**October/November 2020: Collated Club Feedback to Restart Cricket 2020**

1. **Regional Groups:**
* **The league made the best of a bad job. Playing the same teams 3 times in 8 weeks was too often but I understand all the reasons why. Also mixing prem, div 1 and div 2 teams meant the games were generally very one sided. There were also a few eyebrows raised as to how Bootle and Ormskirk ended up in the same group when you have to drive through Maghull to get from one to the other.**
* **Worked well, strengthened relationships between local clubs.**
* **It served a purpose but not ideal due to the various strengths of the teams – the groups could have been paired and the finals then could have been across the groups i.e. the Liverpool group and the St Helens area group, 1st in one group play 2nd in the other group for the semi-finals. Appreciate it was done to get cricket played but doesn’t seem right that a team losing 6/6 had as much chance qualifying for the final as a team winning 6/6 – due to Lancs we didn’t even get home advantage !**
* **Cut down on travel but did mean playing some teams multiple times (Liverpool x 3, Sefton 3rds x 2). Look forward to playing a bigger range of teams next season.**
* **Thought the regional group format worked well in the context of this season until we reached the semi-final and final stage. It would have been good to have seen teams progress and play other teams from different groups at this stage.**
* **I know the regional format was in place due to potential travel restrictions but we ended up playing Widnes and Oulton Park in the Cheshire Cup this season!**
* **Very well organised (geographically) and communicated to all.**
* **Worked well as less travelling**
* **The groups worked very well and all teams definitely entered into the spirit of things.**
* **Good idea; worked well for the shortened season.**
* **Given the circumstances it was very sensible and worked well in order to get us playing. In normal times I wouldn’t encourage it. Arguably maybe could have done finals across groups but again understood why not and probably right call.**
* **Good idea to reduce travel and risk of games being cancelled due to local lockdown. Maybe better if groups where still regional but based on league positioning e.g. teams in Ray Tyler & Ray Digman draws grouped together to provide more level playing field.**
* **The logistics of getting to and from grounds was a concern but the structure of the groups ensured this concern was unfounded.**
* **Worked well for the initial 6 weeks, but I’d have liked to have seen us play a different club from a different group in the last two weeks for the semi-finals and finals. In the circumstances though it was fine, but by the end became fairly tiresome! Hopefully won’t be an issue next year.**
* **They worked very well for the context of the season just gone. However, there is a danger that familiarity would breed contempt so to speak if the regionalised concept went on for much longer.**

