

CATSFIELD CRICKET CLUB

PRE SEASON ACTIVITIES

The season start looms large on the horizon with the first match being away at Ashburnham on Sunday 3 May and the first home match being at The Field versus Mountfield on Sunday 17 May – the first anniversary of the author's wrist being broken by the Mountfield 'quickie'! Ouch!

The first pre-season activity has been the installation of posters at various locations around the village, namely the Village Hall notice board, the notice board near the shop, the shop window itself, in the White Hart (thanks Charlie!), The Field entrance gate and the Pavilion. There are two posters, both of which have been put up on the village social media page. The first is a list of home fixtures and dates. The second is a recruitment poster giving a name and means of contact for people interested in playing (see below).

The second pre-season activity has been the installation of the club banner to the west of The Field entrance gate (see photo below). The plan was to install this at the beginning of the 2025 season but I was severely incapacitated by the broken wrist so the work was postponed until spring 2026. Thanks must go to club members and supporters Jules Buss, Rob Vint and Mitch Mattocks for doing all the work – I just plan and supervise as the wrist still isn't 'match fit' for such tasks.



The third and most onerous pre-season task that has started has been preparation of the square, which has really suffered from being exposed to the elements over such a wet winter. The ground is extremely bumpy and it's going to take some intense rotary cutting, verti-cutting and rolling over the next three weeks to bring it up to a condition where it can be finally prepared using the Masport cylinder mower. The process has already started along with spreading of grass seed and 'weed and feed', all of which will have to be watered believe it or not as what was a 'bog' up until a few weeks ago has suddenly turned into a rock-hard surface. Fortunately the evenings have been drawing out so this and the other tasks can now be tackled over a longer period each week and with more people. Thanks so far must go to Junior Grounds People Mitch Mattocks and Barbara Cook for their invaluable assistance.

The aforementioned recruitment posters and banner prompt me to remind readers to remember a continuing series of pieces throughout 2025 to date about the Club and that only a couple of people from the village played in any match during the 2025 season.

It still begs the obvious question, if no one from the village plays for the village cricket club, then why have a village cricket club at all? – Discuss.

It would be wonderful to welcome people from the village to play and enjoy a game of 'social' cricket on a Sunday afternoon. People of any ability, age and experience would be most welcome. Rest assured that you would not be expected to play week-in, week-out, but on a 'when available' basis. Very few people do play every week and the club can usually cope with that, but it would be nice to have a bit of 'headroom' in that respect.

Match fees are modest, ten pounds for adults and five for juniors covers playing expenses, in play and tea-time refreshments. There is no annual subscription.

Disappointingly, since these pieces have been appearing in the PN over the past few years or so, no one has expressed an interest in playing via this outlet. But it's never too late, so if you are interested, then please contact club vice chair, Keith Cook, via mobile 07916 717870 or email keith.cook@btinternet.com.

The Club looks forward to hearing from you in time for the first home match of the 2026 season, on Sunday 17 May versus Ashburnham CC, with a two o'clock start. A full fixture list of home fixtures is available on request to Keith Cook (details above) and has been posted on the Parish Notice Board and at strategic places around the village in advance of the season.