**North Marston & Granborough**

**Community Sports Field**

**NORTH MARSTON AND GRANBOROUGH COMMUNITY SPORTSFIELD**

**UPDATE – MAY 2022**

The Sportsfield continues to provide a valuable and well used space for residents to use as a facility for their recreation as well as hosting several thriving clubs in the villages.

In addition to the football and cricket clubs, the sportsfield has also become the base for the North Marston & Granborough Bever and Scout Groups as well as a newly formed Lion Cubs grass root fun football group for 4 to 6 year old children.

# Junior Football

For the first time in a while, North Marston & Granborough FC has 5 mixed teams within the club – last year there were only 3. All 5 teams have had a great 21/22 season, achieving good results in the Milton Keynes District Development League. The club are currently carrying out a recruitment drive to strengthen the existing teams. They have also begun to recruit for the next under 7’s team with the hope that from season 22/23, the club will have 6 teams for children aged 6-12.

This season, the club are very pleased to have secured a free Automated External Defibrillator (AED) and an external Storage Cabinet from the Premier League Defibrillator Fund. The AED and the cabinet will be installed on the outer wall of pavilion which will benefit residence from the village and other clubs and societies that use the sport field facility.

# Junior Cricket

Cricket in 2021 was interrupted early on in the season by the pandemic but our sides did manage to complete most of their matches. The Juniors were represented by teams at U9, U11, U13 & U15 and all apart from the younger age group, played in the Aylesbury & District Cricket League, travelling out to Thame, Stewkley, Wendover and Waddesdon amongst others.

Each team has a lead coach and we are lucky to be supported by the parents in the roles of managers and scorers. The season begins in February with winter nets and ends in July, however the U11’s team carried on training throughout summer, such is the enthusiasm of their coach. Great to see.

2022 has started well with an increase in players and for the first time an U17’s team who will be playing friendly matches against local opposition. Also, due to start very soon is Allstars Cricket. This caters for children under the age of 7 and is always well attended.

We have also hosted two large cricket events in April and May for Bucks Cricket with hundreds of school children in attendance on the sportsfield. A great sight to see.

A big plus for our club, with huge thanks to Richard Devas for his tireless work for the Junior Cricket Club.

Senior Cricket

The Senior Cricket Team has struggled recently with player availability. New members are very welcome and we will be holding net practice each Tuesday from 24th May.

We managed just 2 fixtures in 2021 but again are looking to try to fulfil a full fixture list for this summer and are encouraging older junior members to play for the senior side.

North Marston & Granborough Scout Group

The beaver and cub groups have now started using the sports pavilion for their weekly meets as the combination of the large outfield facility, the nature trail and easy access to the scout storage unit has proved to work well for them. The Scouts continue to meet at the village school but use the field and storage unit in better weather conditions.

# Outfield

The field is in good shape having undergone its annual rolling and it will soon be weed treated. We rely on volunteers for the grass cutting rota and new names are always welcome for this.

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.

The CCTV system has now been installed following the successful trial of the same system at the North Marston Village Hall. This provides additional security for users and their equipment and greater peace of mind for the public.

# Nature Trail

The Nature Trail continued to be used by the village school for its Forest Schools activities and by the general public. The committee continues to liaise with Bucks, Berks & Oxford Wildlife Trust and other wildlife organisations for advice, support and resources.

Over the winter, areas were cleared within the Nature Trail and hedges cut back. This made the area far more user friendly. Wildflower seeds were sown in various places and we hope to see the rewards of this during the summer.

# Fundraising

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

* New signage
* CCTV cameras
* Ground maintenance equipment.

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. 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:**

Pete Butler (Joint Chair), Trevor Lane (Joint Chair & Cricket Club Seniors), Andy Keegan (Treasurer), Gordon Bowden (Secretariat & Cricket Club Juniors), Dave Williams (Football Club), Ian Mordue (Facilities), James Radcliffe (Groundsman), Karen Brooke (Scout Group Leader)