**We would very much want to go back to the previous league structure based upon the intended 2020 organisation.**

* **I think these were a good idea, and indeed a necessity given the circumstances.**
* **We did well to get competitive cricket throughout the Comp - congrats to all involved that made it happen. I would very much hope, as we learn to cope with the pandemic better, or if cases drop off over time, we can have systems in place to deliver a full league programme (with promotion and relegation) for 2021.**
* **This is very interesting as I had never previously considered it an option for 2nd XI, however all the teams we played against seemed to think that a 45 over format was better for 2nd XI cricket. On balance I think it probably is. It prevents one or two bowlers from dominating and encourages teams to play to win with the bat. The amount of limited overs cricket massively outweighs 1st class etc at professional level, so I think this decision would make more sense to younger players too. All 3rd XI cricket should definitely be overs matches too, probably 40 is best. I cannot see the value in timed cricket at this level at all. Personally, I would leave all 1st XI cricket where it is - it’s the highest standard of club cricket and covers ALL playing aspects of the game. With many participants on a pathway to a higher level, it feels the best fit for an ECB Premier League. Perhaps as a slight aside, I do have an issue with the over 40/junior rule on players playing Sunday cricket. In my view if you are good enough to be selected for a club’s 1st XI on a Saturday, then you shouldn’t be able to play for a lower team the following day. I’ve seen far too many examples of 3rd XI matches being won by such players ‘taking over’, with the majority of the rest of the team getting little or nothing from the game. Start times - my view would be to start all 1st XI games at 12 noon and all 2nd/3rd XI games at 1pm. This way games all finish earlier (and at Approx the same time if they go the distance), giving people the option of a night out (or in!) afterwards.**
* **Initially a good concept but felt like the teams were a little fed up of seeing the same faces by week 4 or 5.**
* **Some umpires wished to stay local but the majority were happy to be flexible to travelling.**
* **I understand why originally regional bubbles were put in place. However it was clear to see for all that this could have been amended to allow for more competitive games to be played. I’m not sure Caldy got much out of being beaten basically every week (apart from once against BHPCC). The management committee could have been more agile in changing its grouping structure once it was clear that there were no travel restrictions in place.**
* **Really enjoyed the groups, worked well and encouraged player participation because of reduced travelling.**
* **The regional groups were felt to be both reasonable and sensible in the circumstances presented to us all at the time. As a player it began to feel slightly repetitive, however that is not a criticism, just a general feeling, but there was no alternative which was totally understandable in the circumstances.**
* **Happy with this and enjoyed the reduced travelling.**
* **There was a general feeling amongst the group that one of the major positives was the opportunity to play a number of times against local teams, breaking down barriers and building friendships. I would like to see some form of regional cricket continue once out of the pandemic – perhaps t20 round robins. This would help address another issue with local cricket, that there isn’t enough t20 played.**
* **Worked well especially from a lower club perspective (the upper clubs may differ). We competed well in all but one of the games and the club and the younger players developed markedly over the course of the 8 weeks. It was also good to renew friendships with people in the vicinity and with whom we had not had playing contact for a while. If the league is as normal in 2021, it may be useful to run the cup along these lines in future.**
* **Groups need to be bigger and more evenly balanced as one-sided games proved. Keep to league format with team finishing top champions. No need for ½ final or final . One team didn’t win a group game but still finished as winners which can’t be right.**
* **To play any cricket was a great success and credit to our League and the ECB. The regional groups worked well in the circumstances, but any future similar approach should only be considered if faced with a similar predicament.**
* **A good solution to the problems created by the context of Covid.**
* **Thought it worked really well. From STCC perspective it was good to test ourselves against other teams in Southport, presumably stripped back of paid players, to see where we stand against teams in the Prem and Div 1. It was also good to renew some local rivalries against players we haven’t seen for a number of years, and the social element was also good. We have fostered good relationships with our fellow Southport teams which will hopefully stand us all in good stead in the future. Spectator attendances at the Rookery were very good throughout the season, with the added spice of local games. We managed the social distancing element well, and many new faces were seen down over the course of the season.**
* **Ok for this shortened season but needs more variety next season if we are not back to normal, cannot see why we should not just travel to all clubs next year.**
* **Worked very well under the Covid restrictions**
* **Speaking to home and away players, both at FCC and whilst I was at an away ground, I was left with the very strong impression that regional groupings had been very well received. This was particularly evident amongst Sunday cricketers. The feedback that I received from the 1st XI captain was that it was not so much of an issue one way or the other. They would expect to travel the distances that are required of a premier division side in normal circumstances and would also do so in the event of any further restrictions being in place in 2021. I suspect that there was a latent suggestion that if a restricted programme is to be used in 2021 then consideration could be given to allocating fixtures based on a seeding basis rather than geographical locations.**
1. **Format and start times:**
* **Timed cricket is so much better than limited overs. At least in a timed game there is a requirement to take 10 wickets to win and the weaker team have the opportunity to hang on for a draw. With no need to take wickets the game is lessened. Also I prefer a later start, this enables people who work on Saturday mornings to play and gives players with young kids the chance to spend the morning at home.**
* **Excellent. Seemed to fit in with most people.**
* **Keep timed cricket and do away with 1.45 starts**

**Midday starts worked well – it’s even better when your 3rd X1 finish before your 1st team game and they can watch the last couple of hours**

* **12 noon start time too early as it makes doing any tasks in the morning impossible. Particularly for 40 over format which was complete by 5pm.**
* **Very well organised (geographically) and communicated to all.**
* **The 40 over format works well for a short season or cup competition, but it has its limitations (i.e. restricting bowlers to 8 overs each means as a batsman one can “see off” the better bowlers and look to score off the lesser bowlers). I do think at 3rd team level a limited overs format (of perhaps 45-50 overs per side) with some restrictive bowling limitations (say 12-15 overs max per bowler) would make for better cricket. Both playing for a draw, and individual bowlers bowling excessively long spells can make for a dull afternoon at a level where participation and development are the main aims.**
* **We as a club are very much in favour of timed cricket remaining for all league matches. I would also say that 1pm start times are still our preferred choice, light permitting.**
* **Good. I’d like to see this format all the time at lower divisions & 3XI. especially the 45 overs cup style and particularly 'leg –side' wides.**
* **The format worked well and the start time of 12 was better than later in the afternoon.**
* **Loved 12 starts should be looked into for the future. Limited overs was good. Made the games a lot more competitive because teams had to use more bowlers rather than 1 bowler bowling 20. Should be looked into for league games.**
* **12.00 starts have to stay!!! Or earlier! I wouldn’t be against 11/1130 personally, but definitely 12.**

**I feel it allowed people to have a life away from cricket, and those who want to stay and socialise it made even that easier and probably benefitted the club as a whole.**

