

WARBOROUGH & SHILLINGFORD CRICKET CLUB

Chair
Chris Ward

Secretary
Dan Hartley



President
Colin Mercer

Treasurer
Andy Pugh

Report for Warborough Parish Council Annual Meeting

Wednesday 1st April 2026

The Cricket Club enjoyed a very full summer of cricket in 2025 thanks to the fine weather and the commitment of all our players, parents, coaches and other volunteers. The club put out teams in around 80 games spread between the Sunday XI, the Women's Team, and assorted junior teams from under 9s playing in Dynamos tournaments, to the different girls' teams to the Under 15 side. The purchase over the previous winter of a new mower to keep the outfield and indeed the Green looking good all summer proved a good investment though come August there was little to be done to counter the effects of the drought. Nevertheless, the opportunity to play on the Green remains very popular with all our visiting sides both young and old.

Sadly, the joy of a well-contested season was marred in the early autumn by the sudden and untimely death of Mark Searle who was well known to so many in the village. His love for cricket on the green was infectious, and he was foremost in welcoming visiting sides to the Green. As Chair of the Club, he oversaw the renovation of the pavilion with tireless energy. The space he leaves in the club is so much greater than just his name on the batting line up.

Looking ahead to the coming season, many of our junior players have already availed themselves of indoor winter training which has been running since January. The senior players will be starting outdoor nets on 9th April, and a warm invitation is extended to others who might be thinking of playing for the club this year. The nets remain a community facility, albeit with priority being given to the club for training at specific times during the week. We are looking to introduce a new booking system to manage this in the coming month.

Junior Training will take place on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings with matches being played on occasional Monday and Thursday evenings. Friday evenings will see the return of the orderly chaos that is All Stars and Dynamos Cricket. Both of these programmes are nearly full, but we can continue to welcome new players to our older junior groups. I am well aware that at times it must seem that cricket is ever present on the Green. As last season, we have tried to minimise the number of Saturday hires to offer some respite to the local community.

We are aware that part of the attraction of cricket on the Green has been our proximity to and relationship with the Six Bells and we hope that over the year ahead we can work with Parish groups to ensure that the fine tradition of hospitality can be maintained in whatever form.

Cricket on the Green in any form would not be possible without the support of the Parish Council and local community, and the club remains most grateful for that. If anyone would like to get in touch with the club, please visit our website www.warboroughcricket.com.

Chris Ward

Chair of Warborough and Shillingford Cricket Club