

LAKENHEATH CRICKET CLUB

Lakenheath Cricket Club was Founded in 1904. Most of the time playing on the playing fields. They did play for a time on the present football pitch ("the Nest") for about two years, just after the War. We moved to where the cricket pitch is now in the early 1960s.

League cricket took over from friendly games in the 1970s, when we joined the Suffolk Premier League. We now play in the Marshall Hatchick Two Counties Championship, the First team are in Division 2, and the Second team in Division 9.

For a local village team, we have been successful over the years winning league championships, and many 20 over competitions.

We are pleased that three players have gone on to play Minor Counties Cricket for Suffolk.

Some now play over 50s cricket for Suffolk, and several players have represented Suffolk from the age of 10 upwards.

In the early days the Club, like many others, after the game finished, it was off to the local pub, our pub, "The Fox" on Back Street, has like many others closed down. Many good nights were spent in there after matches, and then we had our bar and clubhouse. Once again, we have lovely facilities in the New Pavillion.

The Best Cricketer – in my time, Colin Rutterford, who went on to play for Suffolk in Minor Counties Cricket. He played 137 games and became the second highest wicket taker, taking 431 wickets, a great achievement.

The Best Moment to see – Paul Pallant, scored 34 runs in one over, against a County bowler, in a 20 over match at Lakenheath. Not so good but shows that wickets have improved since the early 1960s.

Barry Reeve was out for 0 in 17 overs of a 20 over match.

Funny Moment – when we got to Black Horse Drove cricket ground, one of our players asked the man with a scythe "where is the wicket mate" his reply was "where do you want it" as he trooped off with his scythe.

A Sunday cricket captain, of years gone by, told me he had a cricket ball to use all season. Different from today, when two balls are used in one 90 over game.

In the early years clubs had one kit bag, with bats, gloves and pads in it. This was the norm in the early days, not like today, everybody has their own kit.

In the early days we also had a special piece of kit called "White Will", this was the jug used for a jug of bitter if anybody took 5 wickets or scored 50 runs. Of course, this all ended when the breathaliser came in,

Travel problem – we had a game at North Runcton near Kings Lynn, unfortunately Tony Starr went to East Runcton on the Norfolk coast, he arrived an hour after the game started (no Sat Navs in those days).

We used to play Cambridge Grasshoppers, and one day a Grasshoppers' batsman hit a lovely straight 6 into the car park and also into the windscreen of his own car.

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We are always looking for new members as age is no barrier, our Second Eleven age group runs from 12 years to 81 years of age.

Hopefully Lakenheath Cricket Club will continue for many years to come.

Richard Bond

Lakenheath Cricket Club was founded in 1894. Most of the time played on the pitch at the club house. We did play for a time on the pitch at the club house. We were the first club to play on the pitch at the club house.

For a local village team, we have been successful over the years with the league championship and many 50 over competitions.

We are pleased that three players have gone on to play Minor Counties Cricket for Suffolk.

Some now play first class cricket for Suffolk and several players have represented Suffolk from the age of 16 upwards.

In the early days the Club like many others after the game finished it was off to the local pub for a drink. The pub on Park Street has like many others closed down. Many good nights were spent in those after matches and then we had our bar and kitchen. Opposite the pub have a village in the New Pavilion.

The Best Cricketer - In my time, Colin F. Smith who went on to play for Suffolk in Minor Counties Cricket. He played 137 Tests and became the second highest wicket taker taking 501 wickets a great achievement.

The Best Moment to see - Paul Ballantyne and 34 runs in one over against a County in a 50 over match at Lakenheath. Not so good but slow but wicket taking and impressive since the early 1980s.

Best memory was in 1970 in 17 over 50 over match.

Funny moment - when we got to check horse (horse cricket ground) one of our players asked the man with a scythe "what is the wicket made of" reply was "what do you want it as no fropped off with his scythe."

A Sunday cricket captain of your sons told me he had a cricket ball to use all season. Different from Friday when two balls lasted a 10-10 over game.

In the early days clubs had one kit bag with both gloves and pads in it. This was the norm in the early days, not like today everybody has their own kit.

In the early days we also had a special drink called "Willie's Will", this was the jug used for a jug of drink for anybody took 5 wickets or scored 50 runs. Of course, this 50 ended when the batsman came in.

Travel problem - we had a game at North Raucean near King's Lynn, unfortunately Tony Star went to East Raucean on the Norfolk coast, he did not know where the game started the 2nd May in the day.

We used to play Cambridge (Cambridge) and one day a Cambridge player came in a lovely straight into the car and into the windscreen of his own car.