**Format is difficult, I hugely enjoyed the limited overs but I’m a timed cricket purist and look forward to the return. I would look at potentially a limit on bowlers overs though to stop the inevitable 27 overs from one end.**

* **Format was refreshing change: resulted in more positive cricket being played, players who would have previously been restricted in opportunities to showcase their abilities now able to due to limits on overs allowed to be bowled by one bowler. This further resulted in captains having to make decisions rather than e.g. bowling an overseas pro at one end and waiting for them to bowl the team out. Continue with midday start times. 1pm & especially 1.45pm starts for lower level teams can feel like you are wasting a morning waiting to travel to the ground. Earlier start times also mean earlier finishes which can be a benefit to individuals offering them more time for activities they may have planned later or even increased time to see their children. This can often be a reason that individuals choose to leave the sport as it effectively an entire Saturday spent playing cricket. Start time can link with positives in the new format as now in 1st XI level there are less overs to be played which in turn results in earlier finish.**
* **Suited the 8-week format but our preference is the normal competition start times – We had issues with players unable to attend from the start of the game (work commitments etc/children playing sport). We need to ensure that the bar is used after the game by both players and spectators and earlier finish times will not help.**
* **Again, given the circumstances the format of 45 overs was fine. However, the USP of the comp is timed cricket, and for me and the vast majority of players at S&B is sacrosanct and we should never be looking to shift away from timed cricket. Maybe at 3rd XI/ Sunday cricket overs cricket would work better but certainly 1st and 2nd XI must be timed. Regarding start times, I’ve been an advocate of a 12pm start for a while now. This means an earlier finish meaning potential for more interaction between the sides which I feel is something that has slowly ebbed away over the years.**

**More importantly and with my fundraising hat on, it gives clubs far greater scope to organise events during and after cricket, without feeling that whoever is away that day can’t make it back until past 9 or 10pm. Those that want to get back to wives and children, gives them the chance to do so and spend longer with them also.**

* **We feel strongly that we need to revert to timed cricket in 2021 on both Saturdays and Sundays.**

**We would not be in favour of midday start times all season. The earlier start time made the day longer as people still stayed until the same time. It made Saturday mornings feel rushed. Midday starts will be a real issue for parents with children undertaking sports and clubs on a Saturday morning if the travelling distances to matches become further. We would support 1pm starts for all teams, however.**

* **I preferred the 12noon start and would like to remain for all fixtures in 2021.The 45 over format produces results. I think for this year, this worked well. However, if 2021 is as we all hope is back to normal, a move back to timed cricket is a priority. I do believe that 1200pm start should continued, this is something that I think a lot of clubs would welcome.**
* **I think for this year, this worked well. However, if 2021 is as we all hope is back to normal, a move back to timed cricket is a priority. I do believe that 1200pm start should continued, this is something that I think a lot of clubs would welcome.**
* **Would prefer to play timed rather than win/lose cricket. Midday too early to start as people work. Limiting the bowlers encouraged player participation and brought other players into the game.**
* **The start time was welcomed by all playing members at our cricket club. There is a general feeling that earlier start times are preferred and more suitable to our current playing members. We would support a change to the 2nd start time for future seasons. Players at both 1st and 2nd team level did not have an issue with the format in the shortened season, however the traditional timed cricket format is still favoured and we look forward to returning to that format next season.**
* **Preferred the 12noon start but would want an option to gain winning and losing draw points if limited overs as per the old Northern league rules circa 2007 when I played in it.**
* **I personally prefer timed cricket, though would prefer some minor adaptations (e.g. restriction of overs to stop clubs abusing professionals). 12 pm start times were a nice adaptation and I wouldn’t be averse to seeing this change implemented. If required next season, the 45 over format could be rolled out over a full season and it would still feel ‘normal’.**
* **Format may not have needed the semi-final and final at the end. Start times were very early (full length games were often finished by 6pm – unnecessary in view of the lack of travel). One rule to look at would be the cup wides. Allow the umpires discretion as oftentimes extras were a big contributor to scores (although it worked wonders for my number of byes!)**
* **Go down the National KO way with 40 overs per side 3 power plays 1-8 9-32 33-40. 1pm start allowing for convenience. 45 overs was to long with some teams taking well over 3hours to bowl with all the stoppages.**
* **The format was fine for the issues of the season but as a club we would prefer to return the existing time cricket. The start time of 12 noon should be retained for the next full season**
* **The format for 3rd XIs was good, allowing for a competitive group prior to semi/finals. 1st XIs could have been improved by having the knockout stages against another group but I appreciate this was avoided due to the need to keep clubs from travelling too far.**
* **STCC were happy with the 45 over cricket, meaning there was less opportunity for a star bowler to totally dominate proceedings. Two or three of our players were unable to make the 12pm start times, meaning they were unable to play, which was disappointing for them, but the early finishes meant that there was more scope for a social afterwards, or people who had other commitments could get to them in good time.**
* **Just play normal 45 over cricket, no power plays etc.**
* **Format worked well and start times were better but ideally would have been 30 minutes later (12.30pm) to accommodate under 9s. We had to move 2-3 start times for this reason**
* **At no stage whatsoever during the 8-week season did I hear any complaints relating to either the format or the start times at any level of cricket.**
1. **Bringing your own teas:**
* **Hated it!**
* **A great idea and worked exceptionally well. People were able to make their own choices and a cost saving for the majority of clubs.**
* **YES 100% - teas are a massive strain on our finances and add an extra £4500 to our section outgoings per year. Our parent club would prefer not to have to provide them as a lot of kitchen space is used for preparing food for functions like weddings**

