

## Sports Ground report

I will split this report into the 3 key sports - tennis, football and cricket.

### **Tennis**

The old tennis courts were demolished prior to hand over of the site in 2015. This year we were awarded grants from Wren Community fund and the LTA and Cambridge LTA. This has enabled us to build two new hard courts on the sports ground at a cost of £64,500. These now just require painting and should be ready to play on by Sunday 23 June when we will be having an opening day event - details yet to be decided.

86 residents have registered interest in paying an annual fee to play - 57 adults and 29 children.

The venue was last week registered with the LTA and we have a Welfare Officer in Caroline Ruben, who has completed the required LTA safeguarding training.

Hauxton Tennis will be using ClubSpark online booking system, through the village website (Hauxton.net) which allows those who have paid an annual subscription and those who just want an occasional game to book the courts. We want to encourage anyone to come and have a go.

We have a coaching arrangement with Over&In for children on Wednesdays after school and adults on Saturday afternoons.

So, come along on Sunday ~~23 June~~ **now 21 July** and see what's on offer.

### **Football**

We have now been hosting football for local youngsters on the sports ground for the last 4 years and the numbers have been rising year on year. This year there were over 80 league matches played there during the season just finished -

60 Whittlesford Warriors ages 9 to 14

20 Shelford and Stapleford Strikers ages 13 and 14

Plus a few one-off games

Next season we will also be hosting an additional 15 games for Harston youth football, under 14 years.

I know that a number of Hauxton youngsters play for the Warriors or Strikers and it would be great to have Hauxton teams play on the sports ground, but that remains a long-term goal.

### **Cricket**

As I hope you know we gained a grant of £53,000 from Sport England to lay a new 8 pitch cricket square in October 2017. Having been nurtured throughout last year, it should be ready for use this summer, but still needs a lot of rolling and mowing to get it fit for play. I'm currently rolling and mowing it every week, and I do now have some volunteers to help

me, so between us I hope we might get it fit for a few games this year. More volunteers would be welcome!

The Sport England grant also paid for a cricket pitch mower and a roller, but we still need to obtain things like sight-screens, covers and ball stop netting for beside the drive. However, the key limitation to cricket taking place is the lack of a pavilion with changing rooms and a club room for match teas, etc.

I am pleased to be able to report that this week we have heard that we have been awarded grants of £86,000 from Amey Community Fund and £100,000 from the Football Foundation. This will fund phase 1 of the pavilion providing changing rooms for teams and officials and toilets for teams and the general public.

We are hopeful that we can start work by early July and complete the build in February next year. So ready for the second half of the football season and summer 2020 cricket.

We have 3 local cricket clubs who have expressed an interest in playing in Hauxton, when everything is sorted, but it would be great to get a Hauxton team up and running!