

SHANKLIN & GODSHILL CRICKET CLUB

Westhill Road, Shanklin, Isle of Wight PO37 6PT

Covid 19 Update

Another month of lockdown has passed by and the garden has never looked so good. Sport has disappeared from our lives and my Sky Sports subscription has been cancelled. The refurbishment project has been put on hold, but we are confident that the pavilion will be ready when the restrictions are lifted and cricket can be played again.

The England Cricket Board have stated that there will be no cricket played until 1st July. I am sure that the situation will be reviewed before this date, and we all hope that we get at least 2 months cricket this year.

The Hampshire Cricket League have stated that if cricket starts again by Saturday 4th July, the existing fixtures must be honoured and there will be a league winner at the end of the season. However there will be no promotion and relegation. If cricket does not start by 4th July, the league will be cancelled for the year and the existing fixtures can be played as friendly matches.

The IW Cricket Board have not yet decided on their league cricket strategy.



Saturday 9th May - beautiful warm weather. The ground looks a treat but no cricket

Zoom Videoconference

The committee meeting on Tuesday 5th May was conducted through an online videoconference - a first for us. There were 13 participants - a record attendance at a committee meeting! We were able to discuss the financial implications resulting from the closure of the club, and also what work will be necessary to get the club ready for when cricket is resumed. This technology has enabled us to keep the club business going whilst conforming to the present restrictions imposed on us by the coronavirus. Thank you to Seb for setting up the conference. I am sure that we will be doing it again.

Bob Crawley, Hon Treasurer, reported that he had applied to several governmental sources for financial assistance. He has heard back from IW Council and Sport England who have both said that they are willing to give us a grant. More details later, and well done to Bob.



Ground News

Bunny has managed to cut down the lush grass on the outfield with the sit on mower and now is able to use the Toro mower to achieve a normal cut. The square has benefitted from the end of season work, and the recently applied fertiliser has ensured that the square looks perfect.

Bunny assures us that the ground will be ready when cricket resumes.

We purchased the Toro mower two years ago from a golf club on the mainland. It was given a service at Stubbings Bros during the winter. Unfortunately we have been advised that a major overhaul is required and this will cost about £5k. However the good news is that the machine will be fit for many more years use. The committee will decide at the end of the season whether to commit to the Toro or look at other options.

I am pleased to report that there has been no evidence of mole activity in the club grounds.

The large Ash trees at the Shanklin mews end of the ground have been affected by the Ash Die Back disease. These trees will sadly have to be removed in future if they pose a safety threat.

Membership Renewal

The enforced ban on outdoor sporting activities has hit all clubs and associations. Expenses are still being incurred to maintain existing facilities. We have to keep our ground ready for when the ban is lifted and we can resume playing cricket. We need to buy fuel, service machinery, pay utility bills and insurance. Our only source of income at present is membership fees. So despite the fact that there is no cricket likely to be played until after 1st July, I urge everyone to renew their membership, and give the club a chance to hit the ground running when cricket is resumed. Richard Lloyd is our membership secretary and he can be contacted on richlloyd1@me.com.

Junior Cricket

The **All Stars** training has obviously been put on hold. The ECB have put on an online programme to try and salvage something for those youngsters who have already signed up.

Dan Attrill (u13) is to be congratulated on being selected for winter training at the Hampshire Academy.

Unfortunately this has been curtailed during the lockdown, but now that he is in the system I am sure that he will

continue to benefit from their coaching. He is pictured above preparing a cricket pitch at home so that he can practice his batting against less than ideal parental bowling.

The IWCB have put together a Cricket Challenge for those young players who want to do some practice at home. Details can be found on the IWCB website.

End of Lockdown

I will send out an SOS to the club membership when there is news of a resumption of cricket. The pavilion will need a special spring clean.

