

Cricket Club

The Cricket Club was founded in 1963 by village inhabitants, and is now situated in the field in Oringbury Road by courtesy of the Spooner family and Pytchley Farms. The ground and pavilion are maintained by club members, with only occasional use of outside contractors. It is an idyllic village setting for cricket, where both home and visiting teams enjoy playing, despite the limited facilities. The club only plays friendly matches, although the possibility of joining a Northants league has been contemplated, and we have a team (8 members) taking part in indoor cricket at Wellingborough.

The 2009 season will start on April 19th with a home match against Lubenham, and we will provide Barbara Lodge with a complete list of fixtures for inclusion in the Parish newsletter. In preparation for the new season we will be holding indoor nets at Montagu School on Sundays from 8th March to 5th April 6-7 p.m. We are very keen to encourage new players, and would therefore be pleased to welcome young or experienced potential cricketers who might wish to join us in these informal sessions. Pytchley residents would be particularly welcome, and anyone wishing to play should contact the club captain Craig Chambers, Chris Weston (01536 485164) or any club member.

Presently the club is carrying out some substantial repairs to the pavilion, which was acquired second-hand from McAlpine over 25 years ago, and is now showing its age. Thus the purchase of a new structure is under serious consideration, although this would need a great deal of finance. We have recently held our annual Quiz night in the Village Hall, which was again most successful, with a full hall, and full participants after the half time buffet! We are grateful for the support that this major fundraising event has enjoyed in recent years. We are now registered as a Community Amateur Sports Club (CASC), which gives us charitable status, and consequently we are eligible for relief under the Gift Aid Scheme.

I hope this report is of interest to the Parish Council and the village in general. We feel that the Cricket Club is a valuable aspect of village life in Pytchley and is worthy of Parish Council's support if required.

Alan Hargreaves