



## Borden Sports Association



### **Annual Report May 2024**

Borden Sports Association hosts both village football and cricket teams whom play at the Playstool sports field through their respective seasons.

Firstly, the continued selfless commitment of the small team of volunteers forming the sports committee must be recognised within this annual report. Roger Pudner, Kevin Smith, David Roche and Knocker Williams devote their free time to the running of this excellent facility. A special recognition is extended to Roger and Kevin who work tirelessly each week on the pavilion infrastructure and sports field ensuring the playing pitches are at the high standard required for their respective matches. Without the commitment of these gentlemen a sports programme at Borden would not be possible.

The men's football team have just finished third place in the Kent County League Premier Division title race. This complemented their league title winners position last year which was the highest position the club has held in the entire history of Borden Village Football Club. The entire squad played some thrilling games managed by Conner Twomey and Matt Rowe's stalwart dedication and managerial direction.

Full details of the coming season adult matches, once scheduled will be found on the website: - <https://www.bordenvillagefc.co.uk/>

The youth team played in the Medway District Youth League. They had a successful season reaching the cup semi-final in the under nines section. Managed by Sam Stone they play Sundays during the football season on the smaller Playstool pitch.

The Sunday league cricket side had an excellent hard fought season witnessing them ending 9<sup>th</sup> in the Kent Village League 2 table following last years promotion from league 3. This league is a challenging competition and Borden continues to strive in this more demanding arena. Kevin Smith's stalwart work in promoting and facilitating this sport is to be acknowledged.

The Saturday side continued with friendly matches and it is hoped that enough players will come forward to form a more competitive regular team able to compete in a cricket league this coming season.

The cricket statistics & club information particularly for new interested players can be viewed at [www.borden.play-cricket.com](http://www.borden.play-cricket.com)

The 'Knit and Natter' group continue to enjoy the use of the pavilion facilities for their regular gatherings soaking up the countryside view during their Friday meets.

Other regular users of the pavilion and grounds include the ladies football team training during the week and playing the occasional match, the Wises Lane Liaison Group, the D-Day celebration committee, the Highways Group, and in particular the regular Fete Committee meetings who also use the pavilion and Playstool for the annual summer fete and Christmas Tree switch on festival both of which are led by Beverly Ward and her committee providing a fantastic boost to local morale.

The Parish Council is to be thanked for their continued support which is much appreciated.

Within this year the hot water tanks which supply the showers have been replaced to ensure an efficient working supply of hot water for players post games. At the same time the opportunity was also taken to install a cost saving kitchen water heating system for the benefit of the numerous users taking advantage of the kitchen asset.

The three main switches, one in each changing room and one in the kitchen that operate the hot water tank were replaced with the support of a grant from the Queenborough Fisheries Trust. The switches were replaced with push button time operated controls. This will alleviate the anxiety of a scenario involving a switch being left on until discovered at the next pavilion use and is a utilities cost saving which also reduces our environmental carbon footprint.

The disabled toilet alarm system has also been renewed into working order.

The complete internal fabric of the pavilion has been refurbished during the year with a like for like décor of white and magnolia.

With the kind assistance of a National Lottery Community Fund Grant the complete floor area in the main room, kitchen, ladies and gents toilets has been renewed with a hard wearing Altro Walkway flooring. The grant also provides for continued maintenance of this area over the foreseeable future.

It is worthy of note that both the football and cricket sport committees receive regular comments on the high standard of the pavilion and sports-field facility that Borden is proud to offer. This excellent amenity is part reason for our sports successes where players feel privileged to be associated with such a recognised high standard pavilion and sports ground.

Finally, the committee continue to be fully committed to maintaining this excellent parish sports facility and with the continued grateful assistance of the Parish Council the future appears extremely positive.

Clive Sims  
Chairman  
Borden Sports Association