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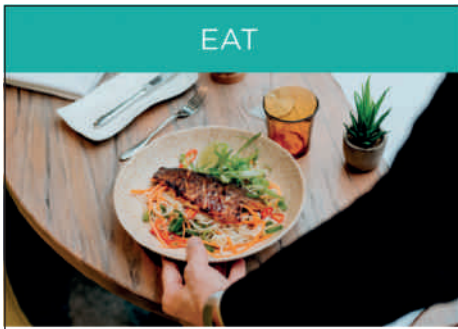
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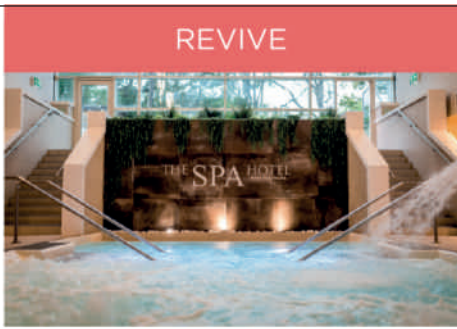
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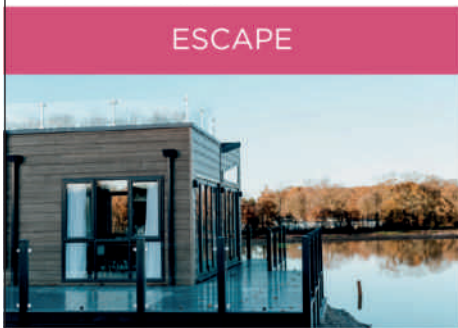
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Annual Ball Coordinators -

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2nd XI - Pete Burn / Ryan Norris

3rd XI -

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Over 35's - Mark Hodgkinson

Academy - Peter Legge & Danny Gilbert

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U10 - Allan McKeown, Senthil Murugesan

U11 - Lee Topping, Dave Tanner

U12 - Craig McIntyre

U13 - Peter Legge, Tim Wyles

U14 - Mark Hodgkinson, Chris Burgon

W&G Softball - Lisa Burgon

Child Welfare Officer - Steph Hodgkinson



Welcome and thanks to all those who have contributed to the success and flourishing of Lytham Cricket Club over the last two difficult covid years. An incredible amount of work has taken place in often restrictive circumstances to keep everything going. I truly think that when cricket did take place our club became more important to us all, it provided sanctuary and some semblance of normality as everyone grafted their way through the various lockdown restrictions.

So, thanks to all and let's look forward to an excellent season in 2022!

Turning to the club and its many teams and sections, our junior section chaired by Susan Chiekrie with the support of our excellent and dedicated coaches continues to provide the perfect environment for young cricketers to flourish. They are supplemented by our academy team that seeks to provide young cricketers a pathway into the senior teams. We also thank our junior section parents for their continued support and contribution, we really could not function without this.

As for the senior teams, the third team have developed greatly under expert tutelage and provide the first enjoyable steps into senior cricket. The spirited atmosphere and ethos are down to the leadership of Joe and Dom Ashton and we thank and congratulate them.

We also thank Pete Burn for doing one of the hardest jobs in the club by captaining the second team. Mentoring and leading stronger cricketers in a tough league environment requires an endless understanding and patience. The seconds did well and remain in the premier division of the league structure. We congratulate him as he hands over, due to work commitments, to Ryan Norris for the season ahead.

Turning to the first team, we had an excellent season last year and only just missed out on promotion to the premier division from a tough league. I felt that when we played well, we were the best side that the division could offer!

Thanks to Matt Taaffe for his careful and endearing leadership. He is a captain that every club needs, a real clubman with infectious energy to encourage, lead and get things done.

Its fingers crossed that our new club professional Akash Vashisht can push the team to promotion this year. He is a first-class cricketer from India who is arriving at Church Road after an excellent season in the Ranji Trophy. We also have ex-Lancashire opening bowler back with us at the club, Toby Lester. They will fit into the very talented first team squad of players that are clearly of premier league standard, so if luck and talent play in our favour there should be corks popping in the Hut come September.

Can I thank Susan Chiekrie for all the work she puts in on every issue, our club simply could function without all her efforts, also Antony Mulligan who endlessly provides common sense diplomacy to build and maintain our senior cricket teams.

Lytham Cricket and Sports Club is truly a special place with an atmosphere that is not replicated in any other club that I have visited, it is important that the joy of this is remembered, acknowledged and as best as possible preserved for the generations to come.

So, with that in mind, please get down to the club with your sun cream and support, contribute and enjoy!!!

Martin Hackett
Chairman

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A View From The Box

Well, after one unique season of playing local cricket due to the Coronavirus Pandemic, League cricket is finally back!! Grass looking pristine thanks to Tom Wells. The bar was stocked and everything was in place for what should be a good challenging season in the 1st Division. Captain Matt Taaffe started off by signing wicketkeeper Richard Staines from St. Annes CC, Tom Myerscough and Jacob Sainsbury from Blackpool CC and Niall Dunn from Westhoughton CC.

First up on a sunny April afternoon, we hosted newly promoted St. Helens Town. Skipper Taaffe won the toss and elected to field. We bowled them out for 139 in 45 overs. 2 wickets each for Tom Hessey and Richard Openshaw and my brother Ryan, taking his first fifer for the 1st XI. We got off to a great start being 100-2 off 34 overs, until the opening bowler came back on for his second spell with their overseas pro at the other end, taking us from 100-2 to 135-9! A nail-biting ending, we got over the line with Peter Burn and debutant Tom Myerscough, Peter hitting the winning runs with a 4. Phew! Well done Pete! (Probably the only time I give a Geordie some credit!)

The merry month of May arrived and saw us travel to newly promoted, Liverpool, Aigburth County Ground, my first visit! Yet again, we won the toss and elected to field. The hosts posted 195 in 52 overs, Tom Hessey taking 6 wickets. We chased down our target with Ed Fiddler scoring 82 and a fine partnership of 57 between Richard Staines and Tom Myerscough. Rain prevented us from playing for two weeks so our next match was against promotion candidates Newton Le Willows at Church Road. A delightfully sunny day turned to darkness as NLW bowled us out for just 77, the away side

knocking it off comfortably. We sadly exited the ECB T20 during the week against NLW and this would be the theme at the end of the month to Fleetwood Hesketh. A month not so merry!

