

Pontesbury Sports Association – review of 2021

Despite the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, sporting activity was able to proceed at the Pontesbury Sports Ground (PSG) with each sport adhering to its respective Covid-19 protocols. In 2021 we welcomed back bowls after their break in 2020. Worthen Juniors, Mytton Rounders and Pontesbury CC ran as 'normal'.

The pavilion continued to be closed throughout the season other than for access to toilets and first aid. Players and officials had to arrive in their kit and bring their own teas.

For cricket, during matches and coaching sessions, we had to build in regular breaks to sanitise hands and playing equipment but otherwise a full programme was achieved.

Worthen Juniors have been using the pitch for U12/13 boys' and girls' teams and are reviewing whether to reinstate the full-size pitch for 2022/3 season for an U16 team.

With illness and Covid-19 the PSA did not hold full committee meetings in 2021 but its officers continued to function facilitating sporting activities at the PSG working with the member clubs. Given the improvement face-to-face meetings will recommence in 2022 with the AGM on Thursday 24th March at 8pm.

Pontesbury CC

Juniors

We were able to run coaching sessions from May through to September staggering sessions so we could manage the groups and maximise the opportunity for children to participate. This included boys and girls from 6yrs to 15yrs.

In 2020, we were able to run the ECB national programmes (AllStars 4-7-year olds and the new Dynamos programme for 8-11-year olds) – including a new girls only U11 softball cricket team. The girls only sessions proved very popular with 18 girls participating in Dynamos and playing in the end-of-season Lady Taverner's Festival which we hosted at PSG.



I am pleased to report that we received the support of five of our ladies to undertake the ECB 'Activator' training (coach assistant role for AllStars & Dynamos) which proved to be invaluable.

Matches were played during the summer for U11, U13 and U15 against local clubs.

Women & Girls Section

The Women & Girls section continued to go from strength to strength with over 30 ladies playing softball cricket at the 6-a-side festivals and in our 10-a-side league team. In 2021 we hosted a festival at the PSG with 12 teams participating.

The highlight for the year was at the Shropshire Cricket Board Awards Evening when our ladies section was awarded Best Women & Girls Club in Shropshire in recognition of the continued development of women and girls cricket at the club, our hosting of the girls Lady Taverners Softball festival and the season ending Shropshire Ladies festival.

Our ladies have continued their success during the winter indoor programme by achieving third place in stiff competition from other larger clubs across the county.



Women & Girls Club of the Year



Third place Shropshire Indoor League

Seniors

2021 saw the return of Shrewsbury and District Evening Cricket League. We ran two teams in 2021, one of which was a development team to introducing juniors to adult cricket.

The Shropshire County Cricket League ran a full programme in 2021. Two teams playing Saturday and one on a Sunday. Availability proved an issue throughout what proved to be a challenging season for all three sides. Hopefully 2022 will be better!

Pavilion Project

This project to look at making improvements at the pavilion to make sure that it's fit-for-purpose clearly had to be put on-hold for the last two years. The Shropshire Cricket Board (ECB) are aware of the intention of PCC to kick-start the project during 2022. The cricket club will engage with interested stakeholders during the coming months to plan the best way forward.

Flooding

Flooding is an ongoing issue largely the result of the brook between the playing field and Mary Webb overflowing and the excess water from the drainage ditch at the wood side of the field. The culvert under the roadway regularly blocks and water flows across the carpark and into the garage to a

depth of up to 5mm. To date limited damage has occurred to equipment and we have stored playing equipment in the pavilion and stored the specialist mowers on pallets in the garage.

The pavilion has frequently been surrounded by water and we have come extremely close to flood water getting into the pavilion on several occasions.



Indeed, we have had to clear the culvert twice in the last 4-6 weeks!

Tim Barber – Vice Chair Pontesbury Sports Association & Secretary PCC

March 2022