

HOLT & DISTRICT FARMERS' CLUB

FOUNDED 1948

President: Bill Poortvliet

Chairman: Pat Cubitt

Vice Chairman: Andrew Ross

www.holtfarmers.club

CLUB MATTERS

Harvest Time 2021

Bill Poortvliet is back as *The Enforcer* - like Humphrey Bogart in the 1951 film noir of that name - he always gets his man. Our President is prepared to track and trace everyone down to retrieve your sample for this year's Malting Barley Competition. He should already have your number but, if not, do give him a ring on 01263 716342 and he will call and collect. This could be his swansong but, as ever, he will have **John Cragg** as his trusty henchman. At present Bill is a proud grandfather with his grandson Jack, **Jeff's** boy, having been named Player of the Championship in captaining England to the Grand Slam in the Under 20s Six Nations. He is making his mark at scrum half with Leicester Tigers and is reckoned to have a good chance of succeeding Ben there and, in due course, in the England team. I'm not sure whether dying his hair blond was to emulate the England footballers and cricketers but at the moment it seems Jack (who uses the van) Poortvliet can scarcely put a foot wrong.



Our past *President Billy Hammond's* long and full life will be commemorated in a *Service of Thanksgiving at St. Mary's Church, Aldborough at 2.30 p.m. on Wednesday, 4th August.* Michael Pollitt chronicles some of this in the attachment and prompts many memories of the man. One of my mental images of Billy is of him, aged 85, marching off a Derbyshire peak in his greatcoat after we were abandoned there in the rain. A more serene and painted one is attached showing him on home ground – Aldborough Green – in characteristic pose watching his team. He would regularly brash the lower branches of the pictured tree, perhaps so that the residents of Longstop, First Slip and Second Slip Cottages could watch the cricket from their front rooms. Incidentally the batsman on the bench is Clive Payne who was right back for Norwich in the 1973 League Cup Final. Credit for the photographs supplied by Michael is to the EDP Library, Archant - who is the boy driving in the black and white one ?



Another date for your diaries is *Wednesday, 22nd June next year* for our long heralded *Trip to Shropshire's*; lettuce pray we can finally keep to this. If the Feathers will have us, our *71st A.G.M.* should be on *Tuesday, 12th October* - it only took me twenty months to get **Pat Cubitt's** name onto the Honours Board there. Bill Poortvliet and **Stuart Ross** are up for re-election to the committee and the former has decided to stand down after decades off dedicated service – more of that anon. Sadly **Charlie Mack** has also found himself unable to continue so we are in need of new blood. It is hoped we shall soon be free of these dreadful depredations and your support, input and ideas will be appreciated more than ever before in our Club's history.

Tim

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