June was here and so was our Overseas Pro, Zia Ur-Rehman Akbar from Afghanistan. Zia completed his 10-day quarantine and arrived to the area a day before we hosted Highfield. The away side won the toss and elected to bat, we bowled them out for 156, Peter Burn and debutant Zia taking 4 wickets each, Josh Holden taking 2 wickets. Despite a good knock of 56* from Matt Taaffe, they bowled us out for 118. Some good individual performances against Ainsdale and Colwyn Bay but we just couldn't get over the line. We found ourselves in the relegation zone!

In our final game of the month, we hosted Northop Hall from North Wales. We won the toss and elected to field, bowling them out for 134, Zia taking his 1st fifer for the club. Despite being 85-4, Matt Taaffe (52*) and Richard Staines (32*) steered us to that much needed victory! 25 Big Points!!

July arrived and we found ourselves in the bottom half of the table. I went on my holiday to St. Ives, missing the game against Birkenhead Park. In spite of bowling them out for 69 and Zia taking his 2nd consecutive fifer, we were bowled out for 59. Things can only get better! After 2 weeks of no cricket due to a COVID outbreak amongst the teams, we were away to Old Xaverians. The home side winning the toss and electing to bat. We bowled them out for 126; special mention goes to Tom Myerscough for taking the most spectacular catch I've seen for Lytham to then be followed the

next over taking 3 wickets in 4 balls. Unreal! A solid partnership of 93 between Guy Roberts (51*) and Matt Taaffe (41*) guided us to a 7-wicket victory! Zia started to come to the party taking 7 wickets against promotion candidates, Rainford. Another victory on the board!

Our first re-arranged game came the following day with a comfortable victory at home to Liverpool. We bowled them out for 118, with another fifer for Zia, we saw the game out with a captain's innings of 43* finishing off in style with a beast of a 6!

Our next game saw us travel over the border to North Wales to play Northop Hall. Bowling only the 1 over, the heavens opened and play was suspended. Gutted!

Promotion challengers Birkenhead Park were next up at Church Road on a gloomy afternoon. Matt Taaffe won the toss and would you believe it...he elected to bowl. We skittled them for 69, Zia taking 6 wickets. A nervy game ended with a 2-wicket victory, a massive 20 points!

St Helen's Town were next up in our other re-arranged game. The home side won the toss and put us in to bat. We declared on 182-7 off 37 overs. Tom Jefferson top scored with 59 (5x4s,5x6s). With a great bowling attack, we bowled them out for 146 with 6 overs remaining. Zia taking 5, Tom Hessey 4 and Richard Openshaw 1.

Colwyn Bay were next up at Church Road, Taaffe won the toss and elected to field, we skittled them for 61, Zia taking 7 wickets. Whilst on tea break, the rain came. As the rain eased, some spectators



Matt Taaffe

shouted "Get the game on!" but the umpires weren't convinced and the game ended a No Result...there were some unhappy people that day...me included! Zia was tearing the League up with yet another 7 wickets v Fleetwood Hesketh, another victory!

Our final home game of the season arrived vs Ainsdale on a glorious summer day. The opposition won the toss and elected to field. We declared on 245-6, Ed Fiddler (70), Josh Holden (49) Zia (48*). Ainsdale failed miserably, bowled out for 117 and it got better, Zia ripped through them taking 9 wickets! If there was one way to finish our final home game in style, it had to be this!

Our penultimate game was away to leaders, NLW. The home side won the toss and put us into bat, we posted 112. We got off to a great start having them 53-5, the middle order batters put on a partnership, until Zia bowled 2 magic balls giving us a huge chance. NLW needing 7 to win, batter No.11 hit 4 runs, next 3 balls were dots. Zia finally got his man, ball straight into the hands of Tom Myerscough, 11 lads going wild! I got a little bit of stick from the home side during the game, but I came out of "The Box" with a cheeky grin saying "We've put the champagne on ice!"

Our final game of the season arrived, away to Highfield. We had an outside chance of getting promoted, we won the toss and elected to bat. Bowled out for 171. Our bowling attack was all too good for Highfield, being bowled out for 63, Hessey 3 wickets and just the 7 for Zia! In spite of our performance, Birkenhead Park beat Old Xaverians and NLW beat Rainford. We finished 3rd. Overall, a disappointing first half of the season and then going on an unbeaten second half, narrowly missing out on promotion.

Heading into my 12th season at this club, here's to a better 2022! To follow Live Updates follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. I have new plans for the season ahead! Watch this space!

Luke Norris
Scorer

Welcome to yet another season at the home of Cricket, Church Road. It's been a long winter and personally, I can't wait to get back into the action and push for another highly successful season.

Before I give you all an insight into this season and what we have been up to to prepare ourselves during the winter months. I will take us back to last season where we narrowly missed out on promotion back into the Premier League.

Having been relegated back in 2019 and Covid putting a halt on everything in 2020, we were back into Liverpool Competition action in 2021 and it was time for me to showcase the new look Lytham side...

We were lucky to welcome a handful of new recruits leading up to last season. Richard Staines, who joined us from St Annes CC. Tom Myerscough and Jaccob Sainsbury, who joined us from Blackpool CC and finally Niall Dunn who joined us from Westhoughton CC. It was a credit to themselves how well they fitted into the group and bought into my philosophy.

My main goal is to turn Lytham back into one of the best sides in the Liverpool Competition and in Lancashire. I truly believe we are well on our way for accomplish this over the next few years!

Finally, where do we start with this one? We were blessed with the signing of Afghanistan Left Arm Spinner, Zia-ur-Rehman Akbar and what a signing it turned out to be. I am sure you are all aware of his success in Lytham colours, but it was an absolute honour to Captain

and play a part of his cricketing career so far.

Moving onto the cricket itself, the first half of the season was full of mixed emotions with a couple of wins, frustration caused by the rain and anger from losing a run of games. This left us sitting bottom of the league after week 10. However, things turned around massively and for the last 12 games we didn't lose, putting us in the hunt for promotion all the way down to the last innings of the season where we narrowly missing out on promotion finishing 3rd.

Moving onto the up-and-coming season. We have had arguably the best pre-season schedule that would match any professional club. With the effort and commitment shown by the group, we will reap the rewards during the summer months. We welcome back Toby Lester who spent a year away from Church Road. It is great to have him back on board. We have signed a new professional for this season, Akash Vashisht who looks a fantastic signing, his skill level and experience will be a great addition to the whole Club, let alone the First XI.

