

Stowupland CC report for parish council meeting

Playing and coaching

The 2023 season is set to commence on April 15 although given the wet weather, we expect most grounds may struggle to prepare a safe playing surface. Saturday fixtures will run all the way through until September 9. Mid-week league and T20 matches begin later in the year.

Last season both of our Saturday sides competed well. More juniors are making the step up to adult cricket which is encouraging to see. Neither side got relegated but we did not finish as high as we would have liked.

Player availability is our biggest challenge and we expect this will be the case for the forthcoming season. We have tried a number of initiatives to recruit new players, including the distribution of leaflets to homes in Stowupland and some in Stowmarket. We understand lots of other clubs have a similar challenge.

Fortunately, we have a thriving junior section and excellent coaches. Junior coaching takes place all year round with outdoor sessions recently starting again.

Equipment and facilities

Our old mower and compressor were stolen between December 24-27, 2022. Thankfully, nothing else was taken. Local business Secure Stores has kindly donated a container to the club to store some of our equipment and machinery.

Our new mower arrived in March. This was purchased with the grant we received from the CIL application. Our new sight screens have also arrived and these were purchased with the same grant.

The final new piece of equipment which is set to arrive soon is a new electronic scoreboard. This has been funded by a bequest we received from a gentleman called Alan Clarke. The scoreboard will be mounted on a mobile trolley but longer-term we would like to make it a permanent fixture.

If the weather allows, a get set day will be held on April 16 so that we're ready for the first home game of the season on April 22. This will involve tidying the sheds, social club, changing rooms, restoring equipment etc.

Events and fundraising

Cricket club quiz nights continue to take place on the first Friday of every month, with approx. 50 people in attendance each time. The quiz generates a healthy return which goes towards the improvement of equipment and facilities or long-term plans.

We're pleased to continue to support the village events committee. A raffle is being arranged for the coronation event.

Long-term aim

For quite some time the cricket club has been fundraising for a permanent net lane to aid practice for our playing members. This would take up quite a lot of space so we have been in talks with the school to see if we could arrange a meeting to discuss our plans.

We understand that Falcons have ambitions to have a 4G pitch so perhaps we will be able to come up with a plan which will benefit both clubs and the school.

Foundation

We have plans to establish a foundation with the mission to engage, inspire and improve individuals through cricket. The idea being that the foundation could provide equipment for disadvantaged children or other charitable initiatives.

The foundation would be run as a charity and a separate entity to the cricket club.

Committee

We have an excellent committee and all 13 members are committed to helping the club develop for the benefit of others and the local community.

Committee meetings continue to take place on the first Tuesday of every month.

Joe Chalk
Stowupland CC chairman

April 10, 2023