruthless side on many occasions with many players scoring 50+ (apart from myself!) all supporting Andrew Dawson who scored runs for fun including a very good 120* v Benwell.

The setup of the league might change this season but however the league set up happens we must still fancy our chances of winning it or at minimum finish in the top 3. Many thanks to Mat Reeves for his valued assistance through the season and all those who drove or rocked up at the last minute after a cry for help!



Sally Anderson
Ladies Captain

Ladies team - Northumberland Women's League

Benwell Hill Ladies started the Summer 2018 League in a confident mood after a successful campaign in the winter Indoor League that saw them finish as champions. Now in their fourth season in the Northumberland Women's 8 a-side Leagues the team had established themselves as worthy participants in the top division. The first match of the season against South North was an interesting affair. The batting was impressive with Emily Whiting starting the season with a half-century, and important contributions from Annie Anderson, Niamh Brennan and Ella Lillico. South North

needed to chase 171. Safe? Not quite, when their number 3 batter, Rachel Foreman, strode onto the pitch and blistered 102 runs from only 48 balls. Fortunately Holly Jordan saved the day for the Hill by taking an amazing catch from Foreman's one slog too many! The remainder of South North gave little resistance giving us the first win of the season by 12 runs.

The next match against Newcastle painted a completely different picture at the Medicals ground. This time it was our batting that was disappointing with only Ella Lillico making a respectable score (30 not out). Facing too many dot balls we totalled a disappointing 67 runs from 20 overs. However, the bowling attack was much more impressive with two wickets a-piece for Niamh, Holly and Emily and Molly Brayson was very economical in her overs. Losing the match by one wicket ended up as a fair result, but one we could improve on. At the end of May we faced Corbridge away. After being put in to bat we had a great start with Annie Anderson confidently handling their bowlers and producing an impressive 83 from 66 balls.

Ladies - Northumberland Women's League (continued)

Supported by Molly and Emily meant Corbridge had 130 to chase. Again Molly, Holly, Emily and Niamh proved a strong bowling attack with both Molly and Holly getting a 3 for each and Niamh taking the other wicket with a caught and bowled giving us the victory by 29 runs. Added to the team effort was Ella Lillico starring behind the stumps and taking a catch off Holly's bowling. It was also great to have new member Nicky Baguley playing such a great supporting and encouraging role in the field. Nicky proved a ball magnet in this match and was most adept at curtailing Corbridge's run rate!

The confidence from this match meant that our next match against Gateshead Fell was a comfortable affair and win by 73 runs. With notable performances from both Whiting sisters with Emily getting her second 50 of the season and Katie taking 2 wickets. Following this was probably the most well contested match in the league when we saw the return match against Corbridge at our home Riding Mill ground. Corbridge won the toss and decided to bat first. However, the warm up, provided by our trainee coach Joe Anderson, paid rewards as we managed to take four of their wickets by catches. Corbridge ended their innings with a respectable 112 runs. Again Annie and Emily made an impressive opening stance with Annie scoring 41 runs and Emily 22. Great batting support from Katie Whiting, Niamh Brennan and Ella Lillico was in vain as we ended the match 6 runs shy of their total. The quality of the league was vastly improved on previous seasons due to the many youngsters coming through the ranks. 8 a-side teams provide big gaps in the field, but greater athleticism by the young girls does help to cover ground.

The next two matches were comfortable affairs against South North and Gateshead Fell. We beat South North by 7 wickets and Gateshead Fell by 62 runs. Niamh Brennan was showing form with the bat this season and achieved her maiden half-century away at Gateshead Fell. Wickets were shared equally by the girls and fielding was proving much more competent than any of the previous seasons.

Ladies - Northumberland Women's League (continued)

Hexham Leazes has historically given our ladies team a competitive match and this was the case again especially with Rachel Foreman having transferred herself to this team half way through the season. Again Foreman gave our bowlers a headache hitting 79 off 34 balls until her ball from Annie found the safe hands of Molly. It was great to have Ellen Williamson back in the bowling attack fresh from GCSE exams picking up two wickets. We bowled Leazes out in the 18th over giving us 152 to chase. We ended the match just shy of this total by 15 runs, but it was a determined effort.

The season always provides the Ladies with a match to forget and this one happened on Friday 13 July against Stocksfield at home. Fortunately this heavy loss didn't dwell on the team's minds and the team bounced back with a home victory over Newcastle by 11 runs the following week. Our winning form unfortunately ended there for the season with further losses to both Hexham Leazes at home and Stocksfield away as the season came to a close. Fielding a full team was proving more and more difficult as the season progressed due to holidays and injuries. We greatly missed Katie Dawson from many of our matches this year, but we were happy when she came to support us in many of our home matches.