One final note from me, I look forward to seeing you all this season and thank you in advance for your continued support to this great club. The atmosphere and camaraderie across the whole club is the best I have seen it in years and everyone is playing their part.

Here's to lifting that trophy in September.

Thanks, Taaffe

Senior Awards 2021

1st XI

Batting: Matt Taaffe
Bowling: Tom Hessey
Performance:
Ed Fiddler

2nd XI

Batting: Matt McGreehin
Bowling: Jack Saunders
Performance:
Will Bookless

3rd XI

Batting: Nathan Wood
Bowling: Callum Doyle
Performance:
Chris Fox, Steve Dodd,
Morgan Davies, Fred Hackett

Academy: Batting: Felix Twitchett, Bowling: Ethan Burgon, Performance: Ben Wright

Under 18 Player of the Year: Charlie Nixon

Under 21 Player of the Year: Jacob Sainsbury

Clubman of the Year: Pete Legge

2nd XI Review 2021

The 2021 season proved to be a difficult year coming off the back of an also difficult Covid impacted 2019 season.

But, 2021 was not without highlights for the 2nd XI.

I was lucky enough to play most of my season on the 1st XI. Turns out 53mph outswing can be quite effective at that level, especially in April. This meant the side had multiple people acting as Captain throughout the year - Jason McGreehin & Ryan Norris stepped up, which I and the club are very thankful for.

The season began way back in April at Southport & Birkdale. Jaccob Sainsbury announcing himself to the club with a high score of 74 in a season opening defeat. Jaccob also announced himself to me by calling me 5 times at 4 am to tell me he was stuck in a lift with someone from Middlesbrough!

Losing games unfortunately became the back bone of our 2021 story - although we were never embarrassed or rolled.

Our lowest score batting first was still defendable at 155 all out. The side showed great maturity in our performances throughout the year.

Our first win came Game 5 at home v Orrell Red Triangle. An emphatic 3 wicket win chasing 201, guided by a brilliant 96* from Ray Baker, sharing a 113-run partnership in the chase with Niall Dunn.

A win-less month of June followed, before our 2nd win of the season at home vs New Brighton.

A Lytham side including Mark Hodgkinson, Kuli Virdee and Rob Hezel, pulled together to complete a 4-run win. Kuli taking 6-56 to deny the visitors and claim the much-needed win.

Despite our best efforts, more defeats came.

August saw two games washed out before a revival in results at the back end of the month.

At this point in the season the prospect

of relegation was looking somewhat likely, with the 2nd XI sitting in the bottom 3.

A valiant draw at home to S&B, 9 down but 7 runs short of a win, then sparked a brilliant win the following week away at Bootle, our fellow relegation rivals. A side led by Ryan Norris in my absence, batted first scoring 216-7 Dec ensuring max batting bonus points. Kyle Macaulay with the high score of 49 off 43 balls bottling a 50. The Bootle innings began with Will Stephens running out their opener for a diamond duck!

Bootle were soon to be 6-2 after Chris Cartmell opening the bowling, bowled the number 3 for a golden duck. The batting side then dug in, keen to avoid a defeat. The two Bootle umpires made some questionable not out LBW decisions making it difficult for our bowlers to chip away at their order.

Chris Cartmell managed to continue to pick up wickets throughout his 21.5 over spell. The team reduced Bootle to 102-9 (including an incredible catch at short leg by Will Bookless) with time running out deep into the last 20. The penultimate ball of the game was bowled by Chris with the Bootle umpires reluctantly raising the finger for an LBW shout. Bootle all out for 102, a 114-run win for Lytham and 25 much needed points in the bag.

Another 25pt win game a week later away at Newton Le Willows on an absolute scorcher of a day! Batting first we posted 255 for 7 Dec off just 39 overs (Ray Baker High score 55). Our bowlers did the hard work with the opposition all out for 161 (Jack Saunders 4-21).

We then gained a respectable 9pts away at league winners Wallasey which put our own fate in our own hands playing Sefton Park at Home in our second-last game of the season. A win would mathematically keep us safe!

Bowling first we bowled Sefton Park all out for 130 (Jack Saunders 6-20). Ryan Norris and Myles Child shared an opening partnership of 115 runs before we won the game 4 down off 26 overs. That 20

point win secured our position in the 2nd XI Prem for 2022 - and also relegated Bootle CC 2nd XI.

Other season highlights to mention... Myles Child 10 innings scoring 399 runs + high score of 107 v Formby. Average of 44.33.

Chris Cartmell leading wicket taker with 24 wickets.

Matt Cartmell 93 v Newton Le Willows in May.

Fred Hackett a mature 46 at Ormskirk opening the batting.

Niall Dunn bringing his passport to Wales.

Jaccob Sainsbury & Ray Baker debut seasons.

Charlie Nixon, Chris Fox, Felix Twitchett, Eoghan Murphy and Will Kenworthy breakthrough seasons.

Thanks to Steve Norris & Dom Ashton for continued support umpiring. Thanks to David Tattersall for scoring and also thanks to Eddie Hodgkinson for scoring when we were in desperate need.

As most of you will be aware I will be stepping down from the role of 2nd XI captain. Ryan Norris will again lead the side and I wish him all the best going forward.

Thank you to everyone for the support in the role. We have a very talented group of players here. As a 2nd XI we need to apply ourselves better with a focus being on our cricketing actions and nothing else.

We are incredibly lucky to play at one of the best grounds in the league and be part of one of the best clubs - this is something we should not take for granted.

The ethos and vibe across the whole senior section felt brilliant last year - and I am confident this will continue to grow.

Pete Burn
2nd XI Captain

2nd XI End Of Season Awards:

Batting:

Matt McGreehin

Against Wallasey - 103 off 77 balls (8x4's, 6x6's) 6 onto train tracks to bring it up.

Captain's Award: Will Bookless

Will was the ultimate team player this year. He batted in every position apart from 11. Stepped up to the 1st XI when asked and only missed 1 game all season. Top fielder with 11 catches. Regular attendance at nets was valued - All of this commuting from either home in Garstang or University at Edge Hill. This award is for his commitment throughout the season and recognition of Will becoming a true senior member of our squad despite still only looking 13.

