



BIDBOROUGH CRICKET CLUB

Founded 1893

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**BIDBOROUGH  
SPORTING  
FIXTURES**

**2023**

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*Photo Credit Rebecca Pate*



## CLUB KIT

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## CHAIRMANS

# REPORT

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## SUMMER OF 2022...SURVIVAL

The previous two summers had been ruined by the Corona-virus epidemic and the more leisurely sport golf adopted by our more senior players at the start of the season. In addition a number of our more talented players joined Kent league clubs to improve their standard of cricket and in many ways, we are delighted to have produced such promising cricketers although it is without doubt we wish they could have spent a little longer with Bidborough Cricket. With other pressures on other individuals having to work more hours, we found a diminishing number of players to sustain our sides. These trends are being found throughout cricket in all parts of the country so we are far from being unique and are comforted that we still have a membership and the support that is envied throughout the village league.

So with a very difficult start to the 2022 season not helped by the first team captain sustaining a broken wrist, we found that we could not sustain four teams and had to cancel games. Indeed at the start of the year we struggled to get out three teams and it was only due to heroic efforts of the three captains and their calling in favours amongst friends that we managed to sustain these three sides throughout. However another trend arising from covid and not playing cricket regularly meant that the attraction of rival events

# BIDBOROUGH CRICKET CLUB

impacted on availability always being an issue and we rarely reached a point where we could regularly produce sides that fully reflected our abilities.

Coupled with our long term groundsman and our senior umpire having to undergo operations, the first few weeks into the season were difficult with dispiriting defeats across all sides. With the first team bottom of the league, relegation was staring us in the face and after managing to persuade some of our stalwarts back and the benefit of a couple of university boys returning we rallied to win 8 out of the last 10 games resulting in a credible fourth finish.

The second and third teams did rally but only occasionally got the right side of results with the last Saturday of the season producing three wins. On the plus this did point to growing strength in our sides.

Once again we were grateful to our juniors helping out in our senior teams and the continued success of the numbers in our junior section ranging from a starting age of 5 up through our teams to under 15 level. This is a reflection of the hard work by all the organizers and coaches throughout the year. However, we always need more help and anybody who would like to take on coaching qualifications, we would be very happy to assist with financial help. We still want to set up ladies' teams but feel we have to offer more modern facilities before this is viable.

Finance has also been an issue throughout the past couple of years. We have been unable to have the level of fundraising as we have had in the past and with the playing numbers lower also having an impact. As such, we are grateful to our sponsors for their continued support but we are always on the lookout for new sources of support - any ideas or possibilities, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

## HONOURS BOARD

Charlie Thorne	1st v Meopham 6 - 19 incl Hat trick
George Baker	1st v Eynsford 7 - 16
Archie Wells	1st v Linton park 6 - 22
Alex Latham	2nd v Underriver 100 not out
Ant Davis	3rd v leigh 2's 126 not out



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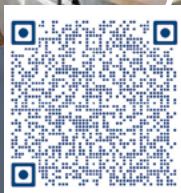
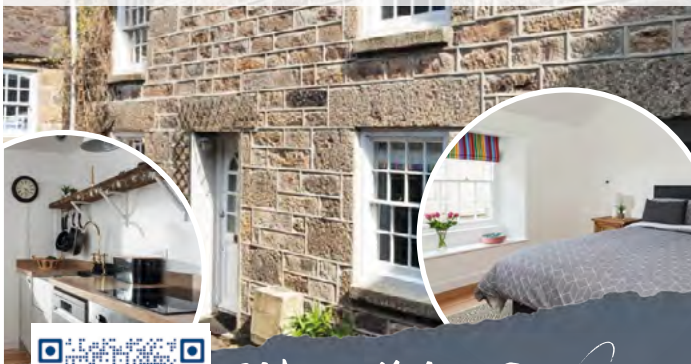
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As mentioned, a successful year for the junior section which culminated in a presentation afternoon on 17 September and the following awards.

I would like to thank all members of the Committee and those organisers and coaches of the junior section for all their efforts throughout the year - from survival in 2022, we look forward to a thriving and growing section in 2023.

