

Earl Stonham Annual Parish Council Meeting - Cricket Club Report 2025

As the Cricket Club enters its 36th season since being reformed in 1988, it's a good chance to reflect on what was a successful year for the club in 2025. I'm pleased to report that our Saturday team achieved promotion back to Two Counties Division 6, while the Sunday team secured their place in Hunts County Bats Division 4.

We were pleased to welcome several new members to the club during 2025, including some much needed youth! We have continued to build on this, recruiting more playing members for the 2026 season.

We improved our facilities by completing our long term goal of installing an electronic scoreboard. This has made a significant difference on match days, with live scores at the ground and online, meaning supporters can follow along if they're not at the ground. The project was made possible thanks to generous donations, fundraising and support from Mid Suffolk District Council's Locality Fund. I would like to thank the Village Hall Committee for their support, particularly Tony Turner, who kindly assisted with connecting the scoreboard to mains power.

Unfortunately like many clubs, we continue to feel the impact of ever increasing fuel and running costs. In the past year, the club spent over £600 on diesel, primarily for the outfield mower and other heavy equipment, and a further £130 on unleaded fuel for the mowers used to maintain the square.

We have worked hard over several years to mitigate rising costs by running a tight profit and loss, increasing annual memberships and reviewing match fees annually. This has helped us remain in good financial health, but it's getting tougher each year.

We are now in the early stages of the 2026 season and I am delighted to report a strong start. The Saturday team have won all of their matches so far and currently sit top of the league. The Sunday team have played once and were unfortunately on the losing side. However, it was encouraging to see the next generation of cricketers take to the field, with two young bowlers making valuable contributions.

On match days it's been great to see the Club well supported, with many people enjoying the cricket with a drink from the bar. Seeing the ground busy highlights the social aspect of the club and its place at the heart of the village.

Kind regards

Luke Edgar

Club Secretary

Earl Stonham Cricket Club