Bowling: Jack Saunders

Mainly for his incredible spell at Northern (7fer). Jack re-found his confidence with the ball in hand this season, becoming a true threat with the new ball and dominating top order batsman. Jack really showcased his natural talent for us this year and I hope he begins the upcoming season with the same drive and determination.

New Addition

Congratulations to Ryan Norris and his partner Nikita on the birth of their baby girl, Ava Lynn Martha Norris, born on the 29th December 2021, weighing a healthy 9lb 1oz.

I know grandparents Steve & Helen and of course, uncle Luke are all bowled over by the new arrival. We look forward to seeing Ava on the boundary in 2022.



The Mighty Thirds

I am so proud of this squad of players.

They played cricket with an excellent spirit, application and pleasure.

The previous season was a very difficult COVID affected one. Although this latest season was still COVID affected the players really rose above it. Several went onto represent our second team with great credit.

Achieving a more than credible second place in the league we played 15, won 7, lost 4, drew 4. We were in strong positions to win two of our rain affected draws.

Our players ranged from 14-year-old juniors to some slightly older chaps with one in his sixties. Joe Ashton led this multi-talented squad. We welcomed some new players who really strengthened our team.

Cricket is a team game but I have to mention some notable performances.

Nathan Wood was our top run scorer with 251. He also performed superbly as a bowler, wicketkeeper and fielder.

Morgan Davies scored a magnificent 135 not out as the most impressive batting performance.

There were many notable batting performances including a century from Fred Hackett following completing a Triathlon in the morning. He also kept wicket. What a guy!

Callum Doyle was our leading wicket taker with 16 wickets.

The youthful Steve Dodd at 50 something achieved a match winning bowling performance of 6 for 17.

Archie Legge showed excellent promise with economical bowling performances. A big thank you to the volunteer umpires Gary de Garis, Brian Dunn and Craig McIntyre. Also Steve Davies for stepping in to help out in my absence and numerous others who helped out in various ways.

Squad: Joe Ashton, Alan Simmons, Nathan Wood, Callum Doyle, Charlie Nixon, Peter Charlesworth, Chris Fox, Daniel Slawson, Felix Twitchett, Ed Mahon, Eoghan Murphy, Fred Hackett, Harrison Child, Kyle McAuley, Lee White, Mark Hodgkinson, Eddie Hodgkinson, Morgan Davies, Oliver McIntyre, Ryan Rogers, Steve Dodd, Will Kenworthy, Will Stephens plus a few guests from our academy side. Apologies if I've forgotten anyone.

I will avoid going into too much detail about my catch. If you want further details about 'the catch' please approach me when Brian Dunn is close by as he was privileged to witness it, umpiring from the bowler's end. However, I must concede I witnessed Captain Alan Yates once take a better one.

All in all, a really enjoyable and competitive season from a great bunch. Thanks to all who were involved. A big thanks to bar staff, Groundsman and officials who make it all possible for us.

Dominic Ashton
3rd XI Manager

Over 35's Review 2021

Covid meant there was no competition in 2020 so after finishing 2nd in 2019 and just missing out on finals day, we started the 2021 season full of hope. This was not long lived, getting bowled out for 80 in the first game, resulting in a 10-wicket loss away to Withnell Fold.

This was followed by another loss without us taking a wicket away to Grimsargh in one of the most unbelievable games I think I have ever been involved in.

Grimsargh batted first hitting 246 off their allotted 20 overs in a display of batting where everything came off the middle of the bat. We put up a fight, finishing on 177, with Ray Baker showing that its not only younger players that can hit the ball clean in a great innings, finishing on 79.

The next two games got better beating Tarleton at home, although we got disqualified on a technicality, and finishing the season with a win at home by a massive 80 runs to Walton-le-Dale. The first time we have scored in excess of 200 finishing our innings on 220 for 4, Rob Hezel top scoring on 60 and Ray Baker 51.

Mark Hodgkinson



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Academy Team 2021

Played 14 - Won 5 - Lost 5 - No Results 4. Finishing 5th out of 8.

A fantastic first year for this young Academy team, which was set up to give our young up and coming players the opportunity to try senior cricket and play in similar positions that they would in their junior teams. Fourteen members of the squad had not played senior cricket before this year and most weeks, nine of the squad were all Under 14's playing and competing with many of the teams that often comprised of older juniors and adults."

Firstly, a big thank you to the boys for their efforts this year but to also the dads who played (Tim Wyles, Chris Burgon, Pete Legge and Ben Curran) and supported the boys on the field, helping them get to grips with senior cricket and the longer format. Another big thank you to Frank Holden who umpired and Philippa Curran who scored all the games via play cricket which was greatly appreciated by everyone associated with the team.

Finally, a big thanks to the parents who home and away, supported the boys from the boundary and significantly contributed to the bar takings at Lytham!!

Onto the awards...

Batting:

This player was a mainstay of the Academy's top order throughout the season, ably supported by Tim Wyles and Toby Curran who contributed 138 and 91 runs respectively. He played many crucial innings with 51 away to St Annes and 47 at home to Torrisholme.

However, his most pleasing knock was his 60 which he made on the way to the Academy's highest ever score of 217/8 and victory against Longridge. With 234 runs from 8 innings at an average of 33.43 with a high score of 60 - the winner of the batting award is Felix Twitchett.

Bowling:

This player led the attack all year with his relentless line and length, which without fail set the tone for the team in not letting the opposition get off to a quick start and on a number of occasions taking early wickets. The most pleasing thing was how this player was equally as threatening in his second spell and took many vital wickets to help close games out or slow run rates down. Therefore, for his consistent performances, with 9 wickets at an average of 15 and with an economy rate of 2.82 - the winner of the bowling award is Ethan Burgon.


Performance of the year:

Too many to choose from such as; Toby Curran's sharp slip catch at St Anne's, Ethan Burgon's marathon 11 off 105 balls batting at Lancaster, Harry Jackson's & Lucas Briggs's run outs against Longridge & St Annes respectively, Alfie Kelly's catch against Longridge to seal the win or Archie Legge's and Ethan's joint captaincy in the latter half of the season plus many more.

Nevertheless, the Performance of Year goes to this player for his bowling performance at South Shore, he showed everyone and himself, his obvious capabilities with the ball taking 2-8 and catching a 1st teamer out running backwards in the process - the winner is Ben Wright.

