

Niffy News

Edition 5 – July 2015

DISABLED CRICKET COACHING

Working with Birkett House made the Club realise how challenging life can be for some people, and how success is not always measured by runs or wickets.

For some time, the Club has wanted to make Countesthorpe CC more inclusive. This year we have made two significant steps forward, firstly through the women's taster sessions on a Sunday morning, and secondly through sessions with Birkett House seniors, which finished at the end of the school year.

Birkett House seniors are based at Countesthorpe College, and is a school for 14 to 19s with learning difficulties and physical disabilities. We gave them the chance to come to the cricket club on a Thursday morning. Here we ran sessions of table cricket, followed by practices and games outside.

Table cricket is played on an adapted table tennis table, and the Lord's Taverners organize an annual competition for schools like Birkett House. This has a regional day at Grace Road (hosted by members of the England Women's team) and a final at Lord's.

Graham Popplewell and Richard Holdridge ran 10 sessions in total. Small groups of five or six students from year 10 attended for the first 9 weeks, with a 'big game' comprising everyone from the year playing the final week. The sessions followed a 'Kwik cricket' format, and a close match ensued with everyone keenly participating.

The young people enjoyed the sessions greatly, and met the various challenges that were appropriate to their abilities. Some would enjoy playing in a 'Kwik Cricket' team.

The Club hopes that the programme with Birkett House will continue next year. Maybe on a couple of evenings and potentially some games against Syston and Ibstock, the two other clubs in the county that are also working in a similar area.

The following quote summarizes the hard work that the Club has recently put in which makes it all worth it:

""Cricket may not be our favourite game, but you guys are awesome""

WHATS NEW?

As most of you know every Saturday during the season we have a game down at the ground, with either the first or second team playing. We have recently arranged to open up the bar at the club from 5pm.

All members can now use free wifi during this time so why not come down for a drink and watch some cricket?

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UPCOMING EVENTS...

We have the following events coming so please come along:

Friday 14th August – Junior DISCO

Following on from the successful disco held earlier in the year, we are holding another junior disco night. This will take place between 7-9:30 and tickets are £2.50 each. All children need to be accompanied by an adult. If you would like to purchase a ticket then please speak to Katherine Dean.

Sunday 16th August – Presidents Day

Our annual Presidents Day is being held at the cricket club and this year we are starting early with a car boot at gam. We will then have cricket later on in the day with food/drinks and a bouncy castle. If anybody would like to play in the kwik cricket (juniors) or sixers completion (adults) then please email James Popplewell at leicspops@hotmail.com or speak to a member of the Committee. This is a fun day for all of the family so please come down and support your club.

Sunday 20th September – Annual Golf Day

Due to tee off at 10:30 at Whetstone Golf Club, there are only 28 spaces available. It's £32, which includes food, golf and trophy. This is in memory of a great Clubman, former Club Captain, Chairman and President, John Clarke. To book a place, please speak to Matt Toon or Karl Hawker.

GRANT MONEY

The Club has successfully been awarded a grant to enhance its facilities approved by the Leicestershire & Rutland Cricket Board.

The financial boost will enable the club to continue to improve the Club House for the benefit of all members.

The funding forms part of the England and Wales Cricket Trust (EWCT) Small Grant Scheme, supported by Waitrose, which creates a sustainable future for affiliated cricket clubs through vital improvement of their facilities.

The Club Chairman, James Popplewell, said: "We are really delighted to receive this grant to upgrade our facilities. It's provided valuable support for what would have been an expensive project and helps provide a long term investment to benefit the local community here."

The Club has also just received further monies from the Edith Murphy Foundation which will enable the Club to look to develop the facilities even further including refurbishing the Club House.

100 CLUB UPDATE

The winners were:

May - 1st Prize : Terry Swingler 2nd Prize : Martin Maidstone

June - 1st Prize : George Tomlinson 2nd Prize : Simon Coombs

July - 1st Prize : Roger Buckley 2nd Prize : Chris Pople

The next draw will be held at the committee meeting on Friday 28th August.

Countesthorpe Cricket Club

If you have any news please let us know at vletts@outlook.com