**Doug Moore**

Club Chairman

[bidboroughcricketclub.org.uk](http://bidboroughcricketclub.org.uk)

## JUNIOR AWARDS 2022

### U11

U11 Managers Player	Rory Bowman
U11 Players Player	Thomas Farnell
U11 Most Improved	Ellis Hall
U11 Bowling Award	Krish Patel
U11 Batting Award	Owne Marshall

### U13A

U13 A Managers Player	Senul Weerasinghe
U13 A Players Player	Jonathan Bowler
U13 A Most Improved	Ryley Johnson
U13 A Bowling Award	James Reid
U13 A Batting Award	Jonathan Bowler

### U13B

U13 B Managers Player	Max Cowie
U13 B Players Player	George Gosbee
U13 B Most Improved	Max Abbot
U13 B Bowling Award	Joe Marston
U13 B Batting Award	Max Cowie

### U15

U15 Managers Player	Rupert Pittman
U15 Players Player	Tom Costello
U15 Most Improved	Isaac Boulton
U15 Bowling Award	Amir Deane
U15 Batting Award	Rupert Pittman

# BCC JUNIORS 2023

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REMI CHEA

Director of  
Junior Coaching



JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT  
AWARD AND TANKARD -  
RUPERT PITTMAN



## Dear Parents & Supporters of Bidborough Juniors

I hope to find you all well - I'd like to introduce myself to you and explain some of the new positive changes that are being made to our Junior Section to be implemented over the course of the 2023 winter season.

Over the past few months, the clubs committee have identified junior cricket as a real growth area for the club, whereby after speaking to many of the committee (thanks to Alex Latham and co.), I applied and have accepted an invitation to join the club as Director of Junior Coaching.

I've coached around the London and Kent for around 10 years working within Area Programmes and for the county. I'm an experienced Level 2, soon to be Level 3 advanced, qualified cricket coach. I am passionate about cricket and even more about the development of young cricketers. I work



across a few different roles - my main is Lead Coach of Kent CAG U14's. My priority when coaching is to ensure all players are engaged and challenged in each session whilst having fun. I take nothing for granted in my approach to coaching as I still remember my early coaches and cricket experiences they have at Bidborough will be long lasting.

In a snapshot, I want to create an organised and safe environment where the club better engages with the needs of the players and supporters to create a wider sense of community and fun. The club will be sending out further information soon and I'm going to send a survey as I want to better understand your views on the junior cricket.

Also, to make an early request, I undoubtedly will need your support, especially during summer season as we've got the opportunity to really create something special.

### **Junior Cricket Committee**

We are also in the process of formalising a Junior committee, terms of which will be confirmed but it is likely to meet 6-8 times per year. Alongside the support previously mentioned, I am seeking a parent representative to stand on the committee. I want to open an additional method to communicate directly into the club. This will also provide an opportunity for parents/supporters to raise things indirectly and still have their voice heard. If you are interested in doing so, please contact me or Susan Steptowe for more information.

### **Winter Training Programme**

Winter training for Under 11's and 13's - we aim to focus on developing a love for all aspects of the game and learning new skills to implement in net practise or match play.

Under 15s and young adults - the focus will be on learning and understanding their games and on surviving and

# BIDBOROUGH CRICKET CLUB

thriving under pressure and how to put pressure back on oppositions. Strength and conditioning to ensure the players are robust and ready for the season.

This has been based on Kent Cricket's Talent Development Framework.

## **Bidborough Elite Player Programme (EPP)**

Post winter training, the coaches and I will review and identify players who we believe have high potential and will be inviting a small number of players for specialist **1 to 1** and small group coaching sessions during the summer to enhance their provision for cricket. This will come at a small additional cost but the aim is to provide these players with opportunity to develop their skill set in a focused practise and prepare them for next parts of the pathway as they move onwards. More information on this to follow.

For now, I think that covers most things - Im keen to hear any thoughts or field any questions.

