

## STOP PRESS – Alastair Cook and Mike Gatting recruited to Dymock Cricket Club!!

By Martin Fowke - Chairman



If anybody had suggested, even as recently as January of this year, that our community club would be joined on 1<sup>st</sup> April by two English cricketing greats – Alastair Cook, current captain and Mike Gatting, a former captain – to help prepare for the new season, I would have said they were having a laugh. But they did. Read on.....

Coming on the back of generous grants from both the ECB and Sport England, we were delighted to be nominated by Gloucester Cricket Board to be the ECB's national showcase club as part of the NatWest CricketForce weekend, and humbled to be selected.

The ECB work hard each year, with NatWest and co-sponsors Jewson, to support cricket clubs across the country prepare for the new season. Our (nearly complete) new pavilion obviously provided a stunning backdrop for the community based day, with 174 volunteers working on a range of projects around the ground, digging, chopping, painting, sanding, planting and cleaning, as well pupils from Ann Cam erecting more than 25 bird boxes as part of environmental bio-diversity plan.

The day started at 7.30am with my being interviewed on Gloucestershire Radio. The club was covered through the day by TV (BBC and SKY), video, newspaper and magazine reporters, and variously appeared on Twitter, Facebook and other social media. The day finished with Mike Wise making a cup of tea on the evening BBC News!!



# NatWest CricketForce – 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016

## Mike Gatting gets stuck in ....

– Mike Wise – CricketForce co-ordinator

Mike Gatting is a legend of the game. A former captain who scored more than 4,000 test runs, his focus and application was again obvious in completing the timber treatment of the fence by our driveway, and then moving straight onto painting our sightscreens, bypassing the



Rhian Head, NatWest Community Officer providing advice to Gatts on his stroke work..

BBQ....

Mike really is an ambassador for English Cricket, and has completed numerous NatWest CricketForce assignments since its inception more than 10 years ago; this year Mike is travelling from Dymock to Happisburgh CC in Norfolk for Saturday, then back to Bedford CC on Sunday.

Having helped Mike when he arrived I understand he is just running in a new artificial hip. He worked all day, and then drives 210 miles to Norfolk.

Legend.

## Alastair Cook enjoys boys toys ....

– Rich Hall – Groundsman

Alastair Cook was the first to jump into the driving set of a brand new Powerroll wicket roller – although Eric



Alastair Cook receives a driving lesson from Eric Woodmason, of Gloucester Cricket Board!

Woodmason of the GCB made sure he was the second up!

As soon as Alastair moved to sign autographs for Dymock juniors (and a few seniors!) Eric grabbed the chance and was reluctant to give up through the morning! Unfortunately this roller was on its way to maintain the test wicket at Edgbaston, but we are very grateful to Powerroll for letting us roll our square at this time of the season.



**CricketForce**  
**Sponsors and**  
**Volunteers** –  
Richard Lee –  
Treasurer



Dymock was flattered by the level of support from the ECB – Old Trafford and Lords must have closed for the day, and given the national men’s and women’s team’s performances in India we were honoured to host most of the executive team.

Tom Harrison, CEO of the ECB, recently returned from the T20 tournament in India, barely had time to drive in a



### **Mark Harper, MP drops in** – *York Senior, Head of Cricket*

Full Marks to Mark Harper – whilst acknowledging his



own lack of cricketing prowess he spent several hours on site on the day. Mark took a close interest in the broad community involvement on the day as well as supporting the club’s objectives to provide the best possible facility for the whole community. Mike Gatting appeared glad of the opportunity to promote the need for sport in schools, and the significant benefits of sport

for young people, in particular, and the consequent benefits for society. Mark was persuaded to don a T shirt over his suit, toured the site, inspected the numerous projects before heading for the BBQ.

Mark was supportive at the outset of our pavilion project, and was happy to canvas Sport England on our behalf when we were seeking our core grant at the outset, and has offered any possible support as we seek funding to complete the pavilion.

### ***Other news.....***

post for a new stile on the boundary, make a speech, grab a burger, and dash back to Heathrow for a flight back to India for the T20 final!

Hardly to be outdone, NatWest executives and staff, totaling 30 or more, were seen painting our tool shed, fences and sightscreens – we hope we can maintain our relationship with NatWest, possibly in our proposed and revised mid-week ‘Pubs and clubs’ league?

In addition to the significant input from the ECB and NatWest, the success of the day, and the legacy for the club, is also due to a number of sponsors, including:

- Jewson – for a generous allowance for tools and materials, including a mini-digger for the weekend
- Durant Sports – a plastic wicket sheet cover AND an electronic scoreboard!!!!
- Bowcom – a new Bowdry wicket dryer

But the great news for the club is the enthusiastic level of community support and participation. The club is open to all for the benefit of the community, so the army of volunteers engaged in tasks from providing cakes and serving refreshments, to building stiles and fences, will make the club and its facilities sustainable long into the future.



## **Pavilion update** – *Richard Lee, Treasurer*

The pavilion is still scheduled to be completed on 20<sup>th</sup> May – if the weather remains kind. We are making arrangements to accommodate senior and junior training and matches prior to this date, and groundworks around the pavilion will certainly continue after this date.

Since our previous newsletter we have received confirmation of further grants from:

- Thomas Cook Children's Charity – grant of £5,400 to provide parking, access and further disabled facilities
- Awards 4 All – grant of £10,000 towards the fit out of the kitchen
- Marstons – loan and support towards the provision of bar equipment

The club is very grateful to Jeremy Downham, a recently appointed Trustee, who has assisted in updating the club's trustee and land title documentation, a pre-requisite to our being able to draw down a loan offered by the ECB for £25,000.

As I have consistently advised, the club has been facing a funding shortfall, principally as a result of the unanticipated cost of piling and bridging the Roman Road that runs through our site. Given recent receipts, including life membership subscriptions, 150 Club membership and a number of pledges of support the challenge has reduced to approximately £50,000. The grants detailed above will significantly enhance the facility and its setting, but do not relate to the underlying building and therefore do not directly impact the projected shortfall.

The committee are exploring ways to source funds or to bridge the current funding gap, and are delighted by the initiative of the junior section in using the crowd funder website:

<http://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/new-pavilion-for-dymock-cricket-club>

for their 'Roman Road Roof Tile Raffle'.

This is well worth a visit, if only to admire the acting and speaking abilities of our junior members – with guest appearances by well-known celebrities!!

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## **The Future**

Whilst our absolute top priority is to fund and complete the pavilion build, we are already looking at two fantastic opportunities to enhance the ability for the community to participate in sport, recreation and social activities.

The land behind the pavilion(s), bought for multi-sport purposes is crying out to be used. It also boasts its own stretch of the Roman Road to Tewkesbury, so will require investment to build up low lying areas (rather than scrapping away the high bits). We have filed an application for support to Gloucestershire Environmental trust to help develop this land for its long intended purpose, and await their response in May.

The land to the North of the club has been offered for sale to the parish for sport and recreational use by the County Council. The Cricket Club is eager to participate in any arrangement that would bring this land into use by the community, given the pavilion available to support any such use.

The cricket club is open and keen to discuss any possible arrangements or opportunities to secure and develop this land, mindful of the fact that in the immediate future the club's funds and future income are fully committed to the new pavilion.

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## **Watch out for....**

**May 29<sup>th</sup>** – Dymock Half Marathon, Junior Athletics, Beer Festival and more

**TBC** – New pavilion opening ceremony and celebrations

**Cricket** – coming soon!!