For all our girls and ladies, playing cricket at Benwell Hill remains an enjoyable affair and we appreciate the warmth provided by the club. Our home teas remain a highlight whether we have won or lost, so thank you to our wonderful Mums and Dads who pull out the stops to supply and create the post match treats. Our support team is nearly as large as the team itself so our thanks especially to Scott, Tim and Joe who have all given up lots of time throughout the season umpiring, scoring and also adding plenty of sage advice on and off the pitch. We know that we are Geoff's favourite team in the club! If only because Kathryn tells him so ... thanks Geoff for giving us the best pitch to play on in the league. Appreciation too for Fenwick for keeping us organized with the pitch bookings. Finally to Barry, Scott and the team on Tuesday evenings who accommodate training for our team within the junior training sessions, we really enjoy this even when Jacques Synman

Ladies - Northumberland Women's League (continued)

nearly took off all our heads with his 'quick reactions' drill. The girls remain a tight knit unit and it is a joy to see their friendships flourish. Well done to Ellen Williamson and Katie Whiting this year for juggling GCSEs and cricket – it was great to hear that you both did amazingly well. Thanks to all the parents who go above and beyond with the support and friendships. It helps too when you are ever ready to stand in for the team when we are short (thanks Mel on a few occasions).

The club is proud of the contribution that our girls are providing to female cricket beyond Benwell Hill. Holly Jordan, Annie Anderson, Emily Whiting and Niamh Brennan all represented the Northumberland County Ladies team last season as well as the latter three starring for the U15 Northumberland girls' team. Ella Lillico has represented the County U15 and U13 team. Annie was also selected for the Durham CCC affiliated Northern Jets u19 squad. Whenever possible the girls like to play in the club's junior league and be part of the Benwell Hill boy's squads and it was very pleasing to hear that Ella has also been selected for the boys u13 county squad for the 2019 season.

End of season awards:

Niamh Brennan – Player of the Year

Annie Anderson – Player's Player

Ella Lillico – Coaches Player



Barry Pearson
U15 Coach

Juniors - U15s

The Under 15s had a mixed season in 2018, but as ever the important thing is that several players have developed nicely during the course of the year. We finished third in the Northumberland League but failed to qualify from our group in the NEPL competition. Wins over South North, Allendale, Newcastle, Kirkley and Haltwhistle helped to give us momentum in the first part of the season, but a disappointing defeat at

Ponteland set us back where our batting let us down. The season was to hinge on the last two games, where we lost to eventual champions Tynedale in a game in which we were in a good position to go on and win. Tynedale were by far the strongest team in the League so losing was no disgrace but showed to me that we are not too far away and with some composure at the end, could easily have won.

We then lost a close game to Stocksfield which decided second place, and again should have won that game.

In the NEPL, we lost to Tynemouth and Burnopfield before defeating Washington in what was a very tough group, Ben Moody's 58 against Burnopfield being the highlight.

Captain Ben Moody, Rohan Aatif, Haroon Malik and Matthew Lockey have all improved considerably during the season and have given major cause for optimism going forward. The opening partnership between Ben and Rohan was an important part of our batting line up which did lack some depth at times, with Ben and Haroon being the leading bowlers and were a handful for any batsman. All four players were to play regularly for the seniors during the season and put together some impressive performances.



Scott Williamson
U13 Coach

Looking back now after the season has finished, I think it's fair to reflect that the U13 team had a terrific season. We improved massively throughout the season, recovering from 3 early losses to Tynedale, South North and Sacriston (the best teams we played all season) to a magnificent win against South North (in the longer format NEPL competition) at the end of the season. We finished 4th in the Northumberland

Sunday morning league, winning 4 games (v Ashington, Morpeth, Stocksfield and Newcastle), and 1 of 3 games in the top tier of the NEPL competition.

Batting wise, Ella Lillico, Dylan Newton and Haydon Mustard got most of the runs, all scoring well over 100 runs during the season. Ella and Dylan almost always got us off to a great start, and Haydon's hard hitting in the middle order helped us post 5 scores over 110 during the season.

Bowling wise, wickets were shared around the whole team, but it was great to see all our seamers (Owen Blackburn, Bradley Wilson, Abukar Siddique, Kemitha Mudalige, Ibrahim Tayyab and Dan Ramsey) all bowling a good length and most importantly straight. Our spin bowlers (Sam Rowe and Umar Yousaf) took key wickets during the season with genuine spin bowling and offered control in the middle of the innings. The best bowling figures were from Owen Blackburn who took a magnificent 4 for 2 versus Morpeth.