Remi Chea

[bidboroughcricketclub.org.uk/juniors](http://bidboroughcricketclub.org.uk/juniors)

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## JUNIOR FIXTURES

Week commencing

4th May into July

U11 - midweek

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U13 - Sunday mornings

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U15 - Sundays mornings

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## FEATURE DATES

Summer Training

4th May to 13th July @ Tonbridge School

U11s - 5:30pm to 7pm

U13s + U15s - 7pm to 8:30pm

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Summer Nets @ Tonbridge School - Senior Adults training 7:00pm to 8:30pm

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### **CLUB SAFEGUARDING OFFICER**

*Ensure that all members conduct themselves in a manner which complies with the ECB Safeguarding code and that any concerns or complaints regarding the welfare or safety of a Child and/or Adult are handled appropriately.*

*Key to this process are the senior group Captains and also the juniors coaches and coordinators who receive regular updates through the ECB system.*

*Members and parents are encouraged to raise any concerns they have regarding their welfare at the club and the Club Safeguarding Officer is the first point of call.*

*Andy Maritz, Child Welfare Officer*

THE ARTHUR NICHOLSON

# RECREATION GROUND

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HAS MAJOR NICHOLSON'S LEGACY BEEN TAINTED...

In 1929, Major Herbert Nicholson purchased four plots of land from the Church authorities which totalled just over 10 acres of land and by virtue of a Trust Deed dated 3 August 1929 gifted the land into the possession of Bidborough Parish Council ( held in trust ). This was done in memory of his son, Arthur, who was killed in action in the First World War.

This was done for the residents of Bidborough but ' especially for cricket ' but also for all outdoor sports, outdoor recreations and outdoor entertainments as undertaken by those residents. Clearly his wish, which is contained in the Trust Deed, is for a very active area that can be enjoyed on a regular basis by the residents.

Having bought the land, three of the plots of land were thought to be unsuitable for the playing of sport and in the early 1930's, these were sold for housing development with the proceeds allowing for the first pavilion to be constructed in 1935. Major Nicholson was still alive at this point and it is believed that he was fully supportive of these decisions.

Therefore the Recreation Ground ( a term used for sports grounds in the 1920's and 30's ) is the size we know now although over the years, there have been changes to the land use including the formation of the Bowls Club in 1965

and changes to the play area, particularly when it was revamped in the winter of 1994/5.

When the Trust Deed was established, Major Nicholson decreed that the area should be run by a Committee of Management consisting of three members of the sports clubs (cricket, stoolball and tennis being the three sports existing in 1929 ) and three members nominated by the Parish Council. His wish was that there should be equal

representation between those who used the ground ( namely the sports clubs) and those who paid for the upkeep of the ground (namely the Parish Council). There is no provision for what happens if matters are tied ; a clear suggestion that the members need to find solutions that are acceptable to the majority of members on such a Management Committee.

It has been suggested that the Bowls Club needs to be



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represented on such a committee given that it has been added as a sport since 1965. However the legal advice is that a Trust Deed is difficult to alter and that such alterations are both timely and expensive. In a practical sense, offering observer status to the Bowls Club on the Management Committee would ensure that their voice could be heard on matters that might affect their club.

The Management Committee ran in the early years but a significant change occurred with the decision to build a new pavilion in the late 1970's. At this time, the Arthur Nicholson Recreation Ground became registered as a charity while permission was sought from the Charities Commission to lease part of the site to the newly formed Bidborough Sports Association. The site of the new pavilion, the bowls green and the tennis court was to be leased from the Parish Council so that

grants could be obtained from the Sports Council in that they needed an interest in the land before making any grants.

However the Charities Commission were not at all certain that a lease could be granted in relation to the Trust Deed and after an initial refusal, did agree a Deed of Variation in August 1982 although the wording of the lease does suggest that they remain very uncertain whether the granting of a lease would stand up to legal scrutiny. Subsequent leases signed in 2002 and 2017 have not been verified by the Charities Commission and their attitude to such is not known, particularly as the underlying reason for its granting as in obtaining of grants is no longer valid.

With the formation of the Bidborough Sports Association, management and financial responsibility of the leased land moved away from the Manage-

ment Committee and Parish Council respectively. Certainly it looks highly unlikely that the Management Committee was involved in the decision making for extending the play area in the early 1990's in that the Chairman of the Cricket Club complained that it was now directly behind the bowler's arm but this did not appear to have been considered. Incredibly the play area opened in the spring of 1995 without any protective netting such that people were surprised when two balls were hit into the play area on the first week-end of the season. It appears therefore that all parties were not being consulted in that such fundamental issues had not been addressed.

