

Chairman's Report

2021

The 2021 season was one of the most difficult in recent memory. My reports in the end of season newsletter and in the local press reflected on the past season. Within this report to the AGM, I would like to consider where we go from here.

Since the mid-1990s the average standard for each team has been 1sts – Premier, 2nds - County 2, 3rds – County 4 and 4ths – County 6/7 (lowest division). Next season the 1sts and 2nds will be one season below this and the 3rds potentially two divisions lower. We have to ask ourselves, are we satisfied with this, or do we want to return to our former standing as a top club in Cornwall?

If we are to once again be a force within Cornwall, I believe we have to address three things.

1. **Playing strength.** There are two strands to this,
 - a. **the quality of players.** Whilst we had many players at the start of the season, we always needed people to fill the lower batting and non-bowling positions in the 1st XI. Increasing the depth of the 1st XI squad must be a focus for the future.
 - b. **strength in depth,** the ability to fill four teams every week. We have players to fill the 2nds and 3rds. With nine youth players playing towards the end of the season the 4ths should improve in strength next year.
2. **Availability.** Over 100 people played for Newquay last season, but only 24 played 10 or more. Compare this to 2016 when our 1st XI was being relegated from the Premier but 40 players played 10 or more games. We will always need players to call on for a few games, but it is the commitment to play the majority of games that we need from more players. The knock-on effect of poor availability is disruption to lower teams, with just two people playing 10+ in the 2nds, none in the 3rds and 2 in the 4ths.
3. **Commitment to the club.** This has been shown this season with many playing at a higher standard than they should, particularly to support the 1st XI. However, some players have been reluctant to play at a higher standard. This situation is much better than it was in the past but if players pick and choose their games or pick and choose their standard it puts pressure on others and drags down the competitiveness of the team and enjoyment of other players.

How can we address these issues?

We need to make Newquay a welcoming club and ensure people want to come and play for us. The Sports Centre will be fully open next year and WAX have major plans to improve the facilities and wish to work with the member clubs to move forward together. Hopefully, we can put the difficulties of the last two seasons behind us and really strengthen the atmosphere and spirit within our club and enjoy our facilities which are amongst the best in the county.

Our facilities and surrounds can still be improved. The environment is open and bare of interest.

- We have been awarded a grant by Newquay Town Council to plant trees around the boundary and have had meetings with The Duchy, WAX and The Orchard to make further improvements around the entire site.
- Additional seating will be placed around the main pitch to encourage spectators.
- WAX intend to convert the top floor of changing rooms to provide a spectator viewing area.
- Access to the playing area next to the Youth Centre and off Yeoman Way will be improved and made more secure for next year, with additional car parking near the Youth Centre.
- We are in negotiation with WAX to relocate the nets and make new nets which are secure and enclosed.
- We propose to have boundary boards and sightscreens to improve the top pitch.
- Additional storage will be purchased.

Newquay has a poor reputation around the county. It takes time to build up a good reputation but only one game to lose it. We have the strange situation where in the last few years we have had more complaints against us than any other side, whilst also making more complaints of others than nearly any other club. It is time we got our own house in order before looking and complaining about others. We have had two complaints to the League about our social

media this season. In part this is due to people, not members, having access to our sites. I propose these are overhauled in the winter and made fit for purpose. Through our behaviour on the pitch, through social media and in contact with the LMC and other clubs we need to re-establish our reputation as a sporting side and one people wish to join.

In 2021, six of the Premier clubs were within 25 minutes of Newquay. There is a proposal that there should be Premier A and Premier B league of 8 teams in 2023. This means we must ensure we finish in the top 6 of County 1 in 2022 to be part of this or face the danger of becoming a feeder club for surrounding teams and lose our best players. To prevent this happening, we need to build a squad around our best young players and develop their skills. In youth cricket players expect coaching but at 18 it stops. I believe we need to address this and look at ways to support the development and improvement of our members. If we can ensure we have a strong first XI our other sides will also be strong as there won't be the call on players weakening them.

Finally, I believe we need to review the infrastructure of the club to ensure it can be responsive, proactive and incisive in promoting Newquay Cricket Club. I have proposed rule changes to enable this to happen.

You will receive a considerable amount of paperwork to support the AGM, (more than anyone would wish to read) including;

1. Proposed rule changes - (the majority are for clarification responding to changes in the club's situation)
2. Chairman's report
3. Treasurer's report
4. Club policies – Please read the Code of Conduct if nothing else. It is an ECB directive that safeguarding policies should be renewed annually at our AGM. We have not done this in the past. Even with the number of policies presented, we do not meet the ECB requirements for the policies we have. It is my intention to draft the remaining policies and present them at our Spring meeting.
5. Voting rights

We have begun the process of improvement. Equipment to prepare pitches is much improved. Our playing environment will be improved over this and subsequent winters. The Youth structure is now a positive in the club with strong All Star and Dynamo groups and a much-improved Junior section.

I took over the Chairman's role in difficult circumstances. I never expected to have this role again, however, since my debut for Newquay in 1978 I have invested considerable time and effort and want to see our club strong, respected and competitive across Cornwall. I would like to thank all the members of the committee for their support in my transition from President to taking on the Acting Chairman's role.

Finally, I would like to recognise the hard work of Callan Jenkins who is standing down after six years as captain of 1sts or 2nds. He led the 2nds to promotion out of County 3, then took the 1sts back to County 1. Congratulations, thanks, and I'm sure you will look forward to a season being able to consider your own game, Cal.

To paraphrase some of our politicians, if elected as Chairman, I look forward to working with you all to **'Make Newquay Great Again'**.

Mike Jelbert