Danny Gilbert, Academy Coach

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Women and Girls Cricket



Girl Power!

2021 was a hugely exciting year for the Women & Girls section. In addition to our existing Tuesday and Friday evening soft ball sessions for W&G aged 13+, we extended our section for the first time to include girls aged 11+. For some of the girls, this was their first experience of cricket and we were blown away by how quickly they grasped the fundamentals. We were especially grateful to Coach Caroline from Blackpool CC for sharing her time and expertise with us, and providing the women and girls at our club with a fantastic cricketing role model. It was also wonderful to see our experienced hard ball girls showing their support for the section. We can't wait to welcome the girls back and hopefully see some new faces in April 2022.

The Soft Ball Festival Circuit

Our first competitive outing as a squad took place on a beautiful sunny day at Fleetwood CC and provided a valuable learning experience, as we faced seasoned teams from Shireshead, Fleetwood and Fulwood in a challenging 6-a-side tournament. Whilst we didn't pick up any wins on the day, we had great fun and enjoyed some fantastic

moments, including our first competitive wicket, taken by Erin Hezel and some inspirational captaincy by Katy McIntyre and Wendy Greaves. We hope this experience will set us in good stead as we enter the W&G Soft Ball League for the first time in 2022.

Our second outing, to the Soft Ball Festival at our neighbouring club St. Annes CC, saw us winning all three of our games and bringing home our very first trophy. This was a fabulous team effort, with everyone contributing to the success on the night. The highlight of the evening was the six, hit by Vikki Thompson, which cleared the perimeter fence and landed in a neighbouring garden. Unfortunately, no-one was in the garden to witness this spectacular shot!

Fun, Prosecco and Laughter!

After a nail biting week of weather watching, the sun finally shone down on us and we ended the season in style, hosting our very own W&G Soft Ball festival at Lytham CC. The event was a huge success, enjoyed by all, thanks in no small part to the wonderful support of our junior section. In a fantastic team

effort, players, coaches and parents came together to score, umpire, BBQ and sell raffle tickets on the day! The evening was full of fun, prosecco and laughter, but for the home crowd, the highlight was surely the final fixture between the two home teams, Fine Legs and Wicket Maidens. This tightly fought match saw many regular squad mates facing each other competitively for the first time. No mercy was shown! After teasing the Maidens with a dot ball, Clare Babbs hit the last ball of the game for 4, winning the game and the tournament for the Fine Legs! We all had a fantastic evening and can't wait to do it again in the Summer of 22!

Awards

The Bowling Award for 2021 was presented to Erin Hezel for providing a much needed moment of glory on a very challenging day!

The Batting Award for 2021 was presented to Vikki Thompson for being an absolute star every time she picks up a bat!

Lisa Burgon
W&G Coach



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Kwiks

In my third year of coaching cricket, I had the pleasure of coaching the kwiks. Not really knowing what to expect going into the year, it has been a huge surprise to see how quickly this group has picked up the basics of cricket. From most not being able to hold a cricket bat at the start of the season to the end of the year where I was being hit back over my head in games of diamond cricket, the group has progressed massively in the sessions we've done this year.

The progress this group has made is not entirely down to me, I've had tonnes of help from people such as Danny Gilbert, who has helped me with my sessions and taken the group when I've been away. Regular help from Morgan Davies and Ollie McIntyre has made my life easier too, together with the support of various parents.

Based on this year alone, there are some very talented players in this group and hopefully you all stick at it and carry-on progressing. The Kwiks have been a pleasure to coach and I am sure they will be next year for their new coach.

A huge thank you to the kwiks and to their parents for getting them down every week and I hope you all enjoyed your first year of playing cricket.

Eoghan Murphy, Kwiks Coach

Under 10's

The rate of progress and the learning curve will probably never be as steep again in the cricket careers of the U10 squad. From the first nets in April 2021, when for most of the squad it was the first time they had played with a hard ball or put on helmets, pads, box and gloves to the final game of the season against Great Eccleston, which culminated in the best team performance of the season.

In many respects it is a privilege to coach players at this stage of their career as the gains are so visible and evident as each player made such great progress throughout the season. The season started with a couple of heavy defeats against a talented Blackpool team who ended up joint 1st in the league. This was followed by our first away trip, and no one will forget that cold Tuesday night in April at Leyland with a wind chill of -10, against a really good team. This game gave us an excellent benchmark for where we wanted to be as a team. Highlight of the match was Matty Guest picking up the only wicket of the evening for Lytham.

We then had a very competitive game away against Chorley A team. You could see the boys learning quickly and playing with real determination.

The first victory came against St Annes and the team battled hard for the victory with everyone chipping in with runs, fielding or wickets – the boys were delighted, and this really lifted their confidence. On the same evening, the boys met Freddie Flintoff and we had to explain to them that Freddie was actually a very good cricketer, as opposed to just being the host of Top Gear! Another close game against Chorley B ended in defeat but the team then recorded another win against Broughton & Fulwood, with Rohan Murugesan's last over being a match-winning one, as he picked up three wickets.

The final two games of the season showed how far we had come, we lost against a good Longridge team but were so much more competitive and it was great to see the boys thinking about field placements and constantly encouraging each other. The final game against Great Eccleston was the most complete performance and we won a really tight and exciting game. The boys were an absolute pleasure to coach and took things on board very quickly and learnt as we went along. The team's strength was its resilience and determination but also the empathy the boys showed for each other as they all started to understand the game a bit more.

At the presentation evening, Rupert Williams was awarded the batting award, Rohan Murugesan the bowling award and Joseph Mahoney the coaches award. A big thank you to all the parents for their support throughout the season and especially to Susan who was always there to share her experience and provide guidance.

We are all looking forward to 2022 with a more experienced squad and winter nets - it will set us up for an enjoyable and competitive season.

U10 Squad 2021

Players: Freddie Barrows, Archie Brown, Frank Carter, Hamish Gilchrist, Matthew Guest, Will Holland, Bobby Mahon, Joseph Mahoney, Harry McKeown, Tumi Milligan, Joe Moss, Rohan Murugesan, Oliver Openshaw, William Parker, Oliver Parnell, Isaac Wan and Rupert Williams.

Coaches: Allan McKeown & Senthil Murugesan



Under 11's



A wonderful season for the under 11's culminated in them winning the Palace Shield's Tony Poxton Trophy over 16 other clubs.

