



Exiles Extra

February 2019

2018 SUMMARY

What a season! We started the year with great encouragement and expectations. We finally were playing our 3rd consecutive seasons on the same ground after securing a 10 year agreement along with the field trust. A lot of work went into the previous end of season works on the square which again allowed us to help our friends at Lydney CC by sub letting the square.

We started the Senior season a lot stronger than we had done in 2017 again under the club captaincy of Ross Barnett. We also managed to field a midweek team under the captaincy of Ross Keddle along with fielding a Sunday team under the captaincy of Ben Howells.

In all the formats of the game I am proud to say that we played with commitment and enthusiasm. We were runners up in the GCCF Premier League on a Saturday and semi finalists in the midweek league.

The season was finished off with a memorable tour to Newcastle.

Junior cricket also got up and running competitively with an U13 side entered into the Leadon Vale League. Every game was played in great spirit and there was a massive improvement in everyone's ability game on game . Thanks to Ross Keddle, Ross Barnett, Connor Brackpool and Ben Howells plus others for giving up your time to help the clubs future. Thanks also to Russell Grab Hire for sponsoring the Junior Shirts.

Off the field a lot of hard work continued in the background to not only enable us to play cricket but to keep the club going in all aspects. Thank you to all who contributed in these many and various fields.

Right at the end of the season we took receipt of a large mobile net thanks to funds donated by A Preest (Councillor Community Fund), Gloucestershire Playing Fields Association and a couple of donations made by local businesses. Hopefully we can put this too good use and kick-on as a club both in Junior and Senior cricket.



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## **2019 GOING FORWARD**

We have a very busy year ahead. Our league status means we will be travelling around Cheltenham, Gloucester and more locally a derby at Parkend C.C for the senior cricket on a Saturday. Our Club captain, once again, is Ross Barnett. Midweek cricket will be more local fixtures and will be led by Connor Brackpool. Sunday fixtures will be captained by Aylburton man Pete Clark.

Junior cricket is planned again this season trying to build on all the hard work and effort put in over the previous two years, with entrance being made into Leadon Vale U13 league again. Training this season is planned to be on a Saturday morning due to coaching availability with matches being played on Sunday mornings. Please note Juniors is open to all age groups so please speak to our coaches Ross Keddle or Ross Barnett if you have any queries. Contact details are at end of this document.

Off the field there is currently great efforts being made to secure funding for several projects such as Covers which would vastly improve the chances of keeping games on at all levels, Sightscreens both ends which would improve on batting visibility thus making it safer for the batsmen. Compound / Storage area still needs finishing off. The shopping list is endless however priorities would be put into place due to funds.

We are currently in discussions with the Trust at looking into the feasibility of a Pavilion being built on the field which would be a massive bonus to the whole community for many years to come.

A must for us at this season is to purchase another fine cut wicket mower as we are currently relying on one machine due to an old one breaking with no spares available to repair, so if anyone knows of one that is suitable then please contact Dan Keddle. Having just one machine adds a lot of time to match preparation due to constantly adjusting cutting levels and if it fails could mean some matches being cancelled.



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EXILES NEED YOU

Our cricket club known as 'Forest Exiles' are very grateful and feel privileged for being given the chance to play cricket in such a beautiful location. We are thankful that The John Watts Lydney and Aylburton Trust are always open and allow us to work closely with them and the community to not only maintain and build our club status but help enhance the village as a whole.

Our club is your club.

We welcome anyone that would wish to get involved in cricket to join us, whether playing junior level, league level or even just socially on a Sunday.

There are more ways to get involved than just playing. We always need help in running our club, help on groundwork (grass cutting, rolling, marking out the wicket and boundary), tea rota duties, fund raising just to name a few. We also run competitions that anyone and everyone can get involved in and you can even become a Vice President. All you need to do is ask.

Cricket meetings are held monthly and operated as open meetings encouraging and giving the option of the club to be run by all not just a few.

It would help the committee if everyone come forward with ideas and suggestions on how we can improve on or just concentrate on to build your clubs future.



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## **2019 SUMMARY**

**Players** – Senior cricket and Junior Cricket members required.

**Ideas** – Any suggestions welcomed on all formats to build your club and village facilities for future years of the club.

**Help** – Hands on help, get involved with us become a valuable member/friend of our club.

**Financial Help** – Get involved with fund raising. Try your luck and win yourself some money by joining our bingo lottery. This is open to anyone not just club members, a person/couple select 10 numbers if any of their numbers come out on the national lottery draws on a Saturday and Wednesday they get crossed off the first person to cross off all 10 numbers win. A Bonus Ball prize is also given if a player crosses off 4 bonus ball numbers in each game. The prize fund increases each Saturday and Wednesday until claimed and is dependent on how many players are taking part. For each game payouts have ranged between £90 - £250 and the highest Bonus Ball payout was £500. To enter this costs £10 a month for each set of numbers.

Spread the word to others Sponsorship/Donations requirements etc.

**Support** – If you can't help us in any other areas then just become our friends and enjoy hopefully sunny afternoons/mornings watching and supporting local cricketers senior and juniors in a wonderful area playing a wonderful sport.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Mark Howells

Forest Exiles Cricket Club Chairman



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Key Contacts

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