

PONTESBURY SPORTS ASSOCIATION – REVIEW OF 2020

The Sports Association manages the village sports field where there are football, cricket and bowling clubs, and each of their reports follow:

WORTHEN JUNIORS FOOTBALL CLUB

Worthen Juniors has played at the Pontesbury Sports Ground for three years following the sad demise of Pontesbury Football Club. Their affiliation to the Sports Association was very welcome as it filled the gap in terms of both use of the facilities and financial shortfall.

The younger boys' and girls' teams generally use the Pontesbury pitch with the older boys playing at the Lea Cross pitches.

Obviously the number of league games was severely restricted in 2020 with only eight games being played.

Hopefully the 2021 season will be back to normal with the following set-up in place for the Pontesbury pitches :-

1 girls team that play on a Saturday

2 boys teams that play on a Sunday

1 team trains on a Tuesday night and

There are 4/5 teams that train from 6 till 8.30 on a Wednesday night

In addition five girls teams that all train on a Friday night though the summer months and there is sometimes one game for the girls on a Saturday.

PONTESBURY BOWLING CLUB

The Club has two Greens, one at the Pontesbury Sports Ground and the other adjacent to the Nag's Head pub.

The restrictions hit the Club particularly hard and no league games were played. However, the Greens were still well maintained, thanks to three volunteer groundsmen.

The Crown Green Bowling Association has decreed that no league fixtures can be played until June 2021, but when that eventually comes around the Club hopes to have a total of thirteen teams competing in four different leagues.

However, membership is reducing and the Club would very much welcome new members.

Pontesbury Cricket Club – review of 2020 season

Cricket activity other than groundwork could not start until June as the result of Covid-19.

In June as lockdown was eased following ECB protocols, we were able to start coaching, initially in groups of 6 then larger groups with a maximum 24.

The pavilion was 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.

During matches and coaching sessions, we had to build in regular breaks to sanitise hands and playing equipment.

Juniors

We were able to run Monday evening coaching sessions from June through to September but had to limit the number of children attending to be within the ECB Covid-19 guidelines. On a Monday we ran staggered sessions so we could manage the groups and maximise the opportunity for children to participate. This included boys and girls from 6yrs to 15yrs.

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

In August we ran a 3-day cricket summer camp with 15 children of mixed ages and abilities.

Sadly, due to Covid-19 we were not able to run the ECB national programmes (AllStars 4-7-year olds or the new Dynamos programme for 8-11-year olds) – these will run in 2021 including a new girls only U11 softball cricket team.

Women & Girls Section

At the AGM in 2020 we formally established our Women and Girls section with their own committee reporting into the club's Executive Committee. As per 2019 interest was high amongst the ladies and coaching commenced in June and ran throughout the summer.

We had teams (6-8 players) playing in softball cricket festivals at Beacon CC (Frankwell) and Shelton CC. The ladies also played two 10-a-side softball friendlies versus Oswestry and Wem.

The ladies also had a 'taster' of hardball cricket with a friendly against the U15's.

In 2021 we will have a team playing in a 10-a-side softball cricket league and we will be hosting two softball cricket festivals with teams from other local clubs.

Seniors

Sadly, due to the delayed start of the season the Shrewsbury and District Evening Cricket League did not take place. We will have two teams in 2021, one of which is a development team to introduce juniors to adult cricket.

The Shropshire County Cricket League started end July and ran for 11 weeks. We entered our three teams into a regionalised league structure with no promotion or relegation. Two teams playing Saturday and one on a Sunday. The games managed to progress smoothly despite the Covid-19 restrictions and additional ECB protocols.

Flooding

Again, we experienced flooding of the ground, 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.

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

This is something that seems to be getting worse.