

## **SMMCC PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2011**

### **The present and the positives.....**

During my two year tenure (2009-10) as team captain we had to focus on two main facts. An ageing player profile and our standing in the hierarchy for playing at the Hardmoor ground becoming being more & more difficult to manage. Warsash Maritime Academy used to be the hub of the club's administration and cadet player recruitment but emigration and retirement of the lecturers removed this link. Working at the MCA HQ in Southampton has meant that I could tap into a different vein of maritime professionals who are keen to play cricket, benefiting club, individuals and the wider maritime community.

Over the past three years, I believe the team has become a force to be reckoned with, despite not having any cadets to do the running around! Our fixture list still includes some quite prestigious fixtures and I feel a certain pride in the fact that we have not lost to them in the last three years!

Our players come from diverse parts of the maritime industry with ABP, Consular staff, Red Funnel, Gosport ferries, retired lecturers, independent consultants, dredger skippers, Tug skippers, MAIB, MCA et al being represented. I believe we are strengthened by our diversity having Welsh, Indian, Nigerian, Pakistani, English, "part Dutch" and I am sure many others, who each bring their own individual and cultural approach to the game.

We have qualified and very professional umpires who keep us, our opposition and themselves in check and are the stalwarts in performing this role and those of Treasurer and Secretary ( and a lot of other good work in the margins) – thank you Ian Bagshaw & Peter Starkey. Our kit bag largely resides in the back of Emeka's Mercedes for which we are all grateful so a big thank you for this from all of us.

2011 has been another successful season under the leadership of Nick Salter and assisted by Captain Keith Edwards and I hope that 2012 will bring us all as much fun and enjoyment.

That said, we do still find ourselves one or two players short occasionally so if you fancy getting involved, either as a player, scorer, spectator, recruiter of players or with the club in general, we would welcome your support.

### **The way it was.....**

In 2008, as President of the Southampton Master Mariners Club 's Cricket Section, John Smart was asked to give a short history of the section which I have summarised and updated:

The section was formed in 1955, the first Secretary/Treasurer being a very enthusiastic Capt. Guy Farmiloe, aided and abetted by Capt. "Store" Hodson, Edney Curtis, Phillip Filer and others.

Between 1955 and 1977 a number of well-known local cricketers joined the main club and formed the nucleus of a strong team. Included were David Rule, Colin White, Alan Pierce, Frank Grayer, David Curtis, Archie Ferguson, Benny Ansell, John Smart and Nick

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Lockyer to be joined at a later date by Cdr. Reggie Bond, Capt. John Treasure-Jones, Paul Raworth, Ian Bagshaw, Mike Weston, Arthur Marshall, Graham Donald, George Gifford and Colin Lampard. Occasional guest players included Roy Marshall (West Indies & Hampshire), Jimmy Gray (Hampshire), Gerry Way (HCC), Harley Parish, and Jack Drake.

Phillip Filer was our baggage master for a number of years and in his will he left a bequest of £1000 to the cricket section for the purchase of cricket equipment.

The Club's home base was the University's Montefiore Ground at Swaythling, one of the best cricket wickets in Hampshire, lovingly looked after by Bob Barrett, the University Sports Grounds Superintendent. Sadly, blocks of flats have been built on it to accommodate University students.

The club moved to the Southampton Solent University's Hardmoor Ground, which lies just off Stoneham Lane opposite Trojans Sports Ground in (????) and enjoyed many a good match on the excellent wicket, even if it was a bit noisy being next to the M27!

Past opponents have included Wardrooms of HMS Vernon, Nelson, Collingwood, Dryad, Mercury, Excellent, Daedalus, R.S. Yacht Club, Warsash College staff, and Winchester College Staff. Regrettably, with the demise of the Royal Naval Establishments, very rarely is one to be found on our fixture list and the "apres match" sumptuous dinner or a buffet has given way to a pint or two at the pub and a few sandwiches – probably not a bad thing considering that we all have busy lives and the matches are usually on a Wednesday evening after work!

### **The Future**

Sadly , in December 2010, we lost George Gifford who served the club and the maritime industry for many years. George is sadly missed, but his legacy was arranging for us to play at the Otterbourne CC ground which is currently on the site of SW Water at Otterbourne. Our ties with Otterbourne have been strengthened with some of our players now playing weekend league cricket for Otterbourne 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> XI teams.

We do still have members from Warsash Maritime Academy, but modern pressures mean that for the time being we have to rely on other sources for our regular team. I believe that we must continue to embrace change, look back with fondness and forward with determination to succeed, as there is always a way of achieving what is worth doing.

Play to win, be gracious in defeat knowing we have given our best and have as much fun as possible!

Captain David M Turner  
MBA (Open), FCMI, MNI