

Farnham Royal Cricket Club

Based at the Rectory ground in Church Lane, FRCC run 4 adult cricket teams, a First and Second XI who play in the Marrant Thames Valley league, a Sunday team and a Friday evening Social team. In addition, we run training and teams throughout all the youth age groups.

During the Winter, our attention turns to Darts and Cribbage where we run 5 darts teams and 2 crib teams from the Club.

We also have a thriving Social side with a welcoming clubhouse offering a well-stocked bar and kitchen, which is open throughout the year.

We can also host events, from breakfast network meetings to corporate training days, wakes to weddings.

When I sat in my first AGM as Secretary at Farnham Royal Cricket Club on 13th March 2020 I remember thinking what a great season we had in front of us. The teams were raring to go, we had a new coach in place and loads of events planned through the coming season. Our darts teams had done well and our Royal Roamers Crib team had won the Division Two title, the Tony Redhead Cup and were runners up in the Champion of Champions. Little did we realise that our doors would close within a couple of weeks and we would have such a turbulent 15 months ahead of us.

We did manage to get a short season of league cricket during the Summer with our First XI finishing 3rd in Division 3b and the Second XI finishing 10th in Division 7b. Due to COVID there were no relegations or promotions but it was just nice to get some competitive cricket in, albeit with additional COVID rules and regulations in place. Our Social, Sunday and Youth teams also managed a few games culminating in a Festival of Cricket with some interclub games over the August Bank Holiday.

Unfortunately, the pandemic also caused the cancellation of virtually all our events during the year, from our regular quiz and food nights to Family Fun Day and Fireworks night. The latter two are big events not only for the club but also for our local community and we were devastated not to be able to hold either of them.

Towards the end of the first lockdown, last Spring, we had an amazing group of volunteers who fixed, painted, polished and cleaned everything inside and out within an inch of its life! All socially distanced and keeping to COVID guidelines.



Having weathered the storm of the first lockdown, we thought that the Club had done well to maintain its cash reserves however the lack of events and the subsequent lockdowns hit us hard and with additional essential maintenance required on both the pitch and buildings our only option was to look at a massive fundraising campaign.



Our initial target was £20,000 over a 5 week period via Crowdfunding. Creating and running a crowdfunding campaign isn't easy and needs a dedicated team to keep it on track. We pooled our resources from our members varied backgrounds to create our fundraising video, gather rewards from members and local companies and promote our cause.

We were overwhelmed with the response and we met our target well within our timeframe. Our final total stands at £23,945. I would like to say a massive thank you to all our members, supporters, sponsors, local businesses and individuals who helped us achieve our target and secure FRCC for future generations. Also, the Volunteers who have given up their time not only to manage the Crowdfunding campaign but also to work on and around the club painting, repairing and getting everything ready for our 're-openings'.

We have already started putting our funds to good use. The driveway has been patched properly to fill in the potholes and make it safe. Our dilapidated scoreboard has been refitted ready for the start of the season, we have a new patio area and marquees which enabled us to open in April with outdoor table service and we have been able to maintain our pitch ready to start the new cricket season.

We now look forward to a full season of cricket across all age ranges and levels with our first league games starting on the 8th May. We are also looking to launch a Women and Girls section later this year. Full details, fixtures and results will shortly be available via our new website at <https://www.frcc.info>.

If you would like to join us as a social or playing member, are interested in our youth training or would like to host a private or business function at FRCC please don't hesitate to contact me for further details.

Ruth Wildman, FRCC Secretary, secretary@frcc.info

