

A MESSAGE FROM THE CRICKET CHAIRMAN

Well what a season it's been without any silverware. Thank you to Ian Pratt and the Committee for bringing me to UCC.

I start by mentioning the people who have worked behind the scenes on the Teas, Ground, Programme, Scoring & Social Media.

Special thanks to Linda Town & Sharon Binns in the tearoom for their tireless efforts. They will be back next year. (result) Thanks to all the ground staff for their hard work. Matt Reynolds, Craig Hudson and Connor Brannan for their time and effort in the score box. Matt continuing as 1st team scorer next year. Sue Raynor for doing the programme & Richard Sokol for uploading the teams onto the UCC website / Facebook page.

When taking the Cricket Chairman's role on you hear about previous chairs and how they went about their business. I am pretty much the same; I don't do things by halves give 100% and thrive to succeed in my role.

When I sat with the committee last Autumn I guaranteed that it would not be a quick fix and would take time to be where I would like us to be. This season has been a lot of positives to take as well as a couple of bad days at the office.

1st Team

Over a season the league table doesn't lie. We are currently undefeated at home with one game to go against Morley. Two games with no play against Bowling Old Lane and Gomersal, a rain affected game against Wrenthorpe where we were 32 for 4 when the rain came. (think we got out of jail there) So sitting fourth is probably right.

We won our first 5 games without playing really good cricket but getting over the line. Then we had a few weeks when we were up and down but over the last month playing some good and positive cricket.

To take our heads off the league we had 2 excellent cup runs.

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In T20 beating Methley Baildon & Batley and reaching the final at PSL before losing against a very strong Hanging Heaton (Premier League Champions) was a great effort.

The Priestley Cup saw us drawn away every round. We beat Yeadon & Morley comfortably before meeting New Farnley in the semi. We didn't disgrace ourselves in losing by 30 runs.

Our overseas Anas Mahmood has returned home a week early as his training camp has started and with us not being able to get promoted I feel it was the right thing to do.

For me now it is time about building for next year which I have been doing over the past month with our 1st team captain Scott Etherington. Scott will continue in his role as captain for 2018.

2nd Team

Having lost all our games last season we were relegated to Championship 1 this year. With 1 game to go playing good cricket and a bit of luck we can get promotion to the Premier Division. We are 3rd in the league 2 points behind Ossett. We face a hard game at East Ardsley today.

Darren Drake (captain) has led from the front with over 500 runs; he has decided to stand down as captain but will stay as a player.

U13 XI

My thanks to Dax Sowrey for his huge efforts in keeping the lads together even though they didn't win a game. He kept their chins up and thanks to the seniors who helped umpire and coach on training nights.

I truly appreciate, as do the players, the encouragement our supporters have given us this year & bring on next year. Finally thanks to the Committee for their backing in my first year at UCC.

DEAN SKILLICORN