**Our players definitely preferred it as each player has different eating habits as did our 3rd team players who have a 10-minute walk both ways to get to the pavilion**

**It’s possible that regardless of what the league decide that we may be unable to provide teas anyway going forward**

* **Something which I hope does not become the “new normal”. Removes an important social part of the cricketing experience. Proper teas should be reinstated as soon as possible**
* **Not massively against either bringing your own teas or having them catered for by the home team.**
* **Worked very well all players and spectators accepted the change and adhered to the rules.**
* **OK. However the lack of social interaction with opposition is a downside.**
* **This made total sense and everyone was happy to do it. As a Club we provided juice but all Covid-19 guidelines were adhered to i.e. hand sanitise, pick up your own disposable cup, Club member with gloves on to pour the juice and cup put straight into the bin by player.**
* **Yep, saves money on lads subs encourages more participation.**
* **100% yes. Took a massive weight off the club logistically and financially. Makes it easier with dietary requirements. I’m the kind of person who brings my own food anyway, as I won’t eat much before going out to field.**
* **Cricket is based around teas – players don’t talk about games they have played; they talk about teas they have had or expect to have at LDCC clubs. We had to do what the COVID regulations said but sat there eating a Spar or Co-Op butty is not the same. Great for reducing club costs but it’s not cricket.**
* **Thoroughly enjoyed this aspect of Saturdays. Often individuals will be paying £15 for subs on occasion, depending on the cost of teas. Clubs have to pay out £50 for umpires, £20 to £30 for scorers, and anywhere between £70 and £120 for teas. Once you’ve paid for a few jugs and a couple of drinks for the umpires and you are looking at a potential of nearly £300 of costs for a Saturday which is very expensive, obviously just for a 1st XI game, but still possibly £200 for a 2nd XI or 3rd XI game. Having no teas would mean less cost for the player, and less cost for the club which is a win-win for me. It could also mean the potential for more cricket as the tea break could be reduced slightly to 20 minutes possibly. I noticed that the majority of players ate during the game itself and that the tea break became an opportunity to have a hit or a bowl in readiness for the second half of the game. This, along with the early starts is really important things to look at for next season.**
* **Prefer this stay in the future. Makes matchday subs cheaper and allows individuals to choose what they eat, whether it be ensuring they keep to their diet needs or simply have what they want.**
* **We feel that the ritual of taking tea is part of the social fabric of the game. We would want that reinstated but with certain minimum standards expected of all clubs. The teas at some clubs leave a lot to be desired.**
* **I’m biased in that I believe HStM has one of the best teas around, which I am happy to pay for. However the standard at away grounds is variable and many times in recent seasons I’ve eaten nothing at all at away matches. It’s difficult because, even though home teams pay, you can’t really have a half-way house with some clubs serving tea and others not. Perhaps we should generally rule out teas - it would be a huge saving for some clubs - but if it is an option and players (home or away) want to pre-order and pay themselves, then they can.**
* **I missed a hot meal and would prefer the club to provide.**
* **Personally, I liked it. Teas are always a bit of a hassle for clubs to organise, and generally are expensive for the quality that’s produced, as well as for the club. I also rarely eat teas and choose to bring my own neway. However other players in my side (the younger ones) would prefer not to have to think about bringing their own teas.**
* **Excellent idea. Should be a permanent fixture.**
* **Again, this was welcomed by our players this season and would be favoured should the league and its members wish to retain this from 2021 onwards. Our club saved on a significant expenditure in the current difficult financial climate.**
* **Yes, reduces burden on club volunteers.**
* **No strong feelings – if sticking with own teas then I would like break reduced to 15 or 20 minutes.**
* **Most teams didn’t bother bringing much food to be honest. Clubs actually organised outdoor bbqs which teams took advantage of (for those that were hungry).**
* **No problem with own food but a nice hot brew would be good haha**
* **Worked remarkably well as far as we could see. For the 2021 season continue with bring your own teas and review at the end of hopefully a full season. It is likely Covid arrangements will still be in force next season in some shape or form and making an early decision on teas makes matters clearer for everyone. A complete success. Our preference at the club is to continue with this in 2021 and beyond.**
* **This was a necessary evil which most players managed to organise fine.**
* **Excellent idea should be made permanent with the home team providing tea/coffee etc. Would stop in the region of £2800 per week being spent on teas for both 1sr and 2nd X1 games**
* **Worked well**
* **Everyone adapted to this measure without complaint or comment and, given the huge logistical, financial and manpower issue that the provision of teas creates, may be worthy of further consideration for future uninterrupted seasons.**
1. **Stage 4 Adaptive Playing regulations:**
* **They were fine. Obviously it’s not ideal interrupting the game every 6 overs but we all recognised the reasons why. (Really difficult to get out of the habit of applying spit to the ball when you’ve been doing it for 40 years!)**
* **Worked well, everyone adapted. Nothing too onerous and common sense.**
* **They were what they were**
* **All fine, the game was not interrupted for anywhere near the length of time that we had initially feared which was a positive. Having hand sanitiser behind the stumps helped with this greatly.**
* **Worked well**
* **Restrictive and difficult at times, but most players adhered to it.**
* **Worked well**
* **I think after week 1 they just became second nature.**

