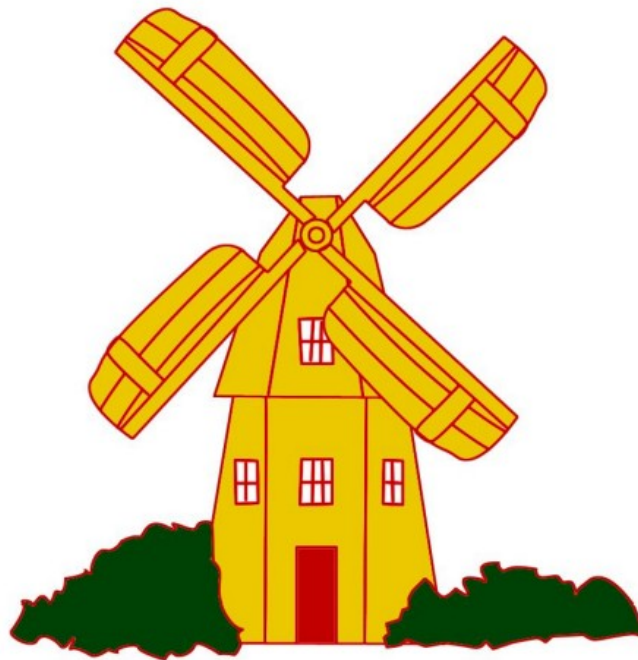


# Avoncroft Cricket Club



## Annual Report 2024

## **Season Overview**

Avoncroft Cricket Club's 2023 Annual Report opened by noting that that season had been the wettest in a generation, with nearly a third of the 1<sup>st</sup> XI matches being lost to the weather. 2024 wasn't quite as extreme, but thanks to another incredibly wet spring, the start of the season was delayed by nearly a month at Croft's Stoke Heath ground and 5 1<sup>st</sup> XI matches were lost to the weather. As ever, the club were extremely grateful to the team of volunteers, led by curator Mark Taylor, who gave up their time in testing conditions to ensure that adult and junior members were able to access cricket training and matches once the ground dried out!

Off the pitch, it is also important to note the contribution of other volunteers who keep the club afloat, whether that's through administration behind the scenes, running the pavilion and bar, bringing sponsorship or fundraising into the club, coaching and managing junior sides or leading adult sides as captains or selectors. These people are the lifeblood of the club and all our members owe a debt of gratitude to them for their hidden contributions.

On the pitch, there were mixed levels of success in adult cricket. The 1<sup>st</sup> XI struggled throughout the season but still managed to maintain their place in Worcestershire Division 3, whilst the 2<sup>nd</sup> XI and, to an even greater extent, the achieving more positive results with 5<sup>th</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> placed finishes respectively in their leagues.

There was further growth in the club's flourishing junior section. 60 boys and girls were again able welcomed to the club as part of the ECB's All Stars Programme, whilst a further 100 or so juniors from ages 7-15 took part in junior cricket across 10 different junior sides in both boys and girls teams. This was the second year that the club was able to offer standalone girls cricket and it's popularity in introducing new players to the game was great to see!

## 1<sup>st</sup> XI Review

2024 was a challenging season for the 1<sup>st</sup> XI with some player turnover, injuries and other commitments meaning that the club were unable to field consistently strong sides. As a result, whilst the side managed some impressive performances over the course of the season, there were also a number of disappointing ones which contributed to an overall 9<sup>th</sup> place finish.

2024 was always going to be a transitional year, with a number of the club's big junior prospects making the step up to becoming first XI regulars. The fact that they settled in so quickly and contributed as equals alongside their more experienced team-mates can only stand the club in good stead to progress in future years.

Captain Josh Cound led the way with the bat with 509 runs at an average of 36, whilst 15-year old Ben Athey hit the biggest knock of the season, scoring an incredible 130 against league winners Netherton as Avoncroft chased down 327 to post their most impressive win of the season.

With the ball, Josh Cound was also the leading wicket taker is 23 wickets however 16-year old Ben Huxley also deserves a mention for his 18 wickets as he quickly became a key cog in the 1<sup>st</sup> XI bowling line up

