

North Marston & Granborough Community Sports Field



NORTH MARSTON AND GRANBOROUGH COMMUNITY SPORTSFIELD UPDATE – MAY 2019

The Sportsfield continues to provide a valuable and well used space for residents to use as a facility for their recreation. The Junior Football and Cricket Clubs in particular are making full use of the field.

Junior Football

The Club continues its success with teams in the Milton Keynes District Development League from ages 7 to 17. Matches are played on Saturdays with multiple matches sometimes being played simultaneously.

Junior Cricket

The Junior Cricket Club continues to go from strength to strength. Last summer the club fielded sides at Under 9, U11, U12 and U13. This summer we will also field U15s for the first time and this represents an opportunity for juniors to step up to senior cricket in the near future. Each junior team has its own dedicated team of Coach, Manager and Scorers.

Senior Cricket

The Senior Cricket Team have a full programme of Sunday fixtures for the 2019 summer.

Outfield

Unfortunately the 2018 cricket season was curtailed somewhat by the dry, hot summer. Significant large cracks opened up all over the field meaning that the field became too dangerous for any sports activities half way through the summer. This influenced both cricket and football activities. Much work was done to try to rectify this including the use of 20 tonnes of soil to fill the gaps. We are grateful to the many volunteers who helped with this painstaking task. It was an uphill battle and many hours of sports were lost but hopefully the work done combined with more favourable weather have improved the situation.

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.

Nature Trail

The Nature Trail continues to be used by the village school for its Forest Schools activities and by the general public. The committee now has a specific member who liaises with BBOWT and other wildlife organisations for advice, support and resources.

Fundraising

A successful Race Night was organised in March and raised considerable funds for the continued maintenance of the sportsfield.

A combination of North Marston and Granborough PC funds granted last year were specifically used to:

- Decorate and re-treat the outside of the wooden pavilion. The grant purchased the materials and work was carried out by volunteers.
- Purchase a life buoy for the ponds.
- Safety fencing around the lower pond.
- Repair the kissing gate.

Latest grants are earmarked to replace and improve the signage at the road. We also aim to install a footpath between the clubhouse steps and the brick store where the ground remains particularly wet in bad weather.

The Sportsfield committee will endeavour to continue to maintain and to further improve the facility for the benefit of the community and all other users. There is current ongoing work to improve the cricket practice net area. All maintenance requires funds and the committee are always looking for new ideas and volunteers to help with this.

The Sportsfield Committee is very grateful to the Parish Councils of both Granborough and North Marston for their continued support.

On behalf of the Sportsfield Committee

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