**North Marston & Granborough**

**Community Sports Field**



**NORTH MARSTON AND GRANBOROUGH COMMUNITY SPORTSFIELD**

**UPDATE – MAY 2021**

The Sportsfield continues to provide a valuable and well used space for residents to use as a facility for their recreation, particularly so right now as we are all restricted in our lives due to the coronavirus pandemic.

# Junior Football

The football 20/21 season started off very well, our 3 teams were getting great results in the Milton Keynes District Development League. We also began recruiting for younger teams, the club held weekly taster sessions at the sports field and generated an overwhelming response. Unfortunately like many other sports clubs, we had to pause all games after Christmas due to lockdown. With the gradual relaxation of government guidelines, match play, taster sessions & training resumed and the teams continue to thrive within the league. From next season, the club will have 5 teams U7s-U11s. All league matches are played on Saturdays with multiple matches sometimes being played simultaneously on all three pitches.

# Junior Cricket

2020 was pretty much a non-event for the cricket club due to the coronavirus.

The Junior section with teams of U9, U11, U13 and U15 were not able to play any of their scheduled matches due to the restrictions in place but the U13/U15 did manage to get in three practise net sessions, albeit with limited numbers, between lockdowns.

As a result of the pandemic our older group missed out on their final appearances which was particularly sad, but we hope many of them, now over age for our Junior teams, will continue their cricket with our senior team.

# Senior Cricket

The Senior Cricket Team 2020 season was decimated by the Covid pandemic. We managed to play one home fixture against the old enemy Mursley, that was subject to the safety guidelines of the English Cricket Board (ECB). These matches have been finely balanced over the last few years and on this occasion the scales tipped in favour of Mursley in another closely fought game.

We have a full programme of Sunday fixtures for the 2021 summer that we hope to be able to fulfil. New members are welcome and we hold net practice every Tuesday evening.

# Outfield

The field in general provided the villagers with a welcome open space to use when the government guidance allowed through the pandemic. However organised sport was severely curtailed in 2020 and early 2021. 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 field is also a popular venue for the local North Marston & Granborough Beaver, Cub & Scout groups who have a storage facility in site. Installation of the CCTV system is imminent after the successful trial of the same system at the North Marston Village Hall. This will provide 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 now has a specific member who liaises with BBOWT 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 will be used for:

* New signage
* CCTV cameras
* A path to link clubhouse and machinery store
* 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), Trevor Jenkins (Nature Trail).