POS	TEAM	P	w24	wc24	w20	wc20	wd10	wd8	dsI	t	ld2	ld2*	l24	lc24	l20	lc20	a	c	BatP	BowlP	Pen	R/W	W	Pts
▲ 1	Netherton CC, Worcs - Saturday 2nd XI	22	5	0	9	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	1	25	20	25	13.95	14	365
▲ 2	Lye CC - 2nd XI	22	0	0	13	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	3	0	1	2	19	17	0	3.2	13	329
3	Rushwick CC - 1st XI	22	2	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	6	0	2	1	18	34	0	1.33	10	275
4	Old Elizabethans CC, Worcs - 2nd XI	22	1	0	7	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	9	0	1	2	30	24	1	1.03	8	244
5	Martley CC - 1st XI	22	0	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	2	0	2	3	20	17	0	-4.75	9	242
6	Brockhampton CC - 2nd XI	22	3	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	9	0	1	3	21	24	0	-0.41	8	237
7	Himbleton CC - 1st XI	22	3	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	6	0	1	3	19	19	55	5.52	11	235
8	Feckenham CC - 1st XI	22	1	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	9	0	1	2	25	20	0	-9.39	7	208
9	Avoncroft CC - 1st XI	22	1	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	5	0	5	0	2	3	23	30	0	-7.11	6	204
10	Stourport-On-Severn CC - 2nd XI	22	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	11	0	2	3	44	35	0	-4.79	3	166
▼ 11	Redditch CC - 2nd XI	22	1	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	13	0	1	1	39	36	61	-8.58	3	100
▼ 12	Harborne CC - Worcs Lge 1st XI	22	4	0	6	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	6	0	2	2	29	23	207	8.76	10	91

## 2<sup>nd</sup> XI Review

The availability challenges that hit the 1<sup>st</sup> XI in 2024 trickled down to the 2nds as the team produced an inconsistent season – sometimes winning comfortably in weeks where most regulars were available whilst finding the going tough on weeks where availability was less positive.

Despite these challenges, the 2nds still managed to secure a top half finish with 8 wins and 6 defeats to show for their efforts. As ever, the focus of both the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> XI was to bring through the next crop of talented youngsters, whilst still offering a competitive cricket experience for those senior players not looking for regular 1<sup>st</sup> XI cricket.

The success of our juniors was most obvious when reviewing the bowling performances of the team; two of the top three bowlers (Pete Smith and Carter Morgan) were Under 15s whilst the leading wicket taker, Max Jukes, also came through Croft's junior sector a few years earlier. The runs were largely provided by the more experienced members of the 2<sup>nd</sup> XI, with captain Chris Pitt bearing the brunt of the batting responsibilities with 614 runs at an average of 68.

POS	TEAM	P	w	wcn	t	l	lcn	a	c	BatP	BowlP	Pen	NRR	W	Pts
▲ 1	Himbleton CC - 2nd XI	18	15	0	0	1	0	1	1	6	5	0	2.73	15	321
▲ 2	Redditch CC - Redditch Entaco 3rd XI	18	11	0	0	4	0	1	2	8	26	0	1.36	11	269
3	Inkberrow CC - 1st XI	18	10	0	0	5	0	1	2	11	27	1	0.56	10	252
4	Droitwich Spa CC - 4th XI	18	8	0	0	8	0	1	1	30	31	0	-0.06	8	231
5	Avoncroft CC - 2nd XI	18	8	0	0	6	0	1	3	14	17	0	0.25	8	211
6	Astwood Bank CC - 4th XI	18	6	0	0	11	0	1	0	27	39	1	-0.45	6	190
7	Five Ways Old Edwardians CC - 2nd XI	18	6	0	0	9	0	0	3	15	21	0	-0.6	6	171
8	Pershore CC - 4th XI	18	5	0	0	9	0	1	3	8	39	0	-1.1	5	167
9	Harvington CC - 2nd XI	18	5	0	0	11	0	1	1	23	26	0	-0.87	5	159
▼ 10	Bredon CC - 2nd XI	18	3	0	0	13	0	0	2	29	41	2	-1.42	3	138

## 3<sup>rd</sup> XI Review

Having been relegated back down to Division 9 (North) following a brief “dipping of the toe” in Division 8, the 3<sup>rd</sup> XI found the level of cricket more to their liking in 2024! 9 wins and only 2 defeats saw the 3<sup>rd</sup>s finish in 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the league which, although outside of the promotion places, in the end was enough to give the 3<sup>rd</sup>s another shot at Division 8 cricket in 2025 following a restructure of the lower levels of the Worcestershire County League.

3<sup>rd</sup> XI cricket offers the perfect environment for younger players to take their first steps into adult cricket and for more experienced players to continue to access competitive cricket in a more relaxed conditions. Under the tutelage of captain Jason Patel, the 3<sup>rd</sup> XI squad found the perfect balance between playing success and social enjoyment across the course of the season. As with the 2<sup>nd</sup> XI, batting success tended to be driven by some of the senior players with Damian Hampton (436 runs at 48), Kunal Issar (209 runs at 104) and Brent Burford (199 runs at 40) leading the way. U18 Ethan Warman (171 runs) and U14 Joe Simon (146 runs) showed that the club’s younger players were also able contribute towards the run scoring! Wickets were shared around a number of players in the 3<sup>rd</sup> XI squad - Kunal Issar and Ravi Verma topped the charts but U13 Rhys Pate and U15 James Blow were not far behind.

