PROJECT COSTINGS

Pavilion, Car Park & Access Road	£209,866	Marsden Builders
Field Contract	£ 27,400	Pugh Lewis
Practice Bays	£ 12,965	Notts Sport
Other Costs	£ 89,980	
	£340,211	

In our most successful fund-raiser which has realised nearly £8,500, friends of the club have recorded their support permanently by buying inscribed bricks for the walls of function room. There is an interesting mixture of contributions with bricks in memory of former players, from former and current players as well as from companies, organisations, friends and fellow cricket clubs - all keen to be associated with this forward looking initiative.

Although there are finishing touches to be put to some aspects of the development and we hope that finances will eventually enable us to install an electronic scoreboard, the facilities are in place to ensure that we can continue to coach the young players of the future, cricketing skills in the true "Wes" spirit.

Keith Crawshaw - Club Secretary

The Committee and members of Almondbury Wesleyan Cricket Club, would like to thank you for attending today's game, and hope that you have enjoyed yourselves.

Whether as a player or spectator, we would be happy to see you again in the future.

PARENTS ARE REMINDED THAT CRICKET GROUNDS CAN BE DANGEROUS PLACES - PLEASE BE AWARE OF THE GAME IN PROGRESS AND MAKE SURE YOUR CHILDREN ARE SUPERVISED AT ALL TIMES

ALMONDBURY WESLEYAN CRICKET CLUB

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME

£1

GRAND OPENING

SUNDAY 25TH AUG

BRIAN CLOSE ALL STARS XI

V

H.C.C.L PRESIDENTS XI

LUCKY No 041143

CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

A warm welcome to the formal opening of the recently re-developed Cricket Ground at Almondbury Wesleyan CC. Today is one of the most important days in the club's 82 year history as we celebrate the £340,000 investment in cricket and the community which has provided one of the finest venues for cricket in the town.

Some of you may be visiting us for the first time, but many are long standing members & friends of "The Wes" who have played your part in the creation of this facility and the hugely successful cricket development programmes it supports.

Our club's 140 strong membership includes 100 young cricketers from all backgrounds and cultures who play and learn cricket through Kwik Cricket sessions up to 11 years & then enter our 4 junior squads at under 13, 15 & 17 levels. Five team trophies won in the last 2 years, together with a number of individual achievements and representations at all age levels has made our cricket programmes some of the most successful in the town & the envy of more "professional" and bigger clubs. Well done to all players, managers and coaches - a real winning team.

Today is the culmination of 6 years of vision & planning followed by 2 ½ years of hard-work, but couldn't have been achieved without the contribution & dedication of many club members, in particular the 7 man Steering Committee who, together with our professional advisors, contractors & suppliers, have managed the project through to its completion.

A big thank you also goes to our funders, sponsors & others that have contributed in time & kind - we are most grateful. 275 sponsored bricks adorn our club-room wall with the names of the people built into the pavilion for evermore. If your name is up there please go and have a quick look this afternoon - its a wonderful sight. Major funding has been provided through the generosity and support of the following :

* Sport England
* Kirklees M C Leisure Services
* Huddersfield Common Good Trust
* Lords Taverners
* Peter Dawson (Long-standing member)
* The Nicholson Trust
* Pearl Assurance
* Scottish Courage

A final thank you to Brian Close for agreeing to open our facility & to Les Simpson, Steve Kindon & our League President, Adrian Whittaker, who has been supportive throughout, for arranging today's Celebrity match.

Have a great day & thanks for your support.

KAYE LANE REDEVELOPMENT HOW IT ALL HAPPENED

In 1986 we opened our new tea room, where for the first time, players and spectators could sit down inside for refreshments. In 1991 our new Portakabin dressing rooms had a plumbed in toilet and for the first time we were able to provide for the convenience of our ladies! These events in the context of our club's history were major developments, achieved as cheaply as possible, with hard earned resources from our Building Fund which was always being depleted. Knowing our club was formed in 1920 with a field made suitable for cricket by dedicated members after the 1st world war and that as an all amateur organisation it had struggled for years to raise money to keep going, would anyone then have even dreamed of the current situation at Kaye Lane?

The growing realisation that with no junior teams and an ageing playing membership the club's future was insecure was addressed in 1996. Under the guidance of the inspirational John Cowan we launched our Thursday evening Kwik-Cricket sessions for youngsters from 5 - 12 years old. Soon children were coming from all over the district and attendance was often as high as 80. Indeed in 1999 concern was raised in committee whether we could cope with the numbers. However the evenings are still well supported by young people keen to enjoy learning cricketing skills.

1997 saw the formation of our first U13 league team, to be followed by an U15 squad and U17's in 2000. Last season, we were able to field a second U13 team including 2 girls and at the end of season were able to congratulate our U13s and U17s of being champions of their respective sections.

Thanks to many players taking coaching courses we now have a structure in place which caters for all youngsters, regardless of ability from the age of 5 to the end of their cricketing careers.

A development sub-committee had been considering the possibilities of greatly improving our facilities during 1998 but the putting together of serious viable options led by the club's officers began during

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ALMONDBURY WESLEYAN C.C
CRICKET PROGRAMMES

Here at the Wes, we are happy to welcome players of all ages and standards and have a range of teams to accommodate them.

Coaching is available to all members, from our team of committed and qualified coaches to help develop all of our players to the best of their ability.