**Umpires were good at policing and informing. (Yes I did just praise umpires, don’t get used to it!!!)**

* **No issues with the playing conditions – the less the LDCC can regulate and fine the better.**
* **Sanitise every 6 overs maybe excessive but understand that it is unique times.**
* **Much like the regional groups it was fine. The washing of hands and lack of ability to shine the ball was frustrating and really hope this doesn’t have to be a thing next year.**

**The lack of changing rooms and showers was also frustrating. I couldn’t work out why we weren’t allowed a shower or the use of the changing rooms, yet 10 yards next door were people using the bar inside. It would be perfectly conceivable to use them whilst socially distancing.**

* **Happy to comply with them to get the game on. Maybe some slight flexibility to tie in sanitisation breaks more closely to the number of over in an innings- every 6 overs (or 20 mins) does not always fit the number of overs in a game e.g. washing hands at 42 overs when there are only 3 overs left.**
* **I personally miss a good shower after the game! Also we were lucky with the weather - a lot of clubs had set up outside with no cover…**
* **Not ideal but they did not impact my role to a large extent. The flow of the games were not greatly impacted, once teams got their act together.**
* **Hand sanitisation every 6 overs was a big issue for me – It ruined the flow of the game for both the batting and bowling side. You could be on top, and then suddenly that is broken by having to break and sanitise your hands. There were also instances of batsman taking multiple drinks breaks every 6 overs, further extending the game time. Every 10-12 overs would have been more sufficient.**
* **Served the purpose to get the game on.**
* **The regulations were clear and relatively easy to follow and implement. It did take some time to change habits of players, which was understandable in the circumstances, however players appeared to try their best to stick to regulations.**
* **Not sure what you are getting at with this, happy to answer if more clarity given.**
* **Not ideal but it felt about as normal as was possible. The sooner changing rooms can open the better but stage 4 worked as well as it could. Clubs got used to its requirements as the season wore on.**
* **See part 2 for cup wides. I think as there was no promotion / relegation at stake, an easing of registration requirements was a good rule. Caldy did fail to fulfil a second team fixture due to mass unavailability (one of the reasons I was drafted back) but overall the format worked well**
* **Every 10 overs sanitising would mean only two stoppages with a drinks break after 20 overs quickening the match time.( 40overs ).**
* **The arrangements allowed cricket to be played in a safer environment and whilst not ideal it was necessary. We need to expect similar arrangements to be in place for the 2021 season.**
* **Followed well on the whole. Some mistakes made out of habit rather than consciously ignoring the rules.**
* **Although frustrating at times, and the anti-bac left a sticky feel to the ball which could make it trickier to control when bowling, it was a small price to pay for being able to play.**
* **Worked well.**
* **Once again, at no stage, either home or away, did I encounter any complaints or objections over the adaptive playing regulations.**
1. **Venues and players adherence to Covid Regulations:**
* **As above response i.e Worked well, everyone adapted. Nothing too onerous and common-sense.**
* **Seemed to be adhered to**
* **A lot better than amateur football clubs who are still using changing rooms and showering facilities**
* **Good. I think clubs and players were very sensible in taking a pragmatic approach to interpreting regulations, by and large common sense was very well applied.**
* **There was an array of measures in place at each ground we visited. The most difficult aspect personally was changing facilities (or lack of them) which may be one that needs addressing if this continues.**
* **All players and spectators adhered to the Covid Regs without complaint or adverse reactions.**
* **Grounds and club houses were excellent.**
* **Worked well**
* **Mostly good, not every ground had shelter though.**
* **Again, it became second nature**

