**Chairman’s Report, Norfolk Seniors, 2021.**

It was great to play a full season of cricket again with fewer Covid restrictions! I am delighted to say that club membership has expanded from 72 to 101 this season. We were concerned that participation would drop after Covid, but we have flourished, particularly the o50s. In short, the club is in very good order with some interesting expansion projects for next year.

The club is in good financial order. We have good reserves and we are ready to pay the bills which come at the start of next season. The club is in good administrative order and we have a few small proposed changes to the constitution which will ensure that it remains so. Links to the NCB are strong.

We had a good playing season. The o50s 1sts had their best season for several years. We ran an o50s 2nd team which was competitive in all its fixtures. 60s 1sts, 60s 2nds and 70s all did reasonably well. I will come back to how we intend to strengthen the sides in moment. We also played a number of early and late season friendlies and again our sides acquitted themselves well.

Looking to next season, firstly the o50s second team will be entering the Southern Counties o50s 2nds competition. We will be putting out an o60s third team, with a similar ambition to the o50s 2nds last year. If it goes well, we will be looking for them to enter the national o60s 3rds competition in 2023.

East Anglia Veteran Ladies are affiliating to us and will play as our o70s 2nd team in the national competition. The National Management Committee would not let them play as EAVL, insisting it was a County competition, so they have come to us. I am delighted we are able to welcome them and facilitate the development of the women’s game. If all goes well, one ambition is to have a 60s 4th team as an EAVL side.

We hope to have a President’s day game, where we will invite some players in their late 40s. We need to get to these players earlier and convince them of the joys of o50s cricket, before they wind their careers down and start committing to golf! We are re-arranging some of the committee jobs so we know have a media and recruitment secretary, though I would stress that recruitment is a collective responsibility.

We are aware that there are a significant number of players graduating from the 50s to the 60s next season and a significant number of players graduating from the 60s to the 70s. There is a need to manage that, to ensure there is a proper flow of players through the 3 60s sides and to ensure everyone gets some cricket. To that end, after the AGM there will be a captain’s meeting to discuss who plays where. I expect all our 60s and 70s sides to be stronger next year.

Finally, some thanks. Thanks to Carl Yallop and Andy Broughton, who are both stepping down from their committee posts this year after many years of service, and to Peter Thomas who is stepping down after three years as President. To Nigel Crickmore and his band of umpires, to our regular scorers, Ted, Sue and Glen, to Chris and Sue Palmer for organising the annual dinner, Nobby Cobb who enters the scorecards on play cricket, to the clubs who hire out their grounds to us and to the NCB who provided us with invaluable advice about Covid-19 protocols and other matters.