

DIDCOT CRICKET CLUB

GENERAL CLUB INFO & HISTORY

Cricket has long since been played in the town of Didcot, and at various locations including Edmonds Park, Hagbourne Triangle Sports Fields and our current home at Didcot Power Station. By the early 1970's organised club cricket had ceased to be and the club therefore can only trace its current incarnation back to 1978 when it was re-formed. At that time the club only ran one Sunday XI and competed in the Berkshire Downs League on Wednesday evenings. In 1994, the club joined the Oxfordshire Cricket Association and played its first competitive Saturday league cricket, enjoying several highly successful seasons, including 3 divisional championships and 2 knockout cup victories. In 2000, the club took the big step forward into the Cherwell cricket league.

For a list of individual and club achievements, please see [Club Details](#) → [Honours](#) on the website www.didcotcricketclub.co.uk

PRE-SEASON TRAINING

The club has traditionally had a series of indoor net sessions at a variety of local leisure centres and schools. Currently these are held at Willowbrook Sports Centre next to Didcot Town FC on the Ladygrove. Sessions run during March and April. The player contribution to the costs of the nets can be made as a lump sum in advance (or at the first net) for all sessions or on a per session basis if you 'pay as you go'.

SATURDAY CHERWELL LEAGUE

The Oxford Times Cherwell league is the premier league organisation in the area, with teams predominantly in Oxfordshire, but with several teams from Buckinghamshire and Bedfordshire also competing. Within the ECB pyramid structure, the League is a feeder into the Home Counties Premier League. Matches are not straight win/lose affairs, so it is possible to have drawn games. The club runs a first and second XI, playing 100 over matches (ie 50 per team) with no limits on numbers of

www.didcotcricketclub.co.uk

secretary@didcotcricketclub.co.uk 01235 816345

overs per bowler, and these sides play their home matches at the Didcot Power Station Sports Ground. Since 2005 the club has run a third XI on the same format, with the exception that the games are 92 over matches (46 per team). The third XI now plays at Crowmarsh Recreation Ground, near Wallingford. Currently there are 9 divisions with the first XI in division 4, the second XI in division 7 and the third XI in division 9. Each side plays 18 league games from May to September, on Saturday afternoons. The role of the first XI is to aspire to win as many matches as possible with a balanced side, and offer cricket at the highest and most competitive level possible. The role of the second XI is to provide a fairly high standard of cricket which will encourage the most promising juniors and good senior players to force their way into the first XI. The third XI will be a development squad for promising juniors with a number of senior players acting as mentors.

Fixtures can be seen via [Fixtures/Results](#) on the website

FRIENDLIES

The club retains some of its historical friendlies, mostly against local village sides and has introduced some newer fixtures. Crucial to the general well being of all clubs, friendly matches offer the chance of enjoyable and social cricket to established and newer league cricketers, those who do not play on Saturdays, and also helps to introduce younger players into the senior game. Played on Sunday afternoons and open to all (irrespective of ability), we try to field mixed sides and the emphasis is placed much less on winning. There are around 10 friendly fixtures currently.

Fixtures can be seen via [Fixtures/Results](#) on the website

MIDWEEK CRICKET

For over 25 years since its re-formation, the club played in the Berkshire Downs League competition, a 15 x 8 ball over per team competition on Wednesday evenings. Until Saturday League cricket arrived in 1994, this was the only chance of competitive cricket and the standard and intensity of the competition was high. Didcot won Division 1 in 1983, 1984 and

www.didcotcricketclub.co.uk

secretary@didcotcricketclub.co.uk 01235 816345

1996, but sadly withdrew from the League after the 2003 season, largely due to falling player numbers and the availability of other competitive cricket. However it is the wish of some within the club to see Didcot re-join when the conditions are right.