**I think everybody understands the situation we’re in and it didn’t cause an issues.**

* **We believe every club we played tried there hardest to fully adhere to the COVID regulations. Experience of this pandemic has shown that no matter how much you provide COVID safe environments, people may/will still ignore the regulations, through ignorance or bloody-mindedness.**
* **All venues and players adhered to regulations and cooperated well.**
* **After the initial first week or two, where there was a little confusion, mainly stemming from the ECB and government I think the clubs we played against took the rules pretty seriously. The only issue was with any rain breaks, and not being able to use the changing rooms.**
* **By and large very good. Some hypocrisy present with officials of certain clubs who were complaining about players breaking bubbles when lapping when their team was batting but did the same themselves when their relatives were lapping.**
* **Generally good.**
* **It was a little consistent across venues. The vast majority of players complied. Individuals who are generally ‘hard work’ were the ones we had to nudge or remind.**
* **Variable. Poor on occasions.**
* **On the whole, it was felt that venues and players we came up against done their best to adhere to the regulations. Our club done all we could to implement regulations and ask players, spectators to follow instructions such as track and trace. Relying upon volunteer hours to complete the requirements can be challenging, but members pulled together to achieve this and make sure cricket was played safely.**
* **It got better as the 8-week programme progressed.**
* **No obvious concerns on this. Cricket grounds are perfect for social distancing. The general scientific position is that infectious diseases find it much more difficult to spread outdoors in well ventilated areas. More cricket should very much be on the menu.**
* **To an extent this worked well. Venues where possible made alternative changing arrangements (luckily the weather was kind) and the umpires mostly ensured there was no major breaking of the regulations. There was some evidence of not adhering to all the regulations but that is to be expected (especially as infections were low at the time) – I have not heard on the Wirral of any cases or outbreaks linked to the games.**
* **Excellent feedback from clubs to umpires on protocol. Social distancing at some clubs looked difficult to maintain.**
* **The requirement to produce a club risk assessment and publish it gave focus and importance to preparing for the shortened season No issues with clubs we visited, and I consider we met the requirements reasonably well. Adherence the regulations was stronger at the beginning and some of the measures in place began to slip towards the end of the season.**
* **Generally good. It was difficult to keep people from attempting to enter the bubble but managed overall.**
* **At no stage during the season did I feel unsafe at either the Rookery or the other grounds we played at. People were respectful of personal space and the generally good weather meant that being outside wasn’t an issue.**
* **Did not see a problem, all teams were very sensible, venues well organised**
* **Worked well.**
* **Given the scale of the crisis that we were faced with it was highly encouraging to witness clubs applying the strict measures that were required whilst still being able to provide welcoming and relatively safe environments.**
1. **Communications from the League during the whole period:**
* **Excellent**
* **V Good**
* **Good given the uncertainty. The downside was the weekend we had to cancel preseason friendlies due to issues 60 miles away in Blackburn**
* **Communication was very good via email throughout. Potentially thought the League had actually been too proactive if anything (see comment above about fixtures planned around travel restrictions).**
* **Kept well informed and updated with all the changes as and when they occurred.**
* **GOOD**
* **Communications from the League were excellent and kept us up-to-date with regulation changes.**
* **Good**
* **12 starts and a cap on overs per bowler for next season would encourage more lads to play in my opinion.**
* **Full credit to the league. Made a successful season when at one stage it looked like we’d have nothing.**
* **Guidelines well set out for clubs.**
* **Very good, if at times overkill. Chris Weston did a manful job of fronting the information streams to all the clubs.**
* **I think a lot of the confusion originally, was due to the ECB and government not really stating the rules quite clearly enough.**
* **I have to say you excelled yourselves in terms of the communication out to clubs at all stages. Players and officials from other leagues commented upon how the Comp website was the place to go to find out what was happening during the return to cricket A massive pat on the back.**

**It would be nice however if all officials responded to emails (rather than some officials) unless it is just mine that are ignored…**

