

## News from the Club

It is a busy time for the club with lots of projects happening simultaneously over the Winter months, so here is an update before we close out 2018.

The work to install a new wet room and four showers into the changing rooms is well underway and likely to be completed before Christmas. This development is long overdue and will make a significant improvement to our match-day facilities. At the same time, the ceiling in the home changing room is being replaced, along with installation of a new anti-slip flooring in the players toilets, adjacent to the tackle shed. Clearly, this is a significant cost for the club and I trust that both home and visiting players use the new facilities respectfully.

We have made an agreement with the Golden Fleece to allow them to develop their building by way of an extension to the rear of the pub. The single storey lean-to is taking shape, predominately in the space between the existing pub wall and our field. The plans however, require for the development to encroach onto our land by just a few inches in one small area. In compensation for this, the club will take possession of the tiered banking which we have maintained for many years and in recent times have made an annual payment in rent. The upper section of the banking will remain the property of the Golden Fleece.

As some of you may be aware, approx. £500 went missing from the till/safe on the evening of the end of season party on 8th September, whilst the club was open. As you know Blackley CC prides itself on being run by volunteers and relies on this being done on trust. It is disappointing therefore that, whilst there were guests present, the individual responsible could potentially be one of us! Informal discussions have been held with some of those present that evening, however to date no one has either 'owned up' or come forward with any information that identifies the culprit or that may explain what happened. If you do know of anything, please speak to either myself, Secretary Julie Pearson or Disciplinary Officer Andy Prosser in strictest confidence.

In response, it should be noted that additional measures are being put into place to reduce the risk of this happening again, namely:

- Additional and upgraded CCTV cameras to monitor activity around the till and safe
- A new 'drop-box' safe where cash can be stored with access provided only to a very limited number of people.
- We are reviewing options for a new bar till that will accurately log takings, make it easier to add up rounds and assist stock control
- In addition, we are reviewing a contactless payment facility, which again will assist in the collection of funds and reduce the amount of cash held on the premises
- The strict adherence to our bar policy, including no serving yourself and no 'unauthorised' people behind the bar etc. If there is no one present or they are busy, do not serve yourself but wait for a member of the team. Unless you have been asked to assist, then on-duty bar team members only behind the bar please!

All this extra expense means that the club will now have to divert funds that would ordinarily have been used for other purposes and whilst it is hugely disappointing, I hope you agree the club is taking the right course of action.

I am delighted to announce that at the AGM on 22<sup>nd</sup> November, Mark Fox, Andy Ingle and Sue & Alan Clough were all made life members of Blackley CC. Congratulations to them all and on behalf of the members, a huge thank you for their many years of service and contribution to the club.

The New season will soon be upon us and our captains; Matt Britton, Steve McNamara and Gary Clarke will lead out the senior teams in our 150<sup>th</sup> year of Cricket at Blackley. There will be events planned to mark this milestone so keep up to date via the website and our social media channels.

In the meantime, may I wish you and your family a relaxing Christmas and all the very best for the New Year.

Jonathan Smith  
Chairman