

Secretary's Report

2024 has been another busy year for the club and I am sure I am going to miss out something in this year's summary as there has been so much going on!

During the winter we switched over membership database to PLAI, a sports administration package which allows us to hold everything in one place and communicate easily with all members with the advantage of much lower costs than the previous supplier, something we have to be very conscious of in challenging times. I must thank Tim, Ryan & Michelle who took on the set up of the system dealing with the supportive team at PLAI helping in the background.

After all the work on the pavilion extension over the last few year and the development of the nursery ground you would have thought there would be some down time for the hard working committee this year but in the spirit of Swanage Cricket Club that was never going to happen with continued work to the exterior and driveway and the building of the new 'shed' to house the gym equipment kindly donated by Purbeck View and installation of solar panels. As I write this report work is progressing at pace and completion of the shed is on the horizon. The main bar area was renovated including fresh painting, flooring, new television and seating.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank all the members and parents who have helped with operating the bar this year, the bar generates a large percentage of income for the club and without the extra help we wouldn't be able to have the bar open as often as we would like. My thanks also needs to be extended to those who helped on the carnival bar, unfortunately, this year, we did not receive a donation from the Carnival committee however, having received many years of support from the carnival, we were happy to continue to support this wonderful bunch of volunteers who put on such an amazing week of events for the town. Thanks also go to those who helped set up and take down the marquees and gazebos for the Rotary fete.

The grounds team under the leadership of Craig have continued to work tirelessly on the grounds giving us some of the best pitches available in the whole of Dorset as recognised by the Dorset Cricket Board and visiting teams and umpires throughout the season. We are extremely lucky to have two fantastic pitches at our club and a huge thanks must go to all of the team who have contributed.

I will leave the captains to report on the various teams performances this year but just want to acknowledge how fantastic it has been to be able to get out a 4th VI this year bringing in more junior and women & girls players and also the development of the women & girls section which goes from strength to strength.

In September we held presentation days for both the Junior and Senior sections of the club, congratulations to all the award winners. It has been fantastic to see so many junior players transitioning to the senior sides, a positive sign for the future of the club.

We have continued to offer social croquet sessions on Wednesdays through the season with consistent numbers attending and we hope to be able to continue offering these sessions in 2025. Walking cricket was trialled for a few weeks and we hope to build on this in 2025.

As you would expect there is no rest through the winter months and we are planning to carry out renovations to the kitchen and storage areas. As always, any help from members is always appreciated and we will put out a call for this as and when we are ready.

This year we were delighted to be able to open up use of the pavilion to two local charities, Lewis Manning Hospice Care providing a day hospice service and Purbeck Parkys, a Parkinsons Support Group offering support to families in the Purbeck area living with Parkinsons. These groups will continue to meet at the club throughout the winter and we will also be continuing to run the popular quiz nights thanks to Nigel Dawe our quizmaster.

A big thank you goes to our various sponsors and advertisers and to all of you who have made donations to club funds throughout the year, these have been a great financial support to the club as it continues to grow and we are very grateful for any donation no matter how small as every little helps.

And finally, a big thank you to all my fellow committee members, I don't know how we do it on top of our day jobs and with such a small team but we always pull together to keep the club running. Without our committee, helpers and coaches we would not have the club we do today. If anyone is interested in helping with the running of the club please speak to a committee member who will be happy to give you more details.

Angela Wood, Secretary