* **Excellent, no complaints.**
* **Superb.**
* **Overall, the League communicated as proactively as it could taking everything into account.**
* **Excellent.**
* **OXCC would like to commend the league for their efforts as a whole during such a challenging period and thank everyone for their efforts in making sure competitive cricket was played across all levels of local cricket.**
* **Very good.**
* **I found communications on the whole to be frequent and informative. I would like to see this continued.**
* **The work to get the game on (to coin a phrase) was appreciated by the players and was communicated well. Can’t fault the committee there**
* **Rules and Regs would need updating e.g. who wins if a final or semi-final ends in a tie with no bowl out or toss of coin to decide outcome.**
* **LDCC provided excellent leadership with clear guidance and good communications. The Working group to develop plans was a good move. It was clear LDCC was liaising with the ECB, LCF and other leagues.**
* **Excellent. Thanks particularly to Chris Weston for his time on the phone.**
* **Everything was great with communication. Chris as always kept everyone in the loop and calls with both him and Peter were useful in pointing us in the right direction for grants which helped sustain the club.**
* **Very thorough**
* **Top job fellas**
* **The communication from the League was outstanding and their efforts on this issue cannot be overstated.**
1. **Any comments specifically on Junior and Women and Girls cricket:**
* **Clubs needs to embrace this going forward.**
* **Yes, I thought the cost for the ladies hard ball tournaments were expensive – are new balls and 2 umpires really necessary which I presume where the reasons for the cost ?**
* **Why were the same 2 venues used for the ladies tournaments over the summer ?**
* **Received regular updates to Covid changes.**
* **Difficult for junior teams. we didn't have the numbers of player at times**
* **As a Club I have struggled to pull the team together this year as a number of the ladies are medics at Arrowe Park and Covid was causing their shifts to change drastically at the last minute. I also visited schools and this stopped. However, it has restarted and I am hoping to have 2 teams for next year.**
* **From a selfish (LCC) point of view it managed to be our best ever year.**

**I do wonder how clubs could encourage their own juniors 15+ up to be getting more of a crack at senior level. (Limited bowlers overs maybe?)**

**Again being selfish I do believe LCC are good at this, not perfect but we do make conscious efforts.**

**Women’s cricket is going from strength to strength and I believe the Comp is leading the way.**

* **We do not have women’s cricket. Our junior programme was decimated and that is sad after such a wonderful WCC junior season/programme in 2019.**
* **We staged a very successful ladies softball event on a Sunday afternoon in August which attracted several teams and we had a big crowd watching throughout the day. In a difficult season it was good that they managed to play some cricket. Same with the juniors, we only managed to get an U15s side together, but at a crucial age it was good to see their development, with pretty much all of that side playing senior cricket during the year.**
* **Good to see the increase in participation levels.**
* **We would be looking to enter our U18 team in the Southport League next season if things are running as normal.**
* **It was fantastic that we achieved a decent programme of W&G cricket. I think the focus for women’s cricket next season should be on the t20 format and we should look to phase out softball, otherwise we won’t develop the game.**
* **Junior cricket is a large concern moving forward for us as a club. The true extend that COVID19 has had on junior playing numbers won’t be felt until 2021, however I’m sure I speak for many clubs in saying next year is a huge one in terms of trying to rebuild the lost junior numbers from this year.**
* **Junior cricket ran very well although it would have been easier to have stuck to the usual set nights. Ladies cricket gaining momentum.**
* **The junior and girls cricket appeared well attended at OXCC and we are very pleased to see Paul Bate playing such a big part of L&DCC women’s cricket as well as taking OXCC women and girls section forward as well.**
* **No.**
* **N/A**
* **I wasn’t involved in that side of things so am unable to comment,**
* **No major issues and pleased to be able to provide some cricket. Our girls and women’s cricket has moved forward which is positive.**
* **Happy with both.**
* **In the circumstances, we did the best we can with our junior squads. I run our under 9s and usually do the All Stars, which we decided to cancel this year which might have a knock-on effect down the line. I do think (and hope) that there will be a renewed appetite for cricket amongst kids next year as parents want to get them out and active. Under 9 comps were a learning curve for most of the coaches who attended but we fostered a good relationship over the 4 tournaments.**
* **No experience of this type of cricket**
* **N/A**
* ***JL Regional Groups:***

**I felt this worked very well given the Covid situation the generally reduced travel times were also a help getting the matches started on time. I would not support this in a ‘normal’ year though as only playing certain opposition repeatedly and never playing other opposition is clearly not ideal.**

***JL Format and Start Times:***

**Good considering the small window we had to play with, ideally need to look for some kind of longer form of matches for juniors especially in the U15 age group to help their transition into senior cricket.**

***JL Bringing Your Own Teas:***

**Not applicable for Juniors but seemed to work well at the Senior matches I attended.**

***JL Stage 4 Adaptive Playing Regulations:***

**No real change here for Juniors apart from the regular hand sanitising.**

***JL Venues and Players Adherence to Covid Regulations:***

**Generally very good and the rules observed.**

***JL Communications From the League During the Whole Period:***

**Good, thank you.**

***JL Anything Else You Wish to Say:***

**An extraordinary year so just getting the kids the amount of cricket we did was a bonus – they are the future of our clubs so we don’t need them disengaging with the game.**

