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Pre-season Newsletter

Dear all,

Just a short newsletter to keep you abreast of goings on at Stock Cricket Club ahead of the new season. Firstly, we hope you have had an enjoyable and productive winter. Behind the scenes at Stock CC we have certainly been busy. There is a definite buzz about the club in preparation for the upcoming season, and spirits are high. The first game of the season is eagerly anticipated and we're sure that 2009 will be as successful as last season. Indeed, we hope that it will be more so!

The first piece of news is the renovation taking place on the Common. The Pavilion has undergone a 'Changing Rooms' style refurbishment. Unfortunately, Carol Smilie has been replaced by our own Graham Boxer and Martin Humphreys has taken over from 'Handy' Andy. Still, the transformation is staggering and the work of Graham and Martin, alongside Mickey Dixon and Ben Froment, is greatly appreciated. Gone are the wooden facia and dubious wiring, which have been replaced with a much lighter and airier space. Laurence Llewelyn-Bowen would be impressed. The decorating is still ongoing as we write, but will be complete for the start of the season. Thanks again to all those involved!

Secondly, nets have been progressing throughout the winter months. If you've dropped in, you'll have seen a few new faces alongside the old (and middle-aged). To those perhaps reading a Stock CC newsletter for the first time, welcome! The various youth teams have also been honing their skills during the winter and we expect a few younger members of the club to make a name for themselves on the senior stage this season. Although it looks as if competition for selection could be tight this year, please do point any friends, family members, business associates, or even strangers our way if they fancy playing, coaching, or merely watching/drinking. We're always on the lookout for new talent!

Further gratitude should once again go to Ted Woodgate for raising the club over £500 again this winter, thanks to his football pontoon. This money makes a great difference and goes a long way towards funding the additional costs of a Saturday 3rd XI. So thanks to all those who contribute every week, and special

thanks to Ted! As the football seasons draws to a close, we have a few new potential money spinners coming your way. Details will follow soon, but initial ideas include the re-emergence of the Bonus Ball, an IPL/T20 Fantasy Cricket Game (not run by Westers) and match ball sponsorship. Also, the 200 Club is still in operation and 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.

Some dates for your diary:

Sunday 5 April – Club Work Day 1000-1300 on the Common

Help is needed to get the changing rooms, outfield, sightscreens etc. in order for the new season. The more bodies the better!

Saturday 11 April – Opening game of the season

The season starts with a friendly against Great Baddow...weather permitting!

Friday 17 April – Curry Night in the Pavilion

After the success of last year's curry, Ali will once again cook up a spicy storm. To book a place either email us at stockcc@hotmail.co.uk or call Steve Morley on 07786655347.

Saturday 18 April and 25 April – Further Saturday pre-season friendlies at home against Marconi and then South Woodham Ferrers. Please notify any of the captains soon if you are available for any of these games.

Finally, before the season starts, we feel it is important to reiterate match day responsibilities of players. It shouldn't really need reinforcing, but it will help the captains if assistance is provided in the following areas:

- Arriving early to the game to help with opening up the clubhouse; opening shutters; placing flags around the boundary; opening Marion's score hut; removing the posts and rope from around the square; and putting the stumps out.
- After the game help the captain by: putting the boundary flags away; put the posts and rope back around the square; help copy up the score book; and offer to collect match fees. The captains have a lot of other responsibilities after the game so your help would be greatly appreciated.

So, we will see you all imminently! Here's to a successful and enjoyable season.

Matt & Steve