

2009 Presidents Message

Few people are aware that Shakespeare was an ardent cricket fan but the evidence is quite obvious in the famous soliloquy from Richard III which begins, "Now is the winter of our discontent... " (Yorkshiremen will applaud the next line; Lancastrians might not be so pleased however! Google will explain!). More so than usual this winter, discontent with the lingering bleakness has made cricketers long for the new season and the chance to come out of hibernation at last. And there is much to look forward to: two additional weekend clubs, a full slate of teams in the thriving midweek league, several visiting teams, a second year of 20/20 competition, an inaugural over-40 competition and the popular World Cup as a season finale; in other words, a full and varied season awaits. We welcome the return of Carico CC to the weekend competition and the inaugural season of the brand new United Victoria CC. We wish both clubs well and they will surely provide new interest for players and spectators alike. Last year's exceptional VISAS Tournament once again showcased in wonderful fashion the local cricket scene, and the success of the Wicket Maidens is reflected in the seven Victoria ladies selected to train with the Canadian team in Trinidad in advance of the Americas Cup to be played in Florida in May.

Finally, a word of thanks to all who give so generously of their time to keep the game healthy. There are so many of you, but the following people have given service which is exceptional and not always acknowledged: Gurmit Sandhu for his work on producing the weekend schedule and keeping our statistics and website up-to-date, Robin Scutt for similar service in the midweek league, Mike Holt for producing yet another first class handbook, Nick Grant and the crew who are already working on the 2010 VISAS Tournament, Pat Ely and Pavilion Society for the fund-raising luncheons and hosting of visiting teams, Russ Brower for his many hours of effort at the pavilion ensuring that refreshments are provided and things kept in good order, to the coaches of the Saturday Morning Junior Programme and to the executives of both leagues who have to endure meetings when more enjoyable pursuits must be put aside. Without you all, there would be no cricket and that is too ghastly to contemplate!

Final, final word: elsewhere in the handbook there is an acknowledgement of the debt we owe to our advertisers and a plea to support them by patronizing their products and services. It is worth repeating here.

May 2009 be a cricket season we can all look back on as one in which all aspects of our noble game were conducted in good spirit and camaraderie.

John Wenman