Coached by Dave Tanner and Lee Topping, a squad of 21 players fielded an A and B side winning 13 out of 18 matches between them. They topped the Palace Shield North Section before winning a dramatic semi-final versus St Annes and an equally dramatic final against Leyland to take the trophy. Here is how their season unfolded....

As the only Lytham team with no qualified coaches the under 11's were rather dependent and indebted to others helping out on a Friday night. Thanks to Craig, Pete, Danny and Mark who ran the early season sessions before Susan organised support from the first team with Matthew Taaffe, TJ, and in particular our pro Zia Ur Rehman Akbar, Matthew Cartmell, Jaccob Salisbury and Niall Dunn leading our training sessions throughout the season, in what has been a real team effort. Thanks also to Vicki Thompson who set up the WhatsApp and helped greatly with admin and availability, to Tim Daly who

took wonderful photos, to Matt Bourne, Simon Thompson and Pete Legge who umpired and to Simon Clarkson and Richard Kenworthy who scored when Dave and I were not available.

Of course, massive thanks to Susan who has supported us brilliantly every step of the way and to all the parents who could always be relied upon to get their protégé to the correct place, at the correct time, always wearing the correct colour....

On to the review of the season. Our teams were two of nine in the Palace Shield Under 11 North Section and the season started broadly as anticipated.

The A team won their first games comfortably, whilst the B team, playing as it happened against the strongest 3 teams in the division fell to competitive defeats. From 18th May to 13th June however, the two teams went on a run of 7 consecutive wins by a combined 437 runs.

The highlight of this run of victories was a visit to Thornton Cleveleys who were also sporting a 100% record and were

eyeing the league title themselves at the time. After restricting Thornton to 33 runs for 12 wickets in their 20 overs (with just 1 wide and 1 no ball bowled), we then hit 107/3 to win by 119 runs in what one parent described as the “finest display of junior cricket I have ever seen”.

With the North league title already in the bag, the two Lytham teams met each other on Sunday 27th June as Pete Legge’s combined Hall Park/Kirkham Grammar School team were narrowly defeated by Dave Tanner’s Rest of the World team.

We played the runners up from the South section in the semi-final, local rivals St Annes who had only lost 1 match all season, and that by 1 run to Leyland. An excellent game of cricket was played out. With Lytham batting second and ahead by just 3 runs going into the final over, one wicket would swing it back in St Anne’s favour. Will Thompson faced their Lancashire trialist fast bowler, surviving a very enthusiastic and contentious caught behind appeal first ball. A fourth ball yorker landed plumb on Will’s toe and he collapsed to the floor in agony, but fortunately not on his wicket (well done coaches).

After a dramatic 5-minute delay he agreed that he would be able to face the last 2 balls without a runner. The first whistled past his stumps before the last ball was leg glanced for 4 and we were in the final! Cue wild celebration pitch invasion number one.

As covid spread through the team and Lytham’s Year 6 bubbles, our place in the final was threatened by some over officious administrators before common sense won the day and the final was played the day after our players and coaches were released from their 10-day isolation on a balmy night in Leyland.

Some big hitting early on from Daniel Young in particular, saw us overtake Leyland’s 250 score in the 12th over but of course the tension was not over. Leyland brought on their 3 best bowlers to bowl the last 8, including their Lancashire under 11 girls team opening bowler. Soon we were well behind again

after a flurry of wickets but Freddie Bourne and Joe Tanner coolly steadied the ship as the last pair. A classic forward defensive from Freddie on the penultimate ball secured the cup. Cue wild celebration pitch invasion number two.

We went into the Lancashire Cup Quarter Final the following night totally unprepared and undercooked and somehow lost to a much less talented Shireshead and Forton team but no matter, the Tony Poxton trophy was won; we will always have Leyland.

Most Improved Coaches Award – Erik Daly

After not playing last season Erik improved greatly in both batting and bowling to force his way into the final team.

Best Bowling Award – Matthew Topping

After taking 16 wickets, the second highest total in the league including 3 for 8 in both the Palace Shield semi-final and Lancashire Cup Quarter final and also bowling the league high number of maidens the bowling award goes to Matthew Topping.

Best Batting Award – Daniel Young

For the batting award, with a team high net runs per match of 10.5 and in particular for his 25 in the final, the award goes to someone who thinks of himself as more of a bowler and anyone who has seen him bowl would agree; it’s Daniel Young.

Coaches Award for Player of the Season – Joe Tanner

The award goes to the player with the most runs in the league and second most wickets in the team. I’d say he is our best fielder too plus he captained us in the final. For a wonderful season always played with a great attitude the Coaches Award for the under 11s goes to Joe Tanner.

Well done to all 21 of our players who played with such skill and commitment all season.

Lee Topping & Dave Tanner



Junior Reviews 2021

Under 12's



The ethos for this season was that everyone in the squad was to be given an equal opportunity to bat, bowl and even captain the side.

As a result, we didn't have a regular batting line-up, or a regular bowling order, or captain.

One week you might be batting in the top order, and the next towards the bottom, which was also designed to try and share the "pressure" of playing under the older age-group rules of "when you're out, you're out".

Bowling-wise, the match strategy was that everyone got to bowl their allotted 2 overs each, regardless of ability or accuracy.

Again, this was to try and give the team an equal opportunity to shine, and keep involved in matches.

Out in the field, the squad developed from a simple outer ring early on in the season, advancing to a more attacking field in an effort to try and put pressure on the batting side, and to stop easy singles being taken. Captains and the majority of the squad all became a lot more confident with setting a field as the season progressed, which was very encouraging.

Playing wise, the squad played 11, won 4, lost 5, with 1 no result, to finish 3rd in the league. Again, this was very encouraging with the top 2 places being taken by very strong St Annes and Fleetwood squads.



For the awards, the batting award went to Izzy Thomas with a total 79 runs scored with a highest total of 29.

The bowling award went to James Livesey, who took a total of 9 wickets, with best figures of 3 wickets for 4 runs. Well done to both Izzy and James.

The coaches' award was a tricky decision due to the great team spirit, overall commitment and general attitude that every single player displayed throughout the season. Therefore, the full squad was presented with this award.

A huge thank you to Debbie Francis (ably assisted by John) for overall team management, and skill at inputting the results! This is a crucial role that is not to be under-estimated.

