**North Marston & Granborough**

**Community Sports Field**



**NORTH MARSTON AND GRANBOROUGH COMMUNITY SPORTSFIELD**

**UPDATE – MAY 2024**

The Sportsfield continues to provide a valuable and well used space for residents to use as a facility for their recreation.

# Junior Cricket

Indoor cricket once again took place at the Sir Thomas Freemantle School in Winslow. We started earlier this year, commencing Friday 12th January with 2-hour sessions for a period of 10 weeks. All practise sessions were well attended.

The age groups represented were U7 with U9, and U11, U13 & U15’s in the second hour (total 59 Junior cricketers).

This year the U15’s do not have enough players to form a team therefore, sadly, we were unable to enter a team at this age group in the Bucks League. U11 & U13’s will represent North Marston & Granborough this season. The U9’s are at the younger end of the age band therefore it was decided to wait until next season before entering them into the League.

Each group has its own dedicated team of Coach, Manager & Scorers. We are always looking for volunteers to help with any of these roles and engage the parents where possible.

Matches were scheduled to start on 1st May but have been disrupted by the weather so far. Hopefully we will see a change in fortunes soon as we have 12 matches scheduled on the home pitch. A fixture schedule is attached.

# Senior Cricket

The Senior Cricket Team only managed two matches in 2023 due to lack of player availability and the weather. They continue to try to accommodate juniors in the adult team and are delaying matches for 2024 until Universities finish and further players return. New players are invited to join.

A mobile cricket net cage was purchased last year which has helped enable players at all age groups to practise out on the cricket square.

New mats for the fixed nets have also been installed.

# Junior Football

The Club continued its success with teams in the Milton Keynes District Development League from ages 7 to 15. Matches are played on Saturdays with multiple matches sometimes being played simultaneously on all three pitches. The Junior club now has 61 players and each group has its own dedicated team of Coaches. We are always looking for volunteers to help with any of these roles and engage the parents where possible.

In addition a Lions Cubs club has been established for boys and girls aged 5-7 years old (ie too young to register for league teams). This has now been successfully run by volunteer parents on a Sunday morning for 2 seasons and the membership has now expanded to 19 players.

The adult membership of the Football Club continue to play 5 aside at Aquavale, Aylesbury on a Wednesday night and has a membership of approx. 30 players.

North Marston junior school also use the facility for semi-regular football matches.

# Outfield

The outfield surface has struggled with the recent very hot and dry summers causing problems with the ground cracking up and by contrast the very wet winters. Sport has been curtailed as the cracks opened up and then subsequently became waterlogged which has also made the ground preparation very difficult. The solution is to carry out essential drainage/ improvement works to the Sportsfield and the Committee has applied for grant support to support this. The cost is £16,500 + VAT with contributions from the following to fund it:

Community Board £10,375

Sportsfield £4,125

NM PC £1000

Granborough PC £1000

The Sportsfield will also fund the upfront VAT albeit that it would subsequently be reclaimed by NMPC.

This work is planned to commence late May 2024 and will take 2/3 weeks to complete.

Fundraising

The NM&G Junior school PTA will be running a dog show and fete on Sportsfield on May 11th 2024 which will be a first of its kind. Any profit made from the event will be distributed to all the groups and charities who are supporting the event (Junior school, scouts, Sportsfield etc).

# Nature Trail

The Nature Trail continued to be used by the village school for its Forest Schools activities and by the general public and the organisers are currently trying to raise funds to improve the forest school area. With the Sportsfield Committee support, they have already upgraded the protected seating are used by the children with a new canopy, seating and kitchen area and are looking for further funding to install a small storage shed potentially with a composting toilet and hand washing area (to avoid having to use the pavilion every time).

In November 2023, the Sportsfield Committee with support from village volunteers and the scouts cleared overgrowth within the Nature Trail and cut back hedges. This has made the area far more user friendly. Thank you to the volunteers and scouts who helped and made this possible.

1st Granborough Scout Group

The Beavers, Cubs and Scouts continue to use the pavilion and sportsfield areas for their meetings on a Tuesday and Wednesday evening with over 50 children involved. The Scout Group successfully applied for a second storage unit to be installed adjacent to the existing one to allow them more flexibility and greater capacity. They are currently in the process of connecting the two units with a roof (for weather protection and to house solar panels) and with cladding the exterior in wooden planks to match the existing unit. The Scouts have also agreed to pay an ongoing contribution to the Sportsfield for use of the facilities and consumables to align them with the football and cricket clubs.

# Building and Stores

During the winter improvements have been made in areas around the pavilion and brick store. Handrails and additional steps have been installed to the steps down from the Pavilion in response to safety issues that had been raised.

A new concrete ramp has also been installed at the far end of the brick store. The Old ramp had subsided by approx. 150mm last summer in the dry conditions.

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 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**

Trevor Lane (Co Chair), Pete Butler (Co Chair), Ian Mordue (Treasurer & Facilities), Gordon Bowden (Secretary), James Radcliffe (Ground Maintenance).

Attachment: Junior Cricket Fixture Schedule

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Day** | **Date** | **Team** | **Venue** | **Opposition** |
| Wednesday | 1st May | U11 | A | Stewkley Vicarage |
| Thursday | 2nd May | U13 | H | Chearsley |
| Wednesday | 8th May | U13 | H | Thame Town |
| Sunday | 12th May | U11 | A | Wendover Girls |
| Tuesday | 14th May | U11 | H | Buckland & Aston Clinton |
| Thursday | 16th May | U13 | H | Haddenham |
| Wednesday | 22nd May | U11 | A | Cublington |
| Thursday | 23rd May | U13 | A | MP Sports Academy |
| Wednesday | 29th May | U13 | A | Aston Rowant |
| Thursday | 6th June | U13 | H | Buckland & Aston Clinton |
| Wednesday | 12th June | U11 | H | Chearsley |
| Thursday | 13th June | U13 | H | Cublington |
| Wednesday | 19th June | U11 | H | Waddesdon |
| Thursday | 20th June | U13 | H | Waddesdon |
| Wednesday | 26th June | U11 | H | Cublington |
| Sunday | 30th June | U11 | A | Waddesdon |
| Thursday | 4th July | U13 | A | Dinton |
| Wednesday | 10th July | U11 | H | Wendover Girls |
| Thursday | 11th July | U13 | A | Bledlow |
| Tuesday | 16th July | U11 | H | Stewkley Vicarage |