



Message from the Chairman

Dear Member,

Covid-19 reminds us that safeguarding is everyone's concern. To keep our club members engaged and to be able to resume cricket activities during the 2020 summer season required a considerable effort and determination by many members, for which I am most grateful.

Your club has grown considerably in recent years and developed into a cricket, football and broader community club. I would like to think that this has been the correct course of action, and a successful one. At the same time, the safeguarding environment generally has developed greater awareness and quite rightly so. We want our members and guests who visit the club to enjoy their experience, but this must be in the safest possible environment.

We have, and will continue to promote, strong safeguarding disciplines with modern policies and, most importantly, procedures to ensure that we deliver on them. In this regard, safeguarding is the responsibility of the club's Management Committee which is required to appoint a Club Safeguarding Officer and ensure that adequate procedures are in place. We are fortunate to have an experienced Club Safeguarding Officer, Niru Williams, who heads a team of volunteers – the Safeguarding Team – who are the eyes and ears of our safeguarding capability.

Our Safeguarding Policy has been updated and I would ask you to please consider the obligations that membership involves for your club to remain a safe environment.

I would like to draw to your attention some issues. Firstly, we have introduced two charters, one for members and the other for their families, which provide a reminder of the obligations required to become a member. Secondly, we will continue to take a tough attitude toward any behaviour that might spoil things for other members. We continue to have zero tolerance for abuse – particularly in relation to children and vulnerable adults – and discrimination. Our diversity is a strength, and we should keep it that way.

We are also seeking to extend our Safeguarding Team to include parents of our younger members. The membership age profile has become younger in recent years and we want to engage the parents and their peer groups to broaden representation. This initiative should help to widen the net for the ECB Whistleblowing Policy which we fully support. Everyone must have an opportunity to talk, and to be heard. We are installing a new chat box facility called 'Howzat! - What do you think?' so that you can tell us what you think.

My door is always open. Please contact me if there is anything you would like to talk about.

Regards,

Martin Pluck – Club Chairman

December 2020.