

## **Easton Cricket Club**

### **Annual Report to Easton Parish Council AGM 2026**

Easton Cricket Club is pleased to present its annual report to the Parish Council and community, reflecting on another active and eventful year for the club.

#### **Overview**

The past year has seen a significant change in the club's leadership, with a brand new committee formed. I have taken on the role of Chairman, following in my father's footsteps, and bring over 40 years of involvement with the club. This continuity, alongside new committee members, provides both experience and fresh perspective as we look to guide the club forward.

The club continues to rely heavily on the generosity of our sponsors and the dedication of our volunteers. Without their ongoing support, the club simply would not be able to function, and we are extremely grateful for their continued commitment.

More broadly, it had been a year of mixed fortunes on the field, but continued strength in community spirit and participation, the club remains an important part of village life, offering opportunities for recreation, social connection, and youth development.

#### **On-Field Performance**

It was a challenging season for our Saturday senior men's teams. Unfortunately, both teams suffered relegation from their respective leagues. A key factor in this was ongoing difficulty with player availability, an issue that has become increasingly noticeable in recent years and one the club will need to address moving forward.

In contrast, this season brought excellent news for our ladies team, who performed superbly throughout the campaign and were deserved winners of their league. Their success is a testament to the commitment, skill, and teamwork within the squad, and is a proud achievement for the club.

The junior section has continued to be one of the most successful and important parts of the club. However, with that success comes a number of challenges. We are increasingly facing limitations around ground

availability for fixtures, as well as a shortage of trained coaches and team managers across the various age groups.

Alongside the wider issue of player availability, we have also seen a decline in the number of qualified coaches. With safeguarding regulations placing limits on the number of juniors per coach, this created a situation where, unfortunately, we would not have been able to accommodate all junior players wishing to take part this season.

To address this, the club has taken proactive steps and explored new opportunities. Following positive discussions with Framlingham College, an agreement has been reached to form a partnership. This collaboration will help alleviate pressure on both coaching capacity and, at times, playing space. It will also provide our juniors with access to high-quality coaching and excellent facilities, complementing our own and supporting the continued development of young players at the club.

### **Facilities and Grounds**

The condition of the pitch and outfield remained a priority. Thanks to the efforts of volunteers, the playing surface was maintained to an excellent standard throughout the season.

### **Community Engagement**

The club hosted several well-attended events, including friendly matches, a quiz night, and other social gatherings. These events were successful in strengthening ties with sponsors and promoting wider participation in the club. The club will also be organising numerous social events over the coming season, and we encourage everyone to keep an eye out for these. Updates and information can also be found on our Instagram page, [eastoncc1906](#).

We are grateful for the continued support of the Parish Council and the wider community.

### **Volunteers and Support**

The club relies heavily on volunteers, and we would like to extend sincere thanks to everyone who has contributed their time and effort—whether in coaching, groundskeeping, administration, or event organisation.

### **Acknowledgements**

We would like to place on record our sincere and ongoing gratitude to Johnathan and Mary Duggan for their unwavering support of the club. Their generosity and commitment are deeply valued and make a significant contribution to the continued success and sustainability of Easton Cricket Club.

### **Looking Ahead**

In the coming year, the club aims to:

- Support and grow the coaching base within the club
- Build on the new partnership with Framlingham College
- Expand junior participation where capacity allows
- Improve training facilities and equipment
- Strengthen community outreach initiatives
- Continue maintaining and enhancing the playing grounds

We also hope to attract new members, both players and volunteers, to ensure the long-term sustainability of the club.

### **Conclusion**

Easton Cricket Club remains a valued part of the parish, providing sporting opportunities and contributing to community life. The club is open to everyone—whether as a player, supporter, or visitor. We warmly encourage residents to come along, enjoy the surroundings, and experience the friendly atmosphere of your village cricket club, matches are played every Saturday starting 18th of April through to early September.

While there have been challenges this year, there have also been significant successes, and we look forward to building on these in the seasons ahead.

**Wayne Mitchell**  
**Chairman**  
**Easton Cricket Club**