Wicket keeping duties (so important at this age level) were shared by Haydon and Ella, both are fantastic wicket keepers, and did a great job in keeping our extras down to an absolute minimum, which proved crucial to winning a couple of very tight games.

Juniors - U13s (continued)

There were two Player of the year awards. The first went to Ella Lillico, who scored over 684 runs during the season (including 2 x 50s) and 10 catches and 2 stumpings, for the various teams she played for (U13's, County and Benwell Hill ladies). Second went to Haydon Mustard for his superb batting for the u13's, he finished with an average of 30, including 4 times where he had to retire at 30, and a 52 not out (out a team total of 98) v Sacriston.

Thanks to everyone who helped through this most enjoyable season, Dan Ramsey for captaining, and to the parents and family, whether it was scoring, umpiring, offering lifts or just supporting. Roll on 2019, as it promises to be a great season with the majority of the side still eligible to play.



Larry Dawson
U11 Coach

Juniors - U11s

The 2018 season proved to be one of our most successful seasons of recent times - despite still having a relatively young team. A new format was trialled during the season, with the length of the pitch being reduced to 17 yards and the use of a composite ball. This led to a reduced number of wides during the season - but also to Ibrahim Tayyab and Abu Siddique spending most of the season in the U13's - too much pace and bounce - jury out re next season.

Out of a total of 14 completed matches we managed to win 10 and lose 4, using a total of 14 different players over the course of the season.

Sunday league - won 8 out of 9

League cup - won 1 v Stocksfield before losing a close game by 8 runs to South North

NEPL - won 1 and lost 2

On the batting side, there were major contributions from - Rory Mustard (25 v Matfen, 21 v Blagdon Park and 17 v Tynemouth). Jay Patel (22 v Blagdon Park and a very good 16 n.o. v Tynedale - one of the best teams we played. There was also a nice 17 n.o. from Ben Robinson v Blagdon Park. Overall everybody chipped in during the season and there were useful innings from Mayank Reddy, Aaron Armstrong, Hassan Ahmed, James Ramsey and Warren Poxon. On the bowling side, again everybody chipped in with wickets - the outstanding figures coming in our match against Tynemouth with Mayank Reddy taking 4 wickets and Aaron Armstrong getting a 5 wicket haul. Also worth mentioning that both Warren Poxon and Jayam Patel have the clear makings of very good fast bowlers.

Juniors - U11s (continued)

There was a notable improvement in our fielding and catching, culminating with James Ramsey getting a catch v Tynemouth - in his arms - which we heard all about - several times - on our way back home in the car. The captaincy duties were ably shared around between Ben Robinson, Aaron Armstrong and Jayam Patel – it was nice to see the amount that their cricketing brains have improved over the last 12 months. As usual the player of the season award was a difficult choice. But for the second season in a row he did the most difficult job on the cricket pitch - wicketkeeper - quite superbly - when not keeping wicket he bowled very well - the winner is Hassan Ahmed. Last but not least thanks to all parents who helped out with support and lifts - particularly Jim Robinson for taking on scoring duties and a coaching role.

Senior Cricket

NEPL Division 2 Player of the Year: **Ben Mussett**

1st Team Player of the Year : **James Schofield**

2nd Team Player of the Year : **Ben Mussett**

3rd Team Player of the Year : **Jeff Mason**

Most improved player award : **William Archbold**

Best Individual Performance : **Joe Fletcher** (140 v South North II's - Banks Bowl)

Special selection committee award : **Peter Jones and Rory Hanley** (10th wicket winning partnership v Durham Academy)

Lippa award (biggest sulk of the season) : **Adam Heather**

Special awards for over 1000 runs in season : **Ben Mussett and Joe Fletcher**

Ladies Cricket

Player of the Year : **Niamh Brennan**

Player's Player of the Year : **Annie Anderson**

Coaches Player : **Ella Lillico**

Junior Cricket

Under 11 Player of the Year - **Hassan Ahmed**

Under 13 Player of the Year - **Haydon Mustard**

Under 15 Player of the Year - **Haroon Malik**

Tom Hounscome Shield - **Aaron Armstrong**

Alan Evans Shield - **Rohan Aatif**

Neil Hamilton Trophy - **Ben Moody**

British Legion Award - **James Ramsay**