

Gargoyles Celebrate Glorious Summer

Annual Awards Dinner Evokes Memories of Bygone Age



Wonderful atmosphere at The George's Coach House

Forget deepest, darkest November. Enter the glowing atmosphere of The George's Coach House, be seduced by the log fire and candlelight welcome, succumb to a barrel of Burton's finest, indulge in three courses of gastronomic delectation, marvel at the impeccable, yet discreet service, be enthralled by the lucidity of the after-dinner speakers, be entranced by the ethereal wonders of slow motion replays. And yet, retain the humility to honour those who trod closer to the cricketing gods in another memorable season.

This year's post prandial stimulation was the world premiere of "**The Lost Youth of Alstonefield**," a dark comedy, filmed at half speed as an allegorical commemoration of the centenary of Armistice Day, dealing with the devastating impact on village life of having no-one under the age of 45. **Dave Singleton**, the film's producer and director, wanted the film "to bring the reality of human frailty into our complacent lives – but in a comedic genre."

Once club captain **Andy Bray** had warned of Z list celebrities posing as club members, he shared his unique perspective of the season in his key note address, a season in which the Gargoyles won nine of their sixteen matches. The club's Head of Performance, **Liam Duffy**, explored the mental toughness required to perform consistently. Of particular note, in a moving insight into his own demons, was his

revelation into the father and son batting relationship and his contention that for the relationship to survive, the father has to be twice as good as the son. But, the audience was left in no doubt that the most powerful influence on results is “concentration and super team spirit and these were characteristics the Gargoyles had again shown in impressive abundance in 2018.”

The club was honoured to have Maestro Graham Johnson of The George to present the awards, dressed in another sparkling reminder of the tropical summer, culminating in the previously unheralded **Ben King** receiving three trophies and via the wonders of satellite links, **Will Siddons** spoke in philosophical terms about his batting award.

Shakespeare concluded the evening at precisely midnight: “What’s won is done. Joy’s soul lies in the doing”

And the doing starts again in early January, with the 2019 winter nets programme.

Here are all the award winners . . .

LEADING BATSMAN



WILL SIDDONS - A club record average of 95 for the season

LEADING BOWLER



IAN MCKAY - Top wicket taker and most economical bowler

LEADING CATCHER – JOINT WINNERS



BEN KING & IAN MCKAY with 6 catches each and none of them easy

THE DUCK AWARD



BEN KING - his first outright winner's award at the club – shows promise for the future

THE LAME DUCK AWARD



JOHN CURRY - an animate reminder of the dangers of the modern game

THE PROSECCO AWARD



BEN KING – the second most memorable moment of the season, a match winning direct hit from the boundary

THE CHAMPAGNE MOMENT



ANDY FARMER - Joining five other Alstonefield legends with the fifth wicket in his devastating 5 for 5 spell against Ashbourne