

# North Marston & Granborough Community Sports Field



## NORTH MARSTON AND GRANBOROUGH COMMUNITY SPORTSFIELD UPDATE – MAY 2018

The Sportsfield continues to go from strength to strength, with ever increasing numbers of people regularly using the facility for their recreation.

The Junior Football and Cricket Clubs in particular are making full use of the field. The football season is just coming to an end but it has been a busy season. The wet weather in April has delayed the cricket getting into full swing.

### Junior Football

The Club continues its success with 4 teams in the Milton Keynes District Development League at Under 7, 9, 11 & 16. They also have a weekly training session for 5 & 6 year olds. There are 51 registered junior players. Matches are played on Saturdays with multiple matches sometimes being played simultaneously especially when backlogs caused by bad weather mean that fixtures need to be fulfilled.

Junior players are also developed such that from the age of 14 they help to referee in league games.

There are currently no Senior football fixtures taking place on the Sportsfield.

### Junior Cricket

The Junior Cricket Club is going from strength to strength. Last summer the club fielded 5 teams; 2 sides at Under 9 and 1 each at U11, U12 and U13. This summer the Under 9's will concentrate on intraclub matches so that the players can receive the maximum benefit from coaching and matchplay. Each junior team has its own dedicated team of Coach, Manager and Scorers.

Junior coaching is on Friday evenings with 50 juniors turning up to this season's first coaching session.

The club also hosted U7's as part of the ECB All Stars cricket initiative and will do so again this season as part of our recruitment drive for children to start playing cricket early.

The new artificial wicket helps enormously given the amount of matches and coaching at the sportsfield.

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## Senior Cricket

The Senior Cricket Team enjoyed another successful season in 2017 and have a full programme of Sunday fixtures for the 2018 summer.

## Brick Shed

Our storage facility caters for both cricket and football and the installation of racking units by volunteers has helped both clubs with storage space and access to their equipment which is particularly needed during the weeks when the clubs overlap their use of the field at the beginning and end of season.

## Scouts

The Scouts installed a storage container in the corner of the field last year and this has helped considerably with their logistics. Previously their equipment was stored across many individual's houses and garages. The scouts have wood panelled and landscaped the container to enable it to fit into its surroundings.

## Field Drainage

The last 2 winters' have been exceptionally wet. This has caused the football club in particular problems in being able to train and play on the pitches although the number of fixtures postponed is relatively small. When the field was originally renovated drainage channels were installed and sand added to the soil. Over the years the effectiveness of the drainage gradually reduces and regular maintenance is needed to revitalise the drainage system. This is a considerable cost burden. Last autumn, following fund raising, we invested in verti-draining and sand treatment with a resulting improvement this winter. It is only in the unseasonably wet April that the water has recently won the day.

## Public Use

The public have free use of the field when it is not being used by the organised clubs. It is regularly frequented by walkers (with or without dogs), runners, children playing ball games and those who utilise the space for specific exercise or training. Of note is Helena Rowland who is often at the field practising her rugby goal kicking. Helena recently starred in Saracen's victory in the Womens Rugby Premier 15s Final shown live on Sky TV.

## Trim Trail

Following renovation to the Trim/Fitness Trail last year the bark was topped up and the Trim Trail is available to use by all.

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## Nature Trail

The Nature Trail continues to be used by the village school for its Forest Schools activities and by the general public. James Radcliffe organised volunteers to carry out a significant renovation to the nature trail in the last year. The pond was cleared of weeds and rushes with much undergrowth also cut back. Protective fencing has been installed and a buoyancy aid is to be installed by the ponds soon.

Other maintenance jobs include the repair of the kissing gate.

The Sportsfield is maintained to a high standard and the Sportsfield committee will endeavour to continue this and to further improve the facility for the benefit of the community and all other users. This requires funds and the committee are always looking for new ideas to help with this.

The Sportsfield is maintained by a large group of regular volunteers throughout the summer months, mowing the outfield every week from April through until the first frosts arrive. The committee greatly appreciate the help from these volunteers and wish to record their thanks.

We are also assisted by regular helpers, David Warner and Jon Martin, who carry out weekly duties and by Edward Radcliffe who cleans the clubhouse on a regular basis.

Grants will be used on the aforementioned fencing and gate as well as earmarked for work yet to do including:

- Decorating the outside of the clubhouse, which is of timber construction.

The Sportsfield Committee is very grateful to North Marston Parish Council for their continued support.

Another busy year lies ahead.

On behalf of the Sportsfield Committee

Trevor Lane (Chair), Pete Butler (Vice Chair), Andy Keegan (Treasurer), Gordon Bowden, Barry Kirwan, Ian Mordue, Richard Devas