Many thanks also to an ever-growing group of coaches for their valuable assistance on Fridays and match days, namely: Charlotte Maclean-Bristol, Adam Green, Jon Livesey David Robbins, and Russ Thomas.

Finally, thanks to all the parents for their moral support, assistance with scoring and match-day set-up, and also for producing a great set of well-mannered children. They are a credit to you all.

Without you all, none of the above would have been possible. Best of luck to the full squad for the 2022 season.

Craig McIntyre
Coach

Under 13's

Well, 2021 was fun!

Games on, games off, pinged, isolate, pinged again, school bubbles bursting, what is a bubble, bubbles grew they shrank, still not sure I ever got my head around what those bubbles actually were!

Anyway, all this was before we'd bowled a ball.

Despite all this and looking back now we did pretty good and got what am sure you'll agree was pretty close to a normalish season, managing to get a team out playing most weeks.

We had some amazing performances, some absolute shockers, some blind drunk dodgy decisions affecting games (I think we're all looking forward to playing them lot close to Preston again next year!!)

But all in all, a good year I think.

Over the course of the season, we won more than we lost and finished a respected joint 2nd.

Regardless of the stats at this point the most pleasing thing for me was to see the development that some of you have gone through which hopefully stands you in good stead for next season as more of you will start integrating into senior cricket.

It's not easy at U13 level as some of the bowlers out there are getting quick, which has been handled ok at times, not always but ok, most of you though have stuck at it and realised it only hurts for a minute or 2 when you get hit!

All in all, though boys, you've listened (sometimes!!) in training and improved across the board, which as a coach is all I can ask. That listening bit, despite us coaches being old and generally miserable, sometimes, just occasionally, the odd bit of advice when taken on board, works for you, scary stuff eh!!!

Awards

Batting:

To be honest batting has been harder than previous years and sometimes we've struggled. As mentioned earlier the bowlers out there are getting quick and at times, we've been found a little short. Nothing that we can't improve on and with the winter programme we have, am sure we will.

However, we have had some good success and this award is going for runs scored but also those scores coming consistently using a wonderful sound technique.

Approaching 400 runs so far with approx. 200 coming in U13 games, Archie Legge well done.

Bowling:

This is tricky and a lot of thoughts gone into this because so many of you are so close to nailing it.

Sammy, he's nearly made it, couple of bumps this year but knuckled down and am sure even you'll admit that things are going pretty well.

Rowan, again pace is there, action looking good, just stop playing with damn egg-shaped balls, avoid injury and you'll be nailing it.

Ted Thomson, Will, Lewis, Chris, Harry pace has increased, accuracy nearly there, wickets are coming. Harry Craig, throwing grenades at the start of the year, now consistent and one to watch next year. Lucas, when you remember to breath and relax your bowling is decent.

Alfie's leg spin, hard to master but getting closer with every over.

Dan B as ever that wonderful natural action, bodes well for next year.

Junior Reviews 2021

But I had to pick someone.

Last year his pace was there but none of us knew where the ball was going to go at times including him. This year he got the bit between the teeth which showed in the results, helps when you've grown 15ft over last winter! Attitude absolutely spot on, becoming a key part of the set-up, one for the future Best bowling 3/3 v Leyland and one of leading wicket takers this season. Will Wyles, we'll deserved sir!

Player of year

This like the bowling award was hard. I was contemplating 3/4 kids but had to pick one but was very close.

The award wasn't just to who's got the most wickets nor most runs etc etc. I wanted to look at attitude / work ethic, determination and that's why this lad got it. He did though nearly lose it a couple of times with the banter / grief he gives me on Fridays

Not always the most confident but in the latter stages of the season began to believe a little that he can do it. As many of you know half my damn life is spent at this place and often saw him practising on his own just bowling in the nets.

He forced his way into the academy set up and as Danny says, he throws the ball at this lad quicker than anyone in our group. Becoming a solid opening bat, still a bit to go with this, but is well and truly on the right track. Teddy Brown, well done!

I want to also offer a special mention to Henry Roberts. He's playing 3 years above his age group and we are all really chuffed to have seen his trial into Lancashire successful, now representing their U10 team.

Well done Henry.

I want to also say a massive thank you to those that have helped me this year. It's a thankless task at times organising our precious little cherubs and life is made easier because of that help.

A massive thanks to Philippa Curran for the constant scoring, checks and balances always spot on. My right-hand man Tim



Wyles, good sounding board even when I'm complaining about the kids. Always available to help and again makes life easier for me.

And finally... again....!

Most of you turn up and watch the kids play their games without realising the huge efforts that many here put in to get these games on and without that support we as a club could not function. We have to work harder and harder each year and relies on willing volunteers (usually stupid parents like me) to help out.

My last 'and final!' special mention too for Susan please, who goes above and beyond what is ever asked and is the absolute life blood of this place who without the time, effort and patience we would struggle as a junior section. Often, rarely thanked she just keeps going until late in the night organising and is a true lifer here.

PS: Boys, apologies for the photo here. It was taken fresh out of lockdown before some of you'd had the chance to sort your covid haircuts!!!!

Pete Legge

Under 14's

Having managed to win the 2020 title in the disrupted covid season, we entered the season full of optimism.

Although we got off to a good start beating Kirkham and Wesham away, we didn't quite reach the heights of the season before.

We lost our next two games at home to both Fylde and Eccleston-Chorley before recovering to win our next four games. Our last game away at Fulwood and Broughton saw us lose in a thrilling game, falling two runs short, chasing 123.

There were some outstanding performances from the boys, both Toby Curran and Felix Twitchett hitting two 50's each.

Archie Legge stepping up from the Under 13's having two innings not out in the mid 30's.

The most memorable innings however has to be from Nate Francis who went out to the middle at Great Eccleston in aggressive fashion hitting 33 off 23 balls including six fours.

