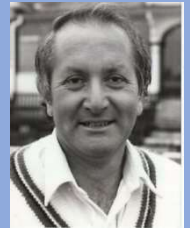


CRICKET AT WILDEN VILLAGE CRICKET CLUB

The land, originally part of Hartlebury Common, was turned from farmland into a playing field in 1978. A cricket wicket was prepared that year using topsoil from British Sugar, Kidderminster and prepared with a machinery borrowed from Laws Plant Hire on the Wilden Industrial Estate.



Matches followed the following year. The artificial wicket was added with grant aid (£4300) in 1984 and officially opened by Basil d'Oliveira.



The artificial wicket was repositioned to accommodate an enlarged football pitch and later a new covering was added.

At its peak there were in excess of 80 matches played per season, Wednesday and Sunday leagues, plus friendly matches all bringing in much needed revenue to develop the club's facilities. The club developed its own Saturday league involving local pub teams playing a reduced version of the game, allowing two games to be played each Saturday afternoon. Wilden supplied teams on each day and became the only 2nd division team to win the coveted League Cup before climbing to Premier League runners up.



As the team aged, interest waned, before the club no longer provided a representative team. The field still offers cricketing facilities for those willing to take on the organisational challenge in an idyllic setting.



The club still provides the base for the Wilden Industrial Estates Cricket League and has provided this league's home for over 40 years and its secretary for 45 years.