**Great Shelford Cricket Club , April 2017**

Another cricket season is approaching fast and what a season this one promises to be! A unique season.

The first team are going to compete this summer at the highest level the club has ever attained: the Tucker Gardiner League, Division Two. Every game will be tough and we shall have to be at our very best on the field to survive at this grade of cricket. AP Stafford will continue as captain of the firsts and he is looking forward to the challenge.

The Seconds are in the CCA Junior League, Division Three South, having leapt two divisions after a rearrangement of the Junior Leagues and they too are anticipating a rewarding though hard-fought summer under skipper, Gion Martin. The aim is to win this league and try over the next few seasons to narrow the gap between the first team and the seconds.

Possibly the most exciting development in the club is that we are starting a third team who will compete in CCA Junior League, Division Five South. This team will be led by Stuart Creed and will play at Stapleford rec.

The youth section is also expanding. We shall have three teams playing League cricket: the Under 15s led by coach Stuart Creed, the Under 13s coached by Mark Milne, the Under 10s whose coach is AP Stafford who will also oversee some Under 9 games.

We now have a new roller which we were able to purchase thanks mainly to the generosity of one of our Vice-presidents and a sizeable donation from the Shelford Feast. This means that our ‘old’ roller’ is now at Stapleford rec and the new one is already at work on the Great Shelford square. We are grateful to Stapleford Parish Council for their help and co-operation in using their facilities.

All of these innovations are very exciting, offering, as they do, opportunities for adults and boys and girls to play cricket in their community. Although we have vastly increased our membership in the last five highly successful years, we remain essentially, a local club, a friendly, welcoming club and a club that tries to play sport in the right way.

Brian Higgins

President,

Great Shelford Cricket Club