

Spencer Bruerne Cricket Club Annual Parish Meeting 2025 Report

2024 was another excellent year for the cricket club. Almost 100 children had a cricket experience through the club with our Allstars and Dynamos programme attracting record numbers. The Dynamos (children aged 8-10) attended 3 local tournaments in the summer, winning one of them for the first time. A number of children moved from the programme into junior cricket later on. At junior level we ran under 11s, under 13s and under 15 teams in local leagues. This is a remarkable feat for a village club competing against the larger 'town' clubs.

On the 'senior' field, we again fielded 3 senior teams playing in the Northants League on Saturdays. The first team maintained a respectable mid-table position in their division, the second team avoided relegation, struggling as a result of needing to supplement the first team on several occasions and the third team improved on the 2023 season, winning far more game sand finishing mid table. Pleasingly, the third team fielded around half its players from juniors that have progressed through our system.

Off the field the club continues to thrive, several events were held in addition to our regular opening and financially we are in a decent position.

Looking ahead to the 2025 season. On the field we will again have 3 teams playing on a Saturday in the league, additionally , we are playing a few friendlies on Sundays this year to allow more juniors to experience open age cricket. We have recruited well over the winter and several good players have joined to bolster the first team especially. We are also excited to be welcoming our first 'overseas' player from New Zealand who will join this year. The juniors will continue to play at under 11, 13 and 15 levels and the Allstars and Dynamos programmes start on 9 May 2025.

Excitingly. Following some hard work for fundraising, we are waiting for our replacement practice net facility to be installed. This is state of the art and will easily be the best in the area. These facilities have helped us recruit new players. A huge thanks to everyone who gave money towards this facility.

The club were lucky enough to win a competition which means we have use of a specialist cricket roller for the next two years, the same equipment used

at Lords. Already the benefits can be seen if only the fact that every time you turn the key it starts, something our 40-year-old previous roller didn't always do!

We have refurbished a patio area to the side of the clubhouse, funded 50/50 by the club and an ECB grant. Again, huge thanks to everyone who has helped out in its construction.

Going forward we have several projects we would love to complete. Our equipment shed has got to be moved to facilitate the new nets, the age of it isn't known but it is now in need of replacement. Also, we lost our marquee over the winter and are looking at buying a replacement as soon as we can as it was a great addition to the social space in the club. We've also been given the news that the clubhouse roof is needing more and more repairs, a full replacement may be needed in the next few years.

The social scene at the club continues to thrive. Friday nights are busy and we would like to see as many of you as possible coming along, your support for all our home games would be greatly appreciated. Anyone wanting to join as a player or supporter is greatly welcomed.

Here's to a fantastic 2025 season.

Ian Stimson Chair SBCC.