SENIOR TEAMS

1st Team : Section A - Hudds Central Cricket League
2nd Team : Section C - Hudds Central Cricket League
3rd Team : Friendly Games
Senior Training : Tuesday Evenings 6.30 p.m.

JUNIOR TEAMS

UNDER 17's
Manager : John Cowan (01484 842804)
Training : Thursdays (7 - 8.30pm)
Games : Wednesdays (6.30 p.m. start) (League)

UNDER 15's
Manager : Alan Schofield (01484 689362)
Training : Thursdays (7 - 8.30 pm)
Games : Mondays (6.30 - 8.30 pm) (League)

UNDER 13's (Team A)
Contact : Alan Dean (01484 516101)
Training : To be arranged
Games : Sundays (9.45 - 11.45 am)

UNDER 13's (Team B)
Manager : Ian Hales (01484 305889)
Training : To be arranged
Games : Sundays (9.45 - 11.45 am)

JUNIOR COACHING SESSIONS & KWIK CRICKET

Coaching sessions for young people of all ages up to the age of 12 take place at our Kaye Lane Ground.

Thursday evenings. (5.45 - 7.00 pm) weather permitting.

the summer of 1999. In October at a special meeting of the general committee and Vice Presidents our Chairman, Mark Binns gave a stimulating presentation detailing the current state of our club and a "wish list" for improvements. This included a new pavilion with all services (remember electricity was unheard of), car park and better access, plus field levelling to improve safety for junior practice and enhance playing conditions. The rough costs were £125,000. Our own building fund stood at £5,000 and it was expected that we would need to raise of further £20,000 to add to anticipated external funding. There were sharp intakes of breath, and once some of our senior members had received Oxygen, it was agreed to put the proposals to a full meeting of the club with the recommendation that we proceed. That agreement to move forward was given by a well attended EGM on 3rd November 1999.

Following confirmation from Kirklees MC that our lease on the ground would be extended to 25 years if we successfully applied for lottery funding, preliminary meetings took place with David Gent of Kirklees MC for funds from the Council and advice in making a lottery bid. The wheels were well in motion as planning applications were made, soil samples were taken and more detailed costings explored. By July 2000 the projected costs had risen to £237,000 and at a further EGM in August members were updated on the figure, but there was determination form the club to press on. We received Stage 1 support from Sport England in November and the real work began to prepare our Action Plan to consolidate our funding request.

The Steering Committee

Mark Binns - Chairman
John Cowan - Deputy Chairman
George Binns - Project Manager
Keith Crawshaw - Secretary & League Liaison
Ian Hales - Treasurer & Financial Project Management
Andrew Crawshaw - Marketing & Publicity
Alan Stanger - Fundraising Co-ordinator

The 7 man Steering Committee held its first formal meeting in January 2001 and its composition was fully supported by the

general committee to whom it reported. The extent of our own fundraising commitments was made & a public meeting was held on 23rd May in the Methodist church. Although club members were outnumbered, the attendance was not stunning but the concerns of our neighbours over such things as parking were addressed.

The Steering Group continued to meet monthly and work hard on the Action Plan. Options on the amount of gradient to be taken from the top of the field were carefully considered. For the playing surface to be ready for the 2002 season it was crucial that the levelling work start in mid-August and the decision to proceed at our own risk, as final Sport England approval had not been received , was taken. We played our last 6 league home matches on alternative grounds and Pugh-Lewis, chosen after tender, began work on 14th August changing the famous contours of our ground forever! The weather was not always kind and there were worrying drainage problems but we now have a splendid playing area.

Sport England Action Plan Components

1. Aims & Objectives
2. Sports Development
3. Managing the Project Development
4. Marketing the Facility
5. Design & Capital Costs
6. Managing the Facility
7. Monitoring & Evaluation

After a great deal of liaising with Jonathan Couves and other Sport England representatives, at the end of October to our final relief, we received notification of a grant of £251,755 to assist in the funding of our development project of £340,211. Courtesy of our chairman, champagne was drunk for the first time at a committee meeting!

After the tendering process the contract for the pavilion, car park and access road was eventually awarded to Marsden builders who began work in early November by demolishing and burning our existing buildings. We had previously salvaged any items worth keeping except for the legendary tea-urn which was ruthlessly cast aside by the Chairman's henchmen!

Two of our own members, Jonathan Harding (plumbing) and David Mellor (Joinery) were subcontractors to the project. Naturally there have been delays to the project due to the weather and specification changes deemed necessary, so the Steering Group has been involved throughout the development. The end result is, as you see, a superb pavilion in natural stone with full services including showers and an excellent function room.

PROJECT FUNDING

Sport England	£251,755
Kirklees M C	£ 45,000
Huddersfield Common Good Trust	£ 5,000
A.W.C.C	£ 38,456
	£340,211

To add to our level and now safe playing area two further tracks have been added to the square. Two artificial practice bays are in operation and additional grass practice bays are being produced for next season. The bottom fencing will prevent many balls from disappearing into the hedge and with the white boundary rope and sightscreens we have facilities of which we can be justly proud.

We are grateful for the patience and persistence of our members and friends in pursuing our fundraising target - a remarkable achievement for an all amateur club with a relatively low proportion of senior players. Amongst other efforts over the last two years in particular, supporters have enjoyed themselves at BBQs/Dances & Ceilidhs, gambled in the Grand Draw and 500 club, coached youngsters at Summer Cricket Festivals and baked for Cake Stalls & Coffee Mornings. We have received generous donations including the £1,000 anonymously pushed through my letterbox soon after the start of the appeal.