Season awards went to:

Batting: Felix Twitchett

Bowling: Ethan Burgon

Coaches Award: Marc Fairhurst

Mark Hodgkinson

Junior Presentation



JUNIOR AWARD WINNERS 2021

UNDER 10's:

Batting: Rupert Williams
Bowling: Rohan Murugesan
Coaches Award: Joseph Mahoney

UNDER 11's:

Batting: Daniel Young
Bowling: Matthew Topping
Coaches Award: Joe Tanner
Most Improved: Erik Daly

UNDER 12's:

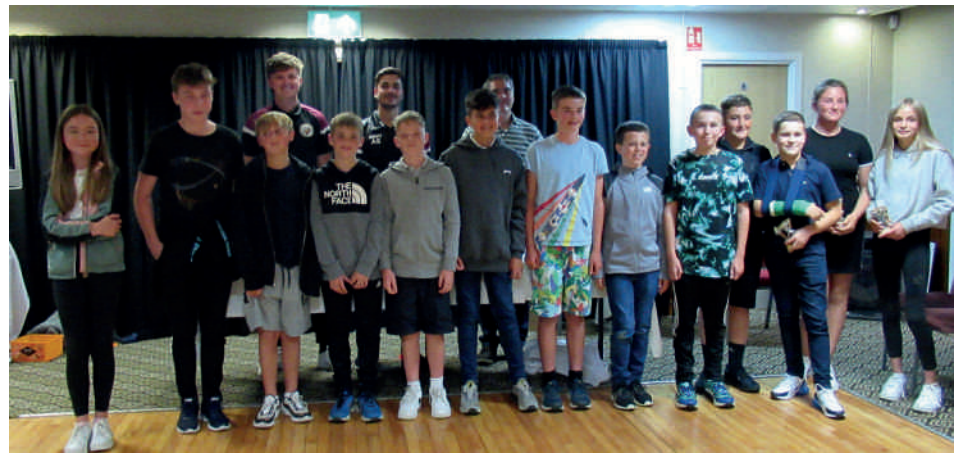
Batting: Izzy Thomas
Bowling: James Livesey
Coaches Award: The U12 Squad

UNDER 13's

Batting: Archie Legge
Bowling: Will Wyles
Coaches Award: Ted Brown

UNDER 14's:

Batting: Felix Twitchett
Bowling: Ethan Burgon
Coaches Award: Marc Fairhurst



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Junior Training



After a curtailed 2020 season, it was so nice to finally get back to some sort of normality and see so many young people turn up for training on a Friday night again.

This year we decided to select a small group of the older Kwiks (who would be the U10's for 2022) and start preparing them for hardball cricket and winter nets. I am very grateful to parents, Michelle Robbins and Andy Parker who stepped up and volunteered to run this group. They did an amazing job and it was lovely to see the children enjoying their sessions.



With the help of an ECB grant we were also able to promote Girl's softball cricket, printing leaflets and handing them out in the local schools. Lisa Burgon was delighted with the response, which saw a group of approx. 15 girls join her new training sessions on a Friday night. Many thanks to coaches Craig McIntyre and Mark Hodgkinson who were also on hand to help Lisa.



It goes without saying that I appreciate all the hard work that the coaches put in week after week planning their sessions, organising teams for the matches, umpiring and scoring. Thanks also go to the parents, juniors and seniors who help out on a regular basis.

The club always needs new volunteers, so if you are able to help out in any way, whether it be admin, scoring, umpiring, coaching or have a fundraising idea then please either speak to one of the coaches or myself.

Susan Chiekrie



Women and Girls Tournament

Oh, what a Night!!

Having attended several ladies softball cricket festivals, W & G coach Lisa, thought it was time for Lytham CC to host their own. Friday 6th August it is!

Junior training cancelled, coaches enlisted to umpire, juniors to do the scoring, maths whizz Lee to collate the scores, Junior Fundraising Team to do the BBQ, Katy McIntyre to do the warm up, playlist sorted, team entries confirmed, oh and Prosecco purchased!

What could go wrong? Yes, you guessed it, the good old British weather threatened to quite literally put the dampeners on the evening. Lisa and I read every forecast going on the day, trying to gauge whether we call it a day or take a risk and go ahead. Thankfully we decided to go for it and as you can see from the photos a great time was had by all!

Susan Chiekrie



Easter Ball 2021

Finally, after two cancellations due to Coronavirus, we managed to go ahead with our "Easter Ball" in October 2021.

It was so nice to see all the old faces as well as some new faces as they let their hair down and danced the night away to the fabulous Deadbeats.

Once again, a huge thank you to Nigel Seddon and Dominic Ashton for organising such a great night.

Thank you also goes to all of our sponsors and to those people and businesses who donated or bid for prizes in the auction, your support is very much appreciated.

We hope to see you all at our next Easter Ball in March 2023!



A view from the Bar

Recently, I took my first journey in two years, from my local area, to enjoy some time with friends in Wigan. We gathered from all over to enjoy lunch, a few drinks and most importantly, each other's company.

We didn't have to meet outside in the cold.

Our group was not limited to six. Remember Social Distancing?

We didn't have to travel with masks on. We were able to walk up to the bar and order our refreshments in person.

We could sit, share our common interests and discuss all sorts of subjects; generally putting the world to rights!

I'd forgotten what a simple and important pleasure it is to have our freedom to do these things.

Why do I recount this here?

Well, it reminded me of the spirit of "community" that exists between people here at Church Road, despite what might happen to challenge it.

Those relationships, a common cause or shared values are, to coin a phrase, as "perennial as the grass" – and there's quite a lot of turf around here!

The comfort and strength brought from a sense of belonging cannot be underestimated; nor its' importance in the unrelenting, constantly changing landscape of the modern world.

Our club survived the last two difficult years through dedication, cooperation and understanding. It was transformed for each changing period that it was permitted to be used and the regulations that had to be followed.

Like a trick monkey, we performed and changed our "dance" to suit the circumstances and we did it well.

Over and over again!

Club members responded with tremendous support and continue to do so.

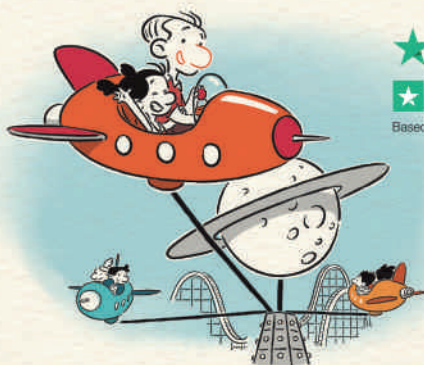


Like my group of friends at that gathering in Wigan; we are a diverse community. We have our ups and downs. With differing opinions and often strongly held views.

However, our spirit of community, our sense of belonging to something greater than we are alone, remains undiminished and has only been made stronger by the trials of the Coronavirus pandemic.

Let's not forget that. Or that Wigan has great pies!

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