

East Hoathly Cricket Club



Georgian Anniversary Match

East Hoathly Cricket Club was established in 1759 and is affiliated to the England and Wales Cricket Board through membership of the Sussex Cricket Board. There are records of matches being played in the Parish in Thomas Turner's Diaries and the 1839 Tithe Map shows two Cricket Fields in the Parish. The Club celebrated its 250th Anniversary in 2009 with a celebratory match in Georgian period costume.



East Hoathly Cricket Team 1922

In its recent history the Cricket Club was particularly thriving during the period of the 1980s to the turn of the Millennium. It had a large Junior Section with a wide age range, competitive teams and several girls playing within the teams. The senior teams played in Saturday League cricket and a Sunday Team played a more relaxed style of cricket with legendary teas often being the centrepiece of the day. The Club has organised the East Hoathly Cup competition since at least 1922. This was a knockout competition between local cricket clubs but it has not been contested for the last decade because of the decline in local clubs and the reluctance of those remaining to take part in weekend cricket.

The Club has seen a steady decline in membership since the late 1990s. The Junior Section closed and very little weekend cricket now takes

place. The Club now mostly plays Twenty20 cricket. This is a limited over format where each team bowls 20 overs each and the match is therefore normally over within 2 hours and characteristically involves big hitting and exciting finishes. These games are played on weekday evenings. In 2017 the Club had 12 Twenty20 fixtures against village pub teams and teams from local businesses. In addition the Club holds an annual Over 40s versus Under 40s Match to allow the old and young of the Club to do battle.



The Club has played on the War Memorial Sports Ground since the 1950s. It has its own equipment store (the old scoreboard hut) alongside the pitch and uses the Pavilion for changing facilities. On the few occasions when Sunday games take place the Club also uses the Pavilion kitchen and hall for refreshments. The showers in the Pavilion would benefit from upgrading but otherwise the facilities are adequate.



The Club uses the Pavilion Garage to store its tractor mower which it uses to cut the outfield to supplement the inadequate contract mowing of the Sports Ground. This Garage was used by the now defunct Football Club. If the Football Club is ever reformed then a new store would be needed for this tractor.

The parking available for our matches is just about adequate providing that other events are not also taking place on the Sports Ground. We are concerned that if large housing developments take place adjacent to the Sports Ground then there will be use of the Pavilion car park by these residents. The parking at the Sports Ground would then become inadequate.

Our membership list currently has about 80 names most of whom are supporters and former players. The Club has about 15 regular players and another 15 players who might play once a year.

The Club is concerned by the possibility of large housing developments changing the character of the community. Whilst increased housing does potentially increase the membership of the Club, our experience is that it does not produce any increase and does nothing to offset the general decline in membership.