1. **Anything else you wish to say:**
* **I think the league, clubs and umpires did an excellent job in getting any cricket on. In May I certainly wasn’t expecting to play. That being said I do hope we can return to our normal version of cricket in 2021.**
* **Well done to everyone involved.**
* **More thought needs to be given to the player development program. It’s a big investment from the league for not such a great return. Players on average attend 6/10 sessions and a lad coming from North Wales is spending £30 on petrol – he may as well pay for a private 1 – 1. Use the saving to reduce league fees or ball rebates or subsidize ladies tournaments etc.**
* **The delay in re-starting cricket was frustrating given that other higher-risk activities were approved sooner but appreciate that was almost completely out of the league’s hands.**
* **Thank you for all of your timely advice and guidance, keeping everyone safe. I’m sure, at times it must have been somewhat frustrating with constant changes/adjustments required. A job well done.**
* **All in all I think the League, Clubs and players did magnificently to get a lot of cricket played in a short space of time. Well Done everyone.**
* **12 starts and a cap on overs per bowler for next season would encourage more lads to play in my opinion.**
* **Just to record my thanks to you all. I was contemplating a year off when it was uncertain but the quick moving of the Comp to be organised led to a massively enjoyable 8 weeks.**
* **Let’s hope we can start in late April as we started in 2019 – playing proper cricket in a normal environment. Well done to all the officials of the LDCC and clubs/players/spectators for the effort to bring some cricket and joy to our lives in 2020.**
* **It would have been nice to have started the season earlier. Horse racing and golf managed to get their acts together very quickly and I think the fact the ECB were slow to get going cost several lads to go away and do other things like play golf or go on holiday. I hope we get them back next year, and I know a few other clubs had similar issues. In what are undoubtedly going to be rough times moving forward to next season, the early starts and a way of making Saturday’s cheaper for both players and clubs; like no teas are imperative to help clubs survive.**

**Thanks to the comp for getting cricket on though. Without it I wonder what would have happened to my club and I suspect many others without it. It brought a sense of normality to watch a game of cricket, and helped people come down to the club to spend some money having a few beers**

* **Well done on a great job. Would also be possible for you to seek some clarity from the LCF around their reorganisation please? The announcement of changes seems to be quite uncoordinated and being done via Twitter on an ad hoc basis by the employees themselves.**
* **Congratulations to all involved for helping to deliver a great package of cricket in such difficult circumstances.**
* **I think the league committee did a great job overall, during unprecedented times. My only feedback would be the grouping of teams as stated earlier in this form. For 2021: with the uncertainty around Covid, quarantine periods etc would the committee consider extending the player registration deadline from the end of May? This would allow clubs greater flexibility to make O/S signings. Further points reduction for clubs who bat first, then bat past 60 overs on a Saturday. For Example, you lose a point for every over you bat from 60 onwards. A move to a 12pm start time is a must for me.**
* **Thanks to the committee for their hard work under very challenging circumstances.**
* **Thanks for the hard work in getting the season up and running.**
* **Thanks for the work in getting this season on.**
* **My only suggestion would be to continue the local contact in some way (even as a T20 group from which the group winners go through to league quarter finals) – a group day could be held on two Sundays with 3 games at each to determine the group winner.**
* **Hope you are fully recovering from your recent operation Chris .**
* **Thanks to LDCC Committee for making the season happen and thanks to the umpires for their continued support.**
* **The main requests from players at the club are for earlier start times and bring your own teas to be retained. 3rd XI players, as a whole, also preferred the 40 overs/limits on bowlers overs to make the game more inclusive.**
* **I think the committee have done a great job in getting the mini-leagues organised this year. You should all be commended for balancing the risk elements associated with Covid with making sure that the clubs were able to get the games on and salvage some cricket from what looked at times a non-starter of a season. I’m sure 2021 will bring with it its own challenges, but as I said in a Zoom call with you regarding planning for 2020, I think it is vital that everything possible has to be done to ensure that both junior and senior cricket gets played.**
* **Excellent work by all involved to get the game on in very difficult conditions**
* **I can see some of the changes working going forward, the start times of maybe 12.30pm, tea’s could be kept this way but we would need more teams in each group as we played 2 of the teams 3 times each and the other twice.**
* **On behalf of FCC, I would like to pass our sincere thanks to the members of the L&DCC Management Committee, without whose time, effort and application no cricket whatsoever would have been possible in 2020.**