Recent years have seen a further diminution of the Management Committee role in this was disbanded in 2002, parish councillors were not informed of their role as Trustees of the ground while the Trust Account

specified in the Trust Deed was closed after funds were spent on equipment not in the Recreation Ground. From our research, this was all done without any specific legal advice and without any reference to the Charities Commission. It does appear that certain individuals associated with the Parish Council were seeking to nullify the specific provisions contained in the Trust Deed and prevent those involved with the sports clubs in taking their rightful place as part of the decision making process for the ground.

Major Nicholson gave the land to the village for sports and recreation noting that in respect of cricket 'this national game may be always in the forefront of the Village sports and recreation'. Based upon such remarks, it seems that nothing should happen on the ground that interferes with the game of cricket but also that other activities could and should happen on the ground subject to that



proviso. Sporting endeavour is the main purpose of the area and a wide range of sports should be encouraged.

However to many in the village, it appears that their sole belief is that land should be for walking dogs and for a play area for children and that the original gift for the playing of sport should be over-ridden. The cricket club has no objections to the provision of a play area on the ground but notes that they remain extremely concerned about the dangers of travelling cricket balls such that they will require an area to be completely caged and as far as practical from the cricket square to minimise the danger. They do note that there is an alternative site which would greatly reduce the danger but if it is to be within the confines of the recreation ground, they do require extensive consultation to ensure that the dangers are minimised to prevent an accident which everybody in the community should be seeking.

The Trust Deed does reflect the views and wishes of Major Nicholson. Inevitably the words are a little dated but our legal friends tell us that it is very difficult to change a document. Therefore we do need to respect such a document and we look forward to the cricket season of 2023 with a hope and expectation that the document is properly respected, the role of the sports clubs in making decisions is once again fully restored and a sporting ground with modern and updated facilities can provide a home for those who want sport to prosper, alongside the other activities that fit around the fundamental purpose of the ground.

# BIDBOROUGH CRICKET CLUB

## LIFE VICE PRESIDENTS

### **PRESIDENT**

Brian Wood

Robin Foster

Doug Moore

David Tolhurst

Rodger Poulsom

David Shepherdson

David Pinchin MBE

Mrs Sue Steptowe

## VICE PRESIDENTS

Joe Arnold

James Baldock

Colin Barber

Paul Barber

Robin Brown

Don Buckland

Justin Clarkson

Peter French

Richard Gray

Simon Bussell

Ray Grayland

Roger Harrison

Mrs Olive Harrison

Sam Howes

Mark Jeffrey

Richard Johnson

Mrs Jenny Keates

Brian Kelly

Mrs Christine Kelly

Martin King

Jon Langley

Ken Marsh

Mrs Susan Marsh

Alan Marshall

Kiran Masrani

Rob Masters

Sir Keith Mills

Lady Maureen Mills

Geoffrey Mitchell OBE

Shenley Moore

Freddie Morris

Dr. Gordon Mungeam

Robin Peterson

Mrs Tracy Poulsom

Andy Redden

Pat Rossiter

Charles Richards

Mrs E Shepherdson

Kevin Stanton

Andrew Steptowe

Mrs Ann Stevens

Roy Stevens

Chris Terry

Mrs Kerry Thorne

Michael Towner

Mrs Joyce Waller

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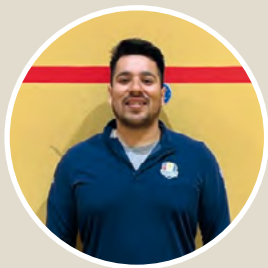
Mrs Sue Wallington

Pat Wigger

## OFFICERS OF THE CLUB

President	Brian Wood
Chairman	Doug Moore: 07774 120155
Vice Chairman (Joint)	Rodger Poulson David Shepherdson
Hon Secretary	Robin Peterson: 26 Grosvenor Park TN1 28D
Hon Treasurer	Matthew White: 01732 365119 21 Glebelands Bidborough TN3 0UQ
Hon Auditor	Colin Barber
Fixture Secretary	Mark Mitchell: 077366 30443 markmitchell@murphygroup.co.uk
Social Secretary	Chris Wallington: 07701 387138
1st XI Captain	Dale Hillhouse: 07780 469643
2nd XI Captain	Alex Latham: 07734 815931
3rd XI Captain	Clint Hillhouse: 07818 551003
Midweek Captain	Dale Hillhouse: 07780 469643
Sunday Captain	Archie Wells: 07512 837 430
Council Rep.	Tony Ham: 01892 528348
League Rep.	Clint Hillhouse: 07818 551003
Club Mark	Andy Maritz: 07762 207135
Club Welfare Officer	Andy Maritz: 07762 207135
Club Social Media	George Alton: 07521 832 800

