

Kirkheaton Cricket Club- Funding

All amateur cricket clubs would inevitably fold without the help of volunteers and cash raising schemes. Funds need to be raised to run the club efficiently and to also allow the employment of a professional.

Kirkheaton has a very hardworking committee that does a sterling job of running the club. They hold regular meetings to discuss ideas and plans that will make money to take the club forward.

The funding for Kirkheaton is provided by a variety of different incomes. Local businesses and companies pay Kirkheaton to advertise at their ground. Advertising boards are displayed around the ground in the main focal points. There is quite a large hoarding attached the scoreboard. The larger the board the more money Kirkheaton will receive. Most local companies are happy to buy advertising space to help out their neighbouring cricket club.

“It seems everyone wants to advertise at our ground these days. We are nearly running out of space. Maybe they know we are progressing as a club and a few more people come to watch us these days. It’s all good for the club and long may it continue.,” stated committee member Eric Hepworth.

Only last week there was a big fund raising event held at Kirkheaton Cricket Club. It is held once a year and consists of a three course meal and a guest speaker. It's quite a popular occasion and the 75 people allocation usually sells out in days. The event is ticket only and is priced at £10 a head. All the money raised goes back into the running of the club.

Kirkheaton always try and attract a famous sportsman to do an after dinner speech. This year former England cricketer Geoff Miller made an appearance and he was apparently very entertaining.

"I didn't see a single person in the room that wasn't hanging on to Geoff Miller's every word. He didn't have notes or anything like that. He just got up and reeled off past stories about his playing days. He was very amusing and I can safely say everyone who was there had a thoroughly enjoyable evening", said former chairman Philip Earnshaw.

Kirkheaton try and hold some kind of social event every month even out of the cricket season. The pavilion is available to hire in the winter for social events. Some people hold private birthday parties at Kirkheaton.

The summer of 2006 proved to be a massive financial success for Kirkheaton. The club took advantage of the football world cup and showed all England matches on a big screen.

It was open to the general public and proved to be a big hit with many of the youngsters in the village. They made a lot of profit from behind the bar along with taking from barbeques and raffle tickets.

“It was a last minute idea to show all the England football matches on a big screen. We did not want to attract the wrong type of people to the club and maybe took a bit of a gamble in making it available to the general public. But it was a gamble that paid off and everyone who came was very well-behaved,” commented Eric Hepworth.

The subscription and match fees paid by all players is an expected annual income for Kirkheaton. Players pay a yearly amount for use of the clubs facilities. Kirkheaton is actually one of the cheapest clubs to play for in the league, charging only £20 for subscription fees.

Kirkheaton is very much a social club and during the season there were many days out organised for everyone at the club. Last season a “golf day” was put on as an experiment to see if there would be much interest. Of course it proved to be a winner and is set to be even bigger and better next year.

Kirkheaton have yet to explore the possibility of obtaining a grant though Sport England. This could be seen as the next step into taking the club to a new level. But while the club is doing so well financially it has been put on the back burner. It apparently involves a great deal of paperwork, time and effort.

And of course every year there is an 'end of season do.' This is where everyone at Kirkheaton can let their hair down and reflect on the season that has just passed. I'm sure this event runs on into the early hours of the morning. And why not? The people at Kirkheaton deserve to celebrate all the hard work they have put into the club.

All the people who help out at Kirkheaton are volunteers, from the tea lady to the chairmen. Everyone chips in and does their bit and without them Kirkheaton Cricket Club would not exist.