

Ladies and gentlemen, at the AGM last November, the future of The Black Sheep Cricket Club was discussed in length, even to the extent of disbanding.

I now have the honour of being Club Captain and will do all I can to ensure that the monies we have raised for local children continues to rise, year on year.

In recent times due to the increase of Sunday League and Cup matches it has been difficult for us to recruit younger and fitter players and this has had a detrimental effect on our performances, which in turn effects the enjoyment received by both us and our opponents.

In the past the club captain has basically selected the teams from available players, which in recent years has often been difficult to find XI players, let alone players of a reasonable standard.

As club members, I would ask you to give much thought to the future of the club. The only way we can continue, is to increase our membership with younger and fitter players, especially bowlers and to this end, your committee have decided to appoint match managers, hoping that they will look at recruitment within their own clubs or geographical areas.

In the recent past the organisation of the 'Sheep' has in the main been centered around the Norwich area. It is our hope now that more clubs, in the wider area will find out more about us, and to this end, we will, at the beginning of the 2010 season, be having a publicity drive, with a poster being sent to most cricket clubs and also promotion on radio and newspaper.

I firmly believe that there are more clubs in Norfolk who would be interested in playing the 'Sheep' but only if we can give them a reasonable game of cricket and to do this we need new blood.

Whilst some of our more aged members enjoy playing in the 'Sheep' games we would be more than happy to sit in deck chairs, on the boundary, sipping the occasional glass of wine, watching our younger team mates, firstly winning the games but more importantly playing the matches in a sporting manner and raising more money for needy kids.

Please keep one thing in mind over the next few months, The Black Sheep have raised in the region of £60,000 since it started in 1969, unless we have a serious increase in playing membership, 2010 could be its last year.

WHO WOULD SUFFER, NOT THE PLAYERS, MOST OF THEM CAN FIND ALTERNATIVE GAMES, IT WOULD BE THE CHILDREN OF NORFOLK.