# BCC JUNIORS



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Director of Junior Coaching  
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**SUE STEPTOWE**  
Secretary, Membership & Fixtures  
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**ELI CLARKSON**  
Chairman  
m. 07534 007373



**ANDY MARITZ**  
Child Welfare  
m. 07762207135

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## MATCH FEES

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3XI - Eridge Green, Eridge Road, Tunbridge Wells TN3 9JJ

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WEBSITE** [www.bidboroughcricketclub.org.uk](http://www.bidboroughcricketclub.org.uk)

### KENT COUNTY VILLAGE LEAGUE WEBSITE

<http://kentcountyvillage.play-cricket.com/home/home.asp>

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## 1ST XI FIXTURES 2023

Date	Opponent	Venue	Time
May 6	Outwood	Home	13.00
13	Speldhurst	Away	13.30
20	Cudham Wyse	Home	13.30
27	Eynsford	Away	13.30
June 3	Bearsted	Away	13.30
10	Marden	Home	13.30
17	Four Elms	Home	13.30
24	Farningham	Away	13.30
July 1	Limpsfield Chart	Home	13.30
8	Outwood	Away	10.00
15	Speldhurst	Home	13.30
22	Cudham Wyse	Away	13.30
29	Eynsford	Home	13.30
Aug 5	Bearsted	Home	13.30
12	Marden	Away	13.30
19	Four Elms	Away	13.30
26	Farningham	Home	13.00
Sept 6	Limpsfield Chart	Away	13.00

*[1st XI were the 1993, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2011, 2015, 2017 & 2018 Division 1 winners of the Kent County Village League]*

# BIDBOROUGH CRICKET CLUB

## 2ND XI FIXTURES 2023

Date	Opponent	Venue	Time
May 6	Luddesdowne	Away	13.00
13	Locksbottom	Home	13.30
20	Halstead	Away	13.30
27	Stonewall Park	Home	13.30
June 3	Underriver	Home	13.30
10	Hadlow	Away	13.30
17	St Lawrence	Away	13.30
24	Chiddingstone	Home	13.30
July 1	Limpsfield Chart	Away	13.30
8	Luddesdowne	Home	10.00
15	Locksbottom	Away	13.30
22	Halstead	Home	13.30
29	Stonewall Park	Away	13.30
Aug 5	Underriver	Away	13.30
12	Hadlow	Home	13.30
19	St Lawrence	Home	13.30
26	Chiddingstone	Away	13.00
Sept 2	Limpsfield Chart	Home	13.00

*[2nd XI were the 2007 and 2010 Division 3 winners and 2009 Division 4 2017 winners of the Kent County Village League]*





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## 3RD XI FIXTURES 2023

Date	Opponent	Venue	Time
May 6	Lenham	Away	13.00
13	Locksbottom	Home	13.30
20	Sissinghurst	Away	13.30
27	West Farleigh	Home	13.30
June 3	No Fixture	-	-
10	Leigh	Home	13.30
17	Luddesdowne	Home	13.30
24	No Fixture	-	-
July 1	Plaxtol	Home	13.30
8	Lenham	Home	10.00
15	Locksbottom	Away	13.30
22	Sissinghurst	Home	13.30
29	West Farleigh	Away	13.30
Aug 5	No Fixture	-	-
12	Leigh	Away	13.30
19	Luddesdowne	Away	13.30
26	No Fixture	-	-
Sept 2	Plaxtol	Away	13.00

Homeground - Eridge Green

## SUNDAY FIXTURES 2023

Date	Opponent	Venue	Time
May 28	Beechwood (@ Otford)	Away	13.30
July 23	Falconhurst	Home	13.30
Aug 20	Beechwood	Home	13.30
28	Big Bash	Home	10.00

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