

As we approach another rainy season (well it always seems to rain when the cricket season starts) the bats are being oiled and the balls are being shined as your local club prepares to swing into action. Reliant mainly on a hard core of volunteers, the club has also been busy over the winter as fresh paint has been applied to faded woodwork and buildings given a seasonal clean. The groundstaff have also been doing their normal excellent work in preparing the wickets. All we need is a new scoreboard, which we will hopefully keep busy and we'll be ready to "bat and bowl"

The players have been warming up at indoor nets and some friendly matches were lined up during April before the serious business starts on 3 May, by which time these fine bodies of men (!?!) should be primed for action. As in previous years, there will be 3 Saturday teams, each playing in different divisions of the Cotswold Hills league, as well as a Sunday team and a midweek Twenty/20 team.

On the captaincy front there are a number of changes with Chris Barber taking over the 1st team. He was player of the year for 2013 and will bring youth and enthusiasm to the role, as well as having experienced team mates to call on as necessary for advice. His leadership skills are excellent and there is no doubt that teamwork will be the rallying call.

Dave Hill takes over as 2nd team captain. A long standing and hugely respected member of the club, who has played at the top level for many years, Dave will now put all that experience to good use as he faces the challenge of realising the potential of the youngsters breaking into the team as well as maintaining the enthusiasm of the established players

The 3rd team will be led by Ian Jordan, assisted by Chris Pearce and their background and brief is similar to that of Dave Hill. James Carey will retain the captaincy of the successful Sunday team. This then leaves the midweek team where Andy Turnbull will be in charge, having gained useful experience on a stand in basis last summer.

Whilst the ethos of the club is to win, this is not at any cost and the spirit off the game is paramount. In addition, it should be fun and we are lucky in that the club membership comprises so many like minded people who make it such an enjoyable experience. At a time when some clubs are having difficulties, we remain strong, but with the knowledge that there is no room for complacency. With this in mind, do come along to share the experience of cricket at your local club. A beautiful setting, early evening on a Saturday or Sunday as the match reaches its climax, the setting sun, cool drink and convivial company make it an experience to be savoured. Take the dog for a stroll round the pitch. Whatever your preference, you'll be warmly welcomed.

Having seen the long term benefit of encouraging junior membership, we are keen for this to continue and coaching has been taking place at the school. For those children who have enjoyed the experience, please badger mum and dad for you to become members of the club, enjoy more coaching and where appropriate, take part in matches..

So, the fun is about to commence, the fixture list is out (more details below) and in the words of 10cc, in their classic hit of 1978,'Dreadlock Holiday'

"I don't like cricket, oh no
I love it"

And it's on your doorstep so come along!

FIXTURES 1.30 start on Saturdays and 2.00 start Sundays

3 May 2014

1st team	FISSC (H - Tanworth Lane)
2nd team	Bretforton (A)
3rd team	Ashton under Hill (A)

4 May 2014

Sunday team	Leamington Khalsa (H - Tanworth Lane)
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10 May 2014

1st team	Kineton (A)
2nd team	Shipton on Stour II's (H - Tanworth Lane)
3rd team	Bearley (H - Rumbsh Lane)

11 May 2014

Sunday team	No game
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17 May 2014

1st team	Ashton under Hill (H -Tanworth Lane)
2nd team	Earlswood II's (A)
3rd team	Stockton (A)

18 May 2014

Sunday team	Weoley Hill (H - Tanworth Lane)
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24 May 2014

1st team Bidford on Avon (A)
2nd team Leek Wootton (H - Tanworth Lane)
3rd team Alvechurch (H - Rumbush Lane)

25 May 2014

Sunday team Five Ways Old Edwardians (A)

31 May 2014

1st team Norton Lindsey (H - Tanworth Lane)
2nd team Norton Lindsey II's (A)
3rd team Henley in Arden (H - Rumbush Lane)

1 June 2014

Sunday team Fillongley (A)

More information is available on the club website www.tachcc.co.uk or on twitter: @tachcc