MIDWEEK TRAINING

For the enthusiastic playing member the club holds a senior mid week nets session on Wednesday evenings. At nets, batsmen are able to face "Curtly" the club's very own bowling machine. Additionally we have purchased a second machine, which is known as "Courtney". The club is also looking to upgrade the net facilities by laying down further hard surface strips.

JUNIOR CRICKET

The club for many years had a strong youth set up thanks largely to John Hall (1932-2000) which had unfortunately dwindled to the level where hardly any youngsters were playing the game in the town, following John's semi-retirement and passing away a few years ago. The club is justly proud of its now rejuvenated junior section which has seen the numbers of youngsters playing the game swell to in excess of 100 currently. This is largely thanks to the influx of newly qualified ECB qualified youth coaches and the work and organisation of the club's junior sub-committee over the past few years. The club now runs several sides playing competitive games at under-11, 13, 15 and 17 levels and also runs "Kwik cricket" sessions for 7-10 year olds as introduction to the game. The junior coaches would always welcome new faces to assist in whatever way possible, especially as playing numbers continue to grow. Indeed at some age levels numbers are at maximum capacity based on the number of current coaches. The club is prepared to help fund members to attend the appropriate (ECB Level 1) youth coaching course. As per ECB guidelines, the club has appointed a Junior Welfare Officer. **For more information on how you can get involved with the future of our club, please see Junior Cricket on the website.**

www.didcotcricketclub.co.uk

secretary@didcotcricketclub.co.uk 01235 816345

GROUND USAGE

Despite its unusual location, the main ground is reasonably pleasant but of course dominated by looming structure of Didcot Power Station. Thanks to the incredible dedication of a few individuals the playing surface and square is excellent with good sound wickets. The outfield suffers early season if the winter has been particularly wet, but once dry the outfield is often lightning fast. Some form of cricket activity occurs at the ground 6 days of the week. Senior matches occur on Saturday and Sunday afternoons, and junior practice sessions and games take place on Saturday and Sunday mornings and Monday, Tuesday and Thursday evenings. Senior practice is on Wednesday evenings. The third XI plays at Crowmarsh Recreation Ground, a pleasant ground with playing and off-field facilities of a standard good enough for Cherwell League cricket. See [Club Details](#) on the website

FINANCE

Largely due to the lack of our own bars at Didcot and Crowmarsh and our out of the way location in Didcot, the club has to rely heavily on self-finance as we cannot generate bar revenue or easily attract commercial sponsors. As with virtually all clubs we charge annual and matchday subscriptions which we believe are comparative with some other Cherwell League clubs. Annual fees can either be made as one-off payments or via direct debit to spread the cost throughout the year. More details can be given by our Treasurer if you wish to join.

Further details Fundraising is on the website at [Events/Fundraising](#)

100 CLUB

A massively important year-round fundraiser, the 100 club was once a thriving activity (actually was a 200 Club!) but numbers have dwindled. A draw takes place every four weeks with cash prizes but we are keen to grow the numbers and encourage all current and new players to join up with the aim of growing the income and of course increasing/extending the prizes. A very cheap 50p per week (£2 monthly Standing Order) is all it costs. Please consider joining. We do not limit this to players so friends

www.didcotcricketclub.co.uk

secretary@didcotcricketclub.co.uk 01235 816345

and family members can join in. We would consider alternative means of payment but the standing order is simply the most easy and efficient way of paying. We run additional ongoing and one-off fund raising activities. We are always keen to hear about new ideas or opportunities for funding the club from external sources.

Further details on the 100 Club and Fundraising is on the website at [Events/Fundraising](#)

CONTACT

Please feel free to contact us for further information or to register your wish to become involved with the club in whatever way you wish to.

A contact form can be found at [Contact Us](#) on the website, or simply telephone or e-mail

THANKS FOR TAKING THE TIME TO READ THIS AND WE HOPE TO SEE YOU SOON



DIDCOT C.C.

www.didcotcricketclub.co.uk

secretary@didcotcricketclub.co.uk 01235 816345