POS	TEAM	P	w	wcn	t	l	lcn	c	a	BatP	BowlP	Pen	NRR	W	Pts
▲ 1	Cookhill CC - 2nd XI	18	12	2	0	2	0	1	1	7	11	0	1.93	14	308
2	Himley CC - 5th XI	18	9	3	0	2	0	3	1	8	6	0	1.33	12	274
3	Avoncroft CC - 3rd XI	18	9	0	1	4	0	3	1	13	17	0	1.28	9	238
4	Belbroughton CC - 3rd XI	18	8	1	0	4	0	4	1	9	20	0	0.91	9	234
5	Five Ways Old Edwardians CC - 3rd XI	18	5	2	1	6	0	3	1	22	18	0	-0.4	7	208
6	Hagley CC - 4th XI	18	4	2	0	9	1	2	0	16	41	15	-0.73	6	172
7	Redditch CC - Redditch Entaco 4th XI	18	5	1	0	6	1	4	1	7	15	15	-0.99	6	152
8	Feckenham CC - 3rd XI	18	2	1	0	8	2	4	1	25	23	30	-0.7	3	103
9	Oldswinford CC - 4th XI	18	4	0	0	8	3	2	1	18	24	45	-1.09	4	92
10	Pedmore CC - 4th XI	18	0	0	0	9	5	4	0	7	15	77	-2.7	0	-35

## **Treasurer's Report 2024**

2023 was another strong year financially for Avoncroft CC, with the club posting a surplus of £10,859, although this included an ECB grant of £7,976 provided to part-fund a new artificial wicket which was not laid until April 2025 so the equivalent costs will be reported in the 2025 accounts. The remaining profit will enable the club to meet the required local contribution towards the cost of the artificial wicket which will significantly improve the junior training and playing facilities at the club.

The Accounts are attached to this report, however the key points in summary are as follows:

- The club made a surplus of £10,859, with income remaining steady at £42,793.  
Excluding one-off grants, income increased by around £4.5k which was driven by an increase in the number of junior members contributing membership fees. The club also increased match fees which, along with a drier summer, contributed an initial £1.3k and saw bar profits increase by nearly £2k.
- Excluding one-off expenditure linked to club investments, expenditure remained reasonably stable across the main areas of spend including ground upkeep and utilities.
- Any surpluses, once a reasonable contingency is set aside in case of unexpected pressures on running costs, are managed through a development account which enables the club to fund improvements in facilities and other key investments to drive sustainability and improve member experience. In 2024, the key areas of investment through the development account were:
  - £1,995 on replacement doors and fire exit improvements
  - £1,470 on bar equipment
  - £711 on other minor items
- The club's success with its day-to-day finances meant that a development account balance of £19,036 was set aside for further investment priorities in 2025. As stated above, this includes a budget of £10,428 for a new artificial wicket.

# AVONCROFT CRICKET CLUB - CLUB ACCOUNTS

## INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024

	General A/C		Development A/C		TOTAL		TOTAL	
	2024		2024		2024		2023	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>INCOME</b>								
<b>Main Committee</b>		0		0		0		0
- Grants					0		0	
<b>Playing Committee</b>		7,436		0		7,436		6,324
- Subscriptions	2,750				2,750		2,840	
- 1st XI Match Fees	3,941				3,941		2,609	
- Indoor Nets	745				745		875	
<b>Junior Committee</b>		9,764		0		9,764		6,232
- Subs, Training & Match Fees	9,764				9,764		6,232	
<b>Social &amp; Fundraising Committee</b>		6,624		1,000		7,624		9,661
- Vice Presidents / Donations	1,186				1,186		35	
- Sponsorship			1,000		1,000		5,250	
- 200 Club & Bonus Ball	1,945				1,945		1,849	
- Ground Hire	320				320		610	
- BBQ	2,188				2,188		1,393	
- Clothing	36				36		75	
- Other social/fundraising	949				949		448	
<b>Ground &amp; Pavilion Committee</b>		0		7,976		7,976		11,650
- Capital Grants			7,976		7,976		11,650	
<b>Bar Committee</b>		9,993				9,993		8,020
<b>TOTAL AVONCROFT CC INCOME</b>		33,817		8,976		42,793		41,887

	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>								
<b>Main Committee</b>		7,157		170		7,327		7,584
- Loan repayments *	1,930				1,930		1,930	
- Insurance	3,281				3,281		2,920	
- Fire Compliance	67				67		285	
- Licences	677				677		593	
- Pest Control	1,170				1,170		1,308	
- Sundries	32		170		202		548	
<b>Playing Committee</b>		3,687		0		3,687		3,011
- League Fees	687				687		454	
- Balls	909				909		884	
- Trophies / Medals	340				340		18	
- Indoor Nets	680				680		735	
- Ground Hire	1,025				1,025		920	
- Other	45				45		920	
<b>Junior Committee</b>		2,780		0		2,780		1,266
- League Fees	655				655		620	
- Courses	450				450			
- Kit / Equipment	609				609		646	
- Trophies	1,065				1,065		0	
<b>Social &amp; Fundraising Committee</b>		0		541		541		0
- Social/fundraising equipment			146		146		0	
- Presentation evening			395		395		0	
<b>Ground &amp; Pavilion Committee</b>		14,134		3,465		17,599		27,165
- Capital Purchases			3,465		3,465		2,886	
- Ground Rent	341				341		341	
- Ground Work / Expenses	7,448				7,448		8,039	
- Pavilion Cleaning	358				358		458	
- Pavilion Maintenance / expenses	1,193				1,193		10,015	
- Utilities (Gas)	105				105		105	
- Utilities (Electricity)	4,413				4,413		2,530	
- Utilities (Water)	275				275		2,790	
<b>Bar Committee</b>						0		0
<b>TOTAL AVONCROFT CC EXPENDITURE</b>		27,758		4,176		31,934		39,025

<b>TOTAL AVONCROFT CC PROFIT / (LOSS) BEFORE INTERNAL TRANSFERS</b>		6,059		4,800		10,859		2,861
<b>TRANSFER TO DEVELOPMENT A/C</b>		-4,000		4,000		0		0
<b>TOTAL AVONCROFT CC PROFIT / (LOSS)</b>		2,059		8,800		10,859		2,861

### Notes to accounts

\* The club took out a loan of £9,650 from England & Wales Cricket Trust in 2019 to fund the cost of ground equipment. As at 31st December 2023, the club has repaid £8,204 leaving a remaining liability of £1,446. There are 3 quarterly payments outstanding, with the final payment in Q3 of 2025.

AVONCROFT CRICKET CLUB - CLUB ACCOUNTS			
MOVEMENT OF FUNDS			
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024			
	Bank £	Cash £	Total £
Opening balance at 1st January 2024	23,863	1,704	25,567
Split between:			
- General a/c	11,926	1,205	13,131
- Development a/c	10,236		10,236
- Bar a/c	1,125	499	1,624
- Social a/c	576		576
2023 Cheques banked - Income	0		0
2023 Cheques presented / written back - Expenditure	0		0
2024 Cheques received but not yet banked - Income	0		0
2024 Cheques sent but not yet banked - Expenditure	0		0
Surplus / (deficit) for the year	12,016	(1,157)	10,859
Closing balance at 31st December 2024	35,879	547	36,426
Split between:			
General a/c	12,328	24	12,352
Development a/c	19,036		19,036
Bar a/c	2,002	523	2,525
Social a/c	2,513		2,513

AVONCROFT CRICKET CLUB - CLUB ACCOUNTS				
DEVELOPMENT ACCOUNT - MEMORANDUM				
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024				
	INCOME		EXPENDITURE	
	2024		2024	
	£	£	£	£
OPENING BALANCE		10,236		
Made up of:				
- General Balance		9,236		
- Ground resilience fund		1,000		
Grants		7,976		0
E&W Cricket Trust - Artificial Wicket	7,976			
Sponsorship & Donations		1,000		4,176
JP Legal	500			
Bournville Village Trust	500			
Glass Washer			1,470	
Doors			1,450	
Fire Escape			545	
Advertising banners			146	
Presentation Evening			395	
Wall Plaque			170	
Transfer from General Account		4,000		0
SUB-TOTAL		12,976		4,176
BALANCE		19,036		
Made up of:				
- General		6,608		
- Artificial Wicket Grant + Club contribution		10,428		
- Ground resilience		2,000		



## **Independent examiner's report to the charity trustees of Avoncroft Cricket Club**

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31st December 2024.

### **Respective responsibilities of charity trustees and examiner**

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Act and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act
- follow the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Act, and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

### **Basis of independent examiner's statement**

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

### **Independent examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:



Date: 10th February 2025.

Name:

Philip Ingle.