

## **REPORT FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2017 – 2018**

**T**his has been the most successful financial year during my tenure for two main reasons: the scorching summer and the football World Cup. Very few matches were lost to rain but unfortunately Sunday cricket was very disappointing and many matches were cancelled owing to the inability of our opponents and ourselves to raise sides.

Dealing first with income this has been an excellent year of bar income where sales were £10,150 more than in 2017. Many thanks to Sam Cleary and her colleagues for their great work behind the bar. The contactless card reader has been a big bonus. The club was very fortunate to receive a bequest of £5000 from a lady with no connection to the club and £500 from the estate of Tony Adfield. We also received a grant of £4000 towards the cost of the toilets' refurbishment. Rents, lettings, match fees and nets were on a par with 2017 but subscriptions showed a reduction of £483. Income from the colts' section was very good. Fundraising was up by £1500, thanks mainly to Graham Slades' World Cup sweepstake and Martin Secrett's golf days. The 200 club income was slightly down but as always thanks to Conway Thorns for his sterling efforts. Unfortunately, one significant sponsor dropped out this year and another has died but hopefully we can find replacements next year. But although I have reported on a record year for income there was also some significant expenditure.

On the expenses side there was no overseas player this year which saved the club a huge amount of money. The main expenditure was on the refurbishment of the toilets (offset by the grant), the re-laying of the net matting, repairs to the scoreboard, the transfer of the shipping container from Sayers Common, the replacement of perimeter fence posts and rails, new plastic picket fence palings and posts in front of the pavilion and feasibility studies for the proposed pavilion improvements.

I must remind the club that although this year's finances have been excellent, next season could be very wet and there is no big-ticket sporting event to boost bar takings so there is no guarantee that 2019 will be such a bumper year. As always, the club relies on players paying their match fees promptly and correctly and supporting fund raising events. The committee is focussing very much on the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary year and the proposed improvements to the pavilion, which will be very expensive. I am setting aside funds from the bar, legacies and fund-raising activities in an account dedicated towards that aim so although the club could become complacent after this year's results we still need to 'run a tight ship' and continue to raise funds for future developments.