



St James's Montefiore Cricket Club

Cricket Committee

April 2011



Dear Player,

We're now beyond the Spring equinox & the 2011 cricket season is fast approaching.

It's been a crazy ride watching the England XI this winter with enormous highs & lows (even Scotland beat Ireland reasonably regularly!) & I hope the England players enjoy their few weeks' rest.

Closer to home, I want to keep you informed about cricket matters at the Fury.

Firstly, the league captains & vice captains for Season 2011 are:

	Captain	Vice-Captain	
1 st XI	Brad Hatchett	TBC	
2 nd XI	Derek Horsham	Jack Foreman	Charles Davies
3 rd XI	Pete Masters	Russell Piper	
4 th XI	Talat Malik	Neil Bushell	

It's great to see Brad & Pete captaining for another season to give us the continuity we need as a Club. I've asked Jack & Charles to help Deggsie in the 2nd XI as my expectation is that at least one of them will not be available for the 2nd XI on any given week. John Taylor jnr will captain the 2nd XI in the SCL 20/20 – this in recognition of his major achievement of captaining the 2nd's to the final of the competition last season. Mal is excited about his season ahead with the 4th XI.

We have retained Raz for 2011 to help with playing & coaching, plus we have the exciting prospect of our new Australian overseas Paddy Jolly from the Southern Districts club in Adelaide who is here in 2011 for his first experience of English conditions. Paddy will also be involved on the coaching side of things, & will bring some fresh ideas to our cricket.

I hope you all give the captains & Raz & Paddy all your help & support this season.

It's not clear as I write when we will get outdoors for nets – the snowfalls this winter have not helped GG's preparations. Senior nets will again be on Wednesday nights. My guess is we may get out on Wed 13 Apr but we will keep you informed. We may stay indoors instead depending on take-up.

Barry Green has written to you to help in Ground Parties in April – thanks to the Winter weather there is a lot to do so please help, even if just for a couple of hours.

On a more pragmatic note please return your subs to the Treasurer Jane Howard soonest. Despite what some may think cricket at the Fury is not expensive when compared to peer clubs in the County. I recommend the standing order (£6 per month for a senior player) as the affordable way ahead. For the cost of 2 pints of beer per month you get to play cricket at one of the nicest locations in the County – it's an incredible deal!

Please remember if you don't pay your sub &/or match fee it isn't clever – all you're doing is placing the future of the Club (& by extension your own & your mates' enjoyment) at risk. We did wonderfully well "chasing up" last year thanks mainly to Pete Masters & we intend to take a hard line this year too - 3 strikes & you're out. By that I mean you'll get licence to play 2 games then you'll not be selected until you've paid your sub - & we won't relinquish your registration until we receive monies owed. A sad but necessary feature of our times, I wish we didn't have to consider these sorts of policies.

Of course we'll also consider individual circumstances re the above.

I also need to talk about discipline, which we have tightened up on during the winter. For those who don't already know, there is a clear directive going out this year to umpires to deal with on-field behaviour. Also, as a Club we are responsible for our members' behaviour at any cricket event in Sussex on & off the field. This was explained to us by the SCB. For avoidance of doubt I shall be posting the SCL Code of Conduct in Home & Away dressing rooms this season, plus further reminders about the Spirit of Cricket in our "den".

To emphasise – discipline on & off the field is our top priority this season.

My final words are these – I & the Cricket Committee want all of our players to go out there, do their best, & most importantly enjoy their cricket. It's not work, it's leisure, for the vast majority of cricketers. Play for each other, for the team, don't leave any cricket out there, but show respect for the opposition, & the excitement & tradition of this complex & challenging game, & you'll have a fulfilling season..

C'mon the Fury!..

Regards,

Jock