

10th April 2024

Stowupland CC Annual Parish Meeting Report

2023 Summary

2023 saw the biggest infrastructure changes the club has seen for a while. Funding and investment into new site screens, a CIL funded ride on mower, an electronic scoreboard, and gifted container for secure storage. The additions have fast tracked the club's modernisation and improved the experience of players and volunteers.

The 2023 season on the pitch was a tough one. Whilst battling with player availability the first team maintained their divisional status, meanwhile the second team used the promotion of players into the first team as an opportunity to field some of our even younger talent from the youth coaching pool who stepped up and held their own.

Ground and pitch

Thanks goes to our groundsman, Jon Wray and helpers whose tireless work ensure we have an enviable pitch to play on. Being selected to host matches for Suffolk youth games is testament to the many hours put in to prepare and maintain a good wicket and great looking ground.

Our relationship with the football club has been great and we thank Mark and the club for assisting with the protection of our square and surrounding areas with the use of matting. We appreciate the extra effort gone to and notice the difference to previous seasons already.

We fully support and encourage the redevelopment of the village hall and social club as this will help us move forward and achieve more.

Youth section

This continues to thrive with over 80 children signed up and teams ranging from u7s to u15s. Huge thanks to Andrew Blanchard who leads our winter coaching. Starting in January and with fixtures up to the end of summer we are making summer sport more accessible. We now have 9 qualified coaches. This is a massive success for us as a club that has built up the youth coaching over the last 20+ years.

Fundraising

Our popular monthly quiz night has been running for over 5 years. We're fully booked every month and utilise the social club as a hub for the local community whilst raising essential funds for the club.

Our aim is still to have a permanent 2 lane net facility for training and we look to progress discussions with the school to achieve this.

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Foundation

We've launched and have started partnering with local groups. Working with the Mid Suffolk Leisure Centre we have volunteered our time at Sporting Memories sessions and funded Clock Cricket, aimed at older people and those with dementia. We've also assisted Stowmarket Lions with their annual Santa's Sleigh. Our fundraising has already reached over £2000. We are planning a free kid's cricket camp in the summer holidays and continue to be on the lookout for potential partners and beneficiaries.

Committee

We welcome new members and say goodbye to others on the committee. The positivity and the application of the new members compliments our existing group as we remain an active and forward thinking committee.

2024

We look forward to the season starting this month with new first team captain Louis Blanchard in post, leading them in division 5 of the Two Counties leagues. Our second team will be competing in division 9.

We play our games on Saturday afternoons and there are home games most weeks from 27th April through to mid September. We welcome spectators to watch, the social club bar will be open, so please join us for an enjoyable summer of cricket.

Many Thanks,

Stowupland CC Committee