

Wesleyans develop £340,000 facilities

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By The Huddersfield Daily Examiner

ALMONDBURY Wesleyans are pressing ahead with their massive investment programme to re-develop their Kaye Lane ground, which they now hope will be ready by the end of March and in time for the 2002 season.

Wesleyans' chairman Mark Binns, who heads the sub-committee responsible for the re-development said: "We have already had the field levelled out and re-seeded at a cost of £30,000, and now work has started on building a new pavilion.

"In total we are looking at a £340,000 investment which has been funded essentially by Sport England, who have given us £252,000, along with £45,000 from Kirklees Council, which was largely thanks to the efforts of deputy leader, Clr John Smithson."

The club have also received further financial support from the Huddersfield Common Good Trust, with the balance being provided by their own fund-raising efforts.

Wesleyans now have a membership of upwards of 200, 140 of whom are below the age of 18, and many are from outside the village.

The club cater for every form of cricket, with successful junior teams, women, disabled and ethnic minorities all being represented.

* Pictured at the foundations of the new clubhouse are (from left): first team stalwart Michael Jagger, Clr John Smithson, club secretary Keith Crawshaw, Zac Stanger, Heather Hales, chairman Mark Binns, Chris Jones and Adeel Khalid.

Almondbury Wesleyan Cricket Club

Well, we've made it!!!

After 2 1/2 years of planning & fund-raising "The Wes" played their 1st home game of the season against Denby on Saturday 13th July at our re-developed Kaye Lane ground on a lovely summer's day watched by dozens of members, friends, neighbours and well-wishers.

Over the next few weeks we expect all the teething problems associated with a new building to be ironed out as we put the finishing touches to our facility. The delay in completion of some 11 weeks resulted in a staggered handover from the contractors and it will take until the end of the year for the whole site to settle down and for us to develop new routines.

Our return to Kaye Lane and a new normality is a watershed in our history which brings to an end 4 years of project management & fund-raising. We can now direct all our energies into further developing our cricket programmes, our on-field success and our facilities.

Our new ground will require a different management style and will be more costly to run, but also opens up a whole range of possibilities for increased social & community use and for revenue generation. We have already hosted our 1st sponsored game, held our first social/fundraising evening at the pavilion and taken our 1st private party booking.

A final word of thanks to everyone who has played a part with time, or money in making our ground re-development the success it has become.

We have already received many favourable comments from those who have visited Kaye Lane and who have been impressed by both the ground and the pavilion.

A sincere word of thanks to everyone and we hope that you enjoyed the grand opening.

Mark Binns
Club Chairman