

East Molesey Cricket Club



Formal application/proposal to
develop a Second Pitch for the
EMCC on Hurst Meadow

Introduction

This document has been produced by East Molesey Cricket Club (EMCC) for presentation to Elmbridge Borough Council. It sets out the Club's wish to develop a second pitch on Hurst Meadow in order to relieve the pressure on the current pitch and accommodate the future expansion of the Club.

The current pitch hosts 1st and 2nd XI matches on Saturdays, Conference matches on Sundays and Colts matches for three age groups (Under 13's, Under 15's and Under 17's) throughout the week. It also has to accommodate mid-week and weekend training sessions for all members – from Under 7's up to the 1st XI squad. At the moment, the 3rd and 4th XI play their home matches on other local pitches due to lack of capacity.

The new pitch is part of a five-year strategy to expand the facilities at the Club in order to support the growing Colts membership, the formation of girls' and ladies' teams, as well as accommodate disabled players. The Club will shortly be submitting a Planning Application for a new enlarged pavilion that will not only cater for the increasing number of teams and members within EMCC but also enable a local winter sports club (or clubs) to share the facilities. More details and design concepts for the new pavilion are contained at the rear of this proposal.

The Club is seeking permission to develop the pitch on Hurst Meadow and, in order to obtain the considerable funds required for the planned development, secure a minimum lease period of 30 years.



Cricket on Moulsey Hurst

The history of cricket on Moulsey Hurst (Hurst Meadow)

Hurst Meadow, or Moulsey Hurst as it was originally known, is one of England's oldest sporting venues. It is said to be the site of the first game of golf in England during the reign of James I, a known golf enthusiast. Later, in the 18th and 19th centuries, Moulsey Hurst became famous as a venue for cricket, prize-fighting and other sporting contests. Latterly, this included horse racing, with the establishment of Hurst Park racecourse in the 1890's.

The Hurst is considered to be one of the birthplaces of cricket, along with other historical pitches, such as Mitcham Green. Records show that a team called Moulsey played several games on the Hurst. It appears that they were not an organised team until 1787 when Moulsey Hurst Cricket Club (MHCC) was officially formed and members included some of the prominent players of the day.

Over the subsequent years several other teams have shared the grounds with MHCC, including the Knightsbridge Cricket Club.

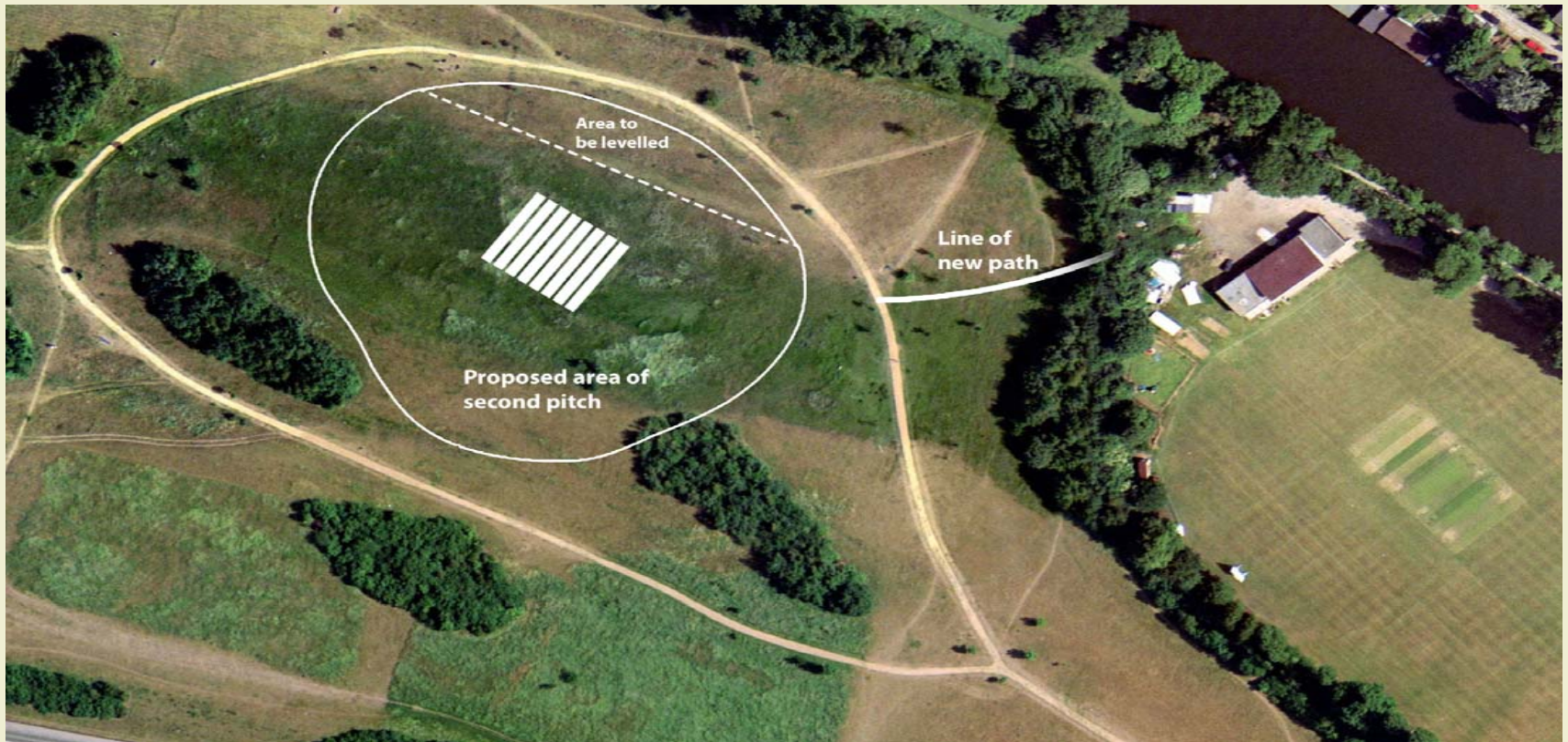


In 1828 the Duke of Clarence, then resident in Bushy Park, formed his own cricket team and chose the Hurst as its headquarters. In spite of his patronage, the club failed and no cricket was played on the Hurst until 1890 when Hurst Park racecourse was opened with a cricket pitch in the centre. By coincidence, the proposed site of a second pitch for EMCC is in almost the exact position as the original all those years ago. Although spectators had to pay an admission fee, it would have been worth the money to see the high quality cricket played, especially when a touring Australian side were beaten by the Molesey-based club by 34 runs.

Although first formed in 1871, the early years of the Molesey cricket team were not that successful. However, in 1879 a new club - East Molesey Cricket Club – was officially formed, with the Reverend W F Reynolds as its first President. He moved the team's ground from Molesey Park, behind the present Tesco Store, to the new and current ground on Graburn Way.

Location plan of the Second pitch





Aerial view of the proposed Second pitch

EMCC would like to form a second pitch on the flat area of ground to the centre of the paths in the Hurst Meadow grounds. The proposed site and boundaries of the new pitch are shown on the above aerial photograph, taken in 2003. The trees have obviously matured over the last few years, but this does not affect the position of the proposed boundary lines.

The photograph shows a raised area of ground (lighter, drier tone) to the north side of the proposed pitch. We assume the ground has dried-out because of the large amount of debris thought to be deposited there during the building of the houses on Hurst Park.

The formation of the pitch

Several suitable areas of the Hurst Meadow grounds were considered for the formation of a new pitch, but the Club believes that the final choice is the most suitable. It fits within the existing footpaths, causes the least amount of disruption and would return cricket to the historic site of the old ground within Hurst Park racecourse (see plans, aerial photographs and visuals on subsequent pages).

Pitch development:

If approved as the site of the new second pitch, the area would be professionally levelled and a new 'square', comprising eight strips or wickets, would be formed. The whole of the playing area would then be re-seeded and temporary fencing erected around the perimeter to protect the newly-seeded areas. Once the grass was established, there would be full access to the outfield for dogs and walkers, with only the square being 'fenced off'. This fencing would be 'visual' rather than a solid structure.

The raised area to the north of the pitch could be levelled to form a natural amphitheatre along the line of the existing path. Alternatively, the whole pitch could be sloped from north to south. The latter option is less favourable as the drainage to the north side of the pitch would be back towards the square. This could cause drainage issues for the square and involve the need for installation of a drainage system.

The formation of the pitch (cont.)

Maintenance:

A path would be required to access the pitch with the various mowers, rollers and other equipment the Club will use for maintenance, as well for the players and spectators. It is proposed to construct a new surfaced path from the grounds man's shed by the existing pavilion to the new pitch. It is understood that the Council is to improve the existing paths; therefore, the Club proposes that the new access path would match those of the Council in terms of make-up and finish.

A new water supply would be required at the square but this would be positioned below ground under a protective plate. The square and the outfield would be maintained by the Club, with the mown area extended to the areas shown on the plan. The rest of the surrounding land would remain as meadowland. EMCC has a full-time grounds man who would take on responsibility for maintenance of the second pitch.

EMCC has produced several visuals which show the limited impact the pitch on the site. In addition to this, a full panoramic view of the pitch is posted on the Club's website (see www.eastmoleseycricketclub.com). This allows the viewer to 'stand' in the centre of the square and turn through 360 degrees.

Visuals of the proposed ground



View towards the South West



View towards the South

Redevelopment of the pavilion

The existing EMCC pavilion was built to the design of award-winning architect, Professor Basil Ward, by George Wimpey Contractors in 1955. As part of a five-year strategy, EMCC is proposing to demolish the existing pavilion and replace it with a building better suited to the Club's needs. Not only is the existing building looking tired, but the acquisition of a second pitch would create the need for additional changing rooms. The Club plans to make the new pavilion available to the wider Molesey community and help address the current shortage of hire facilities in the local area.



The Club is well aware that the pavilion is currently only in use for half of the year, which is a waste of a resource. The Club therefore proposes that use of the new pitch and pavilion would be offered to a winter club. For example, the outfields of both pitches could be used for the training of the junior section of a rugby or football club. In addition, organisations such as running or cycling clubs could be invited to use the pavilion as a base for their activities.

The Club is realistic in its timings and programming, and expects the development of the new building to take about five years. EMCC has recently achieved Clubmark accreditation and is expected to also be accredited as a Focus Club by Surrey County Cricket (SCC) in the early part of this year. This will open up the avenues of funding needed to pursue this ambitious project. It is expected that the formal Planning Application will be submitted before spring 2010. The Club expects the fund-raising and grant-acquiring phase to take several years, and be followed by a build period of six months.

The new Pavilion



View from Graburn Way side.



View towards the river from rear.



View to rear towards the river.

Letter of support from Surrey County Cricket Club

EMCC has worked closely with SCC in development of this initial proposal and it has kindly provided a letter demonstrating the organisation's commitment to the Club and what it is trying to achieve.

As well as assisting EMCC with the technical issues associated with the formation of a new pitch, SCC would also work closely with the Club to secure the substantial funds required to achieve its vision of a second pitch on Hurst Meadow.

The SCC has also helped us to produce the five-year vision for EMCC shown in the following pages.



7th January 2010

Mr. Ian Burrows
Head of Leisure and Culture Services
Elmbridge Borough Council
Civic Centre
High