

## **Redevelopment of the Cricket Pavilion**

Ashton residents are being offered the chance to play their part in helping the village cricket club to realise its ambition of modernising and extending its 25 year old pavilion.

In March, Ashton Cricket Club was delighted to hear that it had been awarded £50,000 after a successful grant application to Sport England's Inspired Facilities funding programme.

The project will involve a new entrance, changes to the lounge area and an extension to the far side of the building to include an extra changing room for use by juniors or officials, a new ladies' toilet (with full disabled access), and much needed extra storage space for kit and equipment.

The club is keen to make these improvements not just for the benefit of its playing members, but also to provide better facilities for the use of the local community.

However, one of the conditions of any grant funds being released was that the club needed to raise at least £5,000 as its contribution to the project.

A number of successful fundraising events have already been held this year, including the club's ever popular village social evening at the end of the school term which saw hundreds of people flock to the playing fields to enjoy live music and games including the now-legendary egg-throwing contest, which "smashed" its own record with about 100 people taking part in pairs.

On Saturday, November 15th, Ashton Cricket Club president Bill Shirra ran another of his excellent general knowledge quizzes at the Village Hall which raised several hundred pounds for the pavilion fund.

The proceeds from the various fund raisers have been boosted by generous financial support from both the Parish Council and the Social Centre. The Club has reached its original £5,000 target, but with quotes received from a number of local builders, it has become clear that further fund raising will be required to complete the project.

The next major event is a **Race Night** - always a popular and fun evening - in **Ashton Village Hall on Saturday, February 21st**. Watch out for more details.

Although the club is now confident of reaching its basic fundraising target of £5,000, it is extremely keen to raise significantly more, in view of higher-than-expected building costs and the desire to provide extra items that will enhance the new-look pavilion even more.

To help push on with fundraising, Ashton Cricket Club recently launched a special **"Building for the Future"** appeal which will hopefully result in the creation of an attractive display of colourful sponsored tiles on an interior wall of the new-look clubhouse.

The idea is to have each tile sponsored by an individual or family to the tune of £20. Current and former players and supporters have already been approached and a number have already pledged their support.

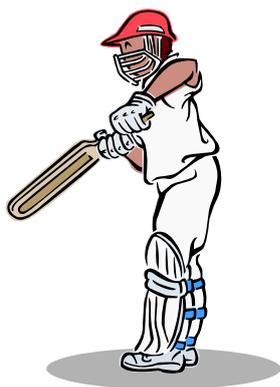
The club is also keen for village residents, whether they're interested in cricket or not, to offer their support. The cricket pavilion has been used for various village activities for many years, and the Cricket Club's vision is for it to become even more of a community hub.

Anyone pledging £20 to sponsor a tile can have their own name put on a tile, or their family's name, or the name of a loved one they particularly want to remember. There is no limit on the number of tiles people can sponsor!

The scheme is being co-ordinated by cricket club committee member David Wood. If you would like to take part, or you would like more information, please contact David, preferably via [wood.david83@gmail.com](mailto:wood.david83@gmail.com) or call him on [01386 881402](tel:01386881402).

Donations (please make cheques payable to Ashton under Hill Cricket Club) can be sent to David at his home at 12 Cornfield Way, Ashton under Hill, Evesham, Worcs WR11 7TA.

If you are able to donate and you are a UK taxpayer, your donation can be worth an extra 20% to the club simply by signing a Gift Aid declaration form, as the club can reclaim an extra 20p from HMRC for every £1 donated. David will let you have the appropriate Gift Aid form to sign if you request it.



## **Ashton Cricket Club season 2014**

It's been a good year for Ashton Cricket Club, both on and off the field.

The club welcomed a number of new players at the start of the season. But with many players having young families, they find it hard to commit to playing every week, so we're always on the look-out for new recruits, whatever the standard.

The 1st XI, led by Will Archer, were very competitive in Division 1 of the Cotswold Hills League and only just missed out on promotion to the Premier League.

The 2nd XI, under Dan Garland in his first year as skipper, enjoyed a great surge of form towards the end of the season to gain promotion to Division 5.

The end-of-season awards dinner took place at The Star on Saturday, October 4, where most of the individual batting honours went to Dave Hunting who scored more than 1,000 runs in all competitions. Steve Cooke, who only started playing village cricket regularly a couple of years ago, collected a number of trophies for his excellent bowling performances.

Ashton's groundsmen, Rob Hawker and Dave Hunting, received accolades for their tireless work in producing good pitches throughout the season.

The club is always pushing for local schoolchildren to think about joining the junior section as it's always a challenge to put teams out in the various age groups.

At a rather lively AGM at the pavilion on Tuesday, November 18, Will Archer and Dan Garland were elected to continue as 1st and 2nd team captains respectively.

Dave Whitehouse remains as chairman, but Brian Stephens is stepping down as treasurer after five years and has handed the bank book to Peter Womersley

