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## November Newsletter

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The 2008 season has generally been a successful adventure on and off the pitch for everyone connected with Stock Cricket Club. The season began with a new President, Peter Woodward, taking over from Maurice Elliott who, after many years as President, decided to move away from the village. Many of you would have noticed that Woody has not been seen around for the last couple of months and on behalf of the club we wish him well in his recovery from ankle surgery.

Following many years of rebuilding the Saturday teams and successful youth development, this season the club entered a 3rd XI into a newly formed T-Rippon Division 11. The make up of the team consisted primarily of youngsters, accompanied by a few more experienced players just entering the twilight of their careers. The team was overseen by Ken Hodges who worked tirelessly to get eleven players each week and the team exceeded all expectations in a hugely successful season. A final day victory ensured the team gained promotion at the first time of asking. Well done to all the players involved and the team provided a perfect environment for the youngsters to develop.

Similarly, the 2nd XI enjoyed another successful season, finishing second in Division 6 to gain a successive promotion. The success was based around their form on the common, winning all 9 games played at home. Victory in their penultimate match meant they were promoted with a game to spare. Well done to all those players that again contributed and good luck for next season.

The first team enjoyed a classic season of two halves. With four games to go, Stock sat 50 points from safety, but a run of three consecutive victories left them a mere two points adrift going into the final round of matches. Despite losing their final game of the season against Bentley, Stock gained 9 bonus points compared to Old Chelmsfordians' 6, and consequently jumped above the Old Boys to stay in the Premier Division. Again, congratulations to Chris Westwood and his team. Let's hope they can continue to progress as a team next year and be pushing for a championship rather than a relegation battle!

The Sunday 1st XI made their debut in the Warsop and Stebbing Sunday League and avoided relegation from the Premier Division. A number of competitive friendly games were played with mixed success and many youngsters began to show improvement and proved what a good environment Sunday cricket is for up and coming players. Furthermore, Ted Woodgate's Sunday 2nd XI enjoyed a successful season and lost only two games. Ted was helped by regular appearances from some senior Saturday 1st XI players who were able to help the young players progress and enjoy their cricket.

Graham Boxer's Mid Week XI again provided enjoyable and sometimes competitive mid week cricket for a mixture of veterans and youngsters. They were particularly unfortunate with some games called off due to the rain but again it provided more opportunities for a variety of players and introduced more members to the club.

In addition, the 2008 season was again a highly successful season for the junior teams. Every single game on the common was always well supported by parents and this helped increase bar sales in the clubhouse immensely! Phil Cottee's U-11s experienced mixed results but were always competitive. The volume of U-11s on a Tuesday night was also encouraging to see. Phil Norton's U-15s finished second in their division but the most notable aspect of their season was the frequency in which U-15 players represented the senior teams on Saturdays and Sundays. Captains of the adult teams would agree that these youngsters always gave 100% effort and never let the team down whenever they were called upon. Finally, Ian Wall's U-13s enjoyed a hugely successful season and won their league comfortably, winning all 9 games. Well done to all the players involved and again some of the players progressed to adult cricket and performed well. Due to the popularity cricket is currently experiencing, the numbers of budding young KPs and Flintoffs is great to see. However, to maintain this success in one of the most important parts of the club, we do need additional help. The club is always keen for more support, in the form of coaches and helpers on weeknights. As an added incentive, a potential tour to the Caribbean is being mooted for the juniors. Watch this space!

Off the pitch the club has enjoyed a successful season. A tour to Yorkshire saw a strong Stock team take on Matt Westwood's Bolton Percey. Anyone who attended will no doubt agree that the few days 'oop norf' were highly enjoyable, and not purely from a cricketing perspective. We hope to develop the tour into an annual event and are in the process of exploring potential destinations for next season. President's Day was a highlight of the season, combining a close game of cricket where more than 600 runs were scored, sumptuous food, refreshing drink and a post-match waterslide. The Fathers vs Sons game was another great day, with the Sons just claiming victory. The bar takings perhaps explain the Fathers' inability to chase down the required score!

As the winter has suddenly set in, we now look forward to the Stock CC Awards Dinner, to be held in the Village Hall on 9 November 2008. Tickets are still available, so please do contact Phil Cottee on 01277 841719 if you fancy some food and drink, a fair portion of friendly banter, and a spin on the dancefloor. Fingers crossed, a fair majority will be sporting the new Stock CC tie. Supplies are limited, but if you would like a tie please contact Matt or Steve at [stockcc@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:stockcc@hotmail.co.uk).

We thank everyone for their support this season. Without you, the club would not be what it is today. Particular thanks go to all those who have dedicated time and effort to supporting us. We also thank those who were kind enough to have donated to, or sponsored, Stock CC. It is at this stage that we make a pledge: please may it continue! Ted's Football Pontoon will be continuing this winter and is a great way to contribute to the club: £2 per week entry, predict scores in 10 randomly assorted football matches, take home 60% of the pot if you win. Simple. Please do get involved. Also, the 200 Club offers cash prizes throughout the year. To get more information on how you can get involved, please do contact us on [stockcc@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:stockcc@hotmail.co.uk).

Thanks again for a wonderful season! See you all soon!