

Keeping the game alive

THE CRICKETER VISITS ORTON PARK CC IN PETERBOROUGH TO SEE HOW THEIR NEW DURANT CRICKET FACILITIES ARE HELPING THE CLUB EXPAND AND KEEP ITS PLAYERS AND MEMBERS SAFE

Orton Park CC in Peterborough is a growing cricket club. Orton have made great strides in the past few years but their facilities were unable to keep up with the club's progression and demand to house more players. They have invested in a new two-bay netting system, as well as an artificial pitch and an electronic scoreboard.

These new facilities were installed by Durant Cricket and have ensured that, when play resumes, Orton Park are equipped to safely accommodate a packed summer schedule.

"There used to be one old single lane net which was very tired and only just fit for purpose," Orton Park chairman Mark Durham tells *The Cricketer*.

"But to Durant Cricket's credit, within a matter of weeks they managed to get the job done for the start of last season. What we've got now has made a huge impact, especially for the juniors but for all those involved with the club."

The new two-lane facility ideally suits any club, with a fully-enclosed permanent structure and full run-ups. The white netting at the back is a smart touch to replicate a sightscreen.

Orton Park can now host significantly more players in their two nets and comply with social distancing.

The 19-digit electronic scoreboard is not only impressive in appearance, and far more visible than its 'nail and slate' predecessor, but it helps maintain social distancing and



hygiene measures.

Had Orton Park not invested in a remotely controlled scoreboard they would have had to sanitise all the numbered slates after each use.

Durant have also installed an artificial wicket on the square.

"All our junior games are played on the artificial," Durham continues.


"We have a midweek adults team using it as well every Thursday, plus training on a Friday so it gets a fair bit of peppering. But it feels like you're playing on a brand new wicket.

"It's perfect. I think they're great for kids to learn on because not everyone has a good grass wicket. At times you can get out to a real grubber on grass but you don't get that at all on our artificial.

"Every club should install an artificial pitch. They make life much easier for the groundsman, especially as every age group has their own wicket length now.

"They're not that expensive for the amount of use you get out of them. Last summer, more often than not, there was play on the artificial every day Monday to Friday."

The new facilities helped Orton Park handle Covid restrictions last summer but they will also enable the Peterborough club to expand, allowing more teams and juniors to play the game safely.

"Durant are always who we prefer to use. Their reputation and quality speaks volumes." 



Durant Cricket are specialists in cricket ground equipment. For more information, visit www.durantcricket.co.uk or call 01572 822013