



OVER & WILLINGHAM CRICKET CLUB ANNUAL REPORT 2023

2023 was the second season for the newly formed Over & Willingham Cricket Club, with two adult Saturday sides playing in the Cambridgeshire Cricket Association league. 2023 was a solid season with decent performances from both 1st and 2nd teams. The 1st team finished in 5th place (of 9) in Junior 3 North and the 2nd team finished in 4th place (of 7) in Junior 5 North. Both teams will stay in the same division for the 2024 season.

Over & Willingham CC teams had 24+ different players play senior matches for us in 2023 (excluding All Stars) and including three under 16s who played regularly for the senior teams. The club's main home ground for is Over Green, the primary home venue for the men's 1st team. The club's alternative home venue is Willingham Recreation Ground which is the primary venue for the men's 2nd team.

Over & Willingham CC has historically had youth teams, typically under 11s and under 13s, that played on weekday evenings during school term time. 2023 was, however, disappointing from a youth cricket perspective with a lack of numbers meaning we couldn't fulfil any youth fixtures. There was an attempt to forge a partnership with neighbouring Longstanton CC to for a combined U15 team but this too failed due to lack of interest.

On a positive note, Over & Willingham CC again successfully ran the All-Stars cricket programme for 5–8-year-olds, with more than 25 boys and girls participating in 2023. All Stars will run again in 2024 and will be supplemented by the Dynamos programme for 8-11-year-olds which will be a new venture for the club. The club are hopeful that in attracting primary school age children to cricket via AllStars and Dynamos will provide sufficient interest in future years to form future youth teams.

CLUB OBJECTIVES

The club's ongoing challenge is to attract enough players at both senior and junior levels to keep all teams viable. This is particularly important at 2nd team level as this provides a pathway for youth players to transition into senior cricket. We aim to do this by:

- a) Continuing to attract and develop young playing members.
- b) Improving our practice and playing facilities.
- c) Improving the standard of our established players, both youth and adult.

This can only be achieved if we are able to develop and maintain the main playing surfaces in Over and Willingham plus enhancing practice facilities.

To make the long-term plans happen and thereby improve the future for cricket in Over, Willingham and the surrounding villages, Over & Willingham CC is committed to working with Over Parish Council, Willingham Parish Council, Cambs Cricket and other interested parties for the mutual benefit of the local community. To do this, however, funding will be required to invest in facilities otherwise the growth will not be achievable even if the intent exists.

Steve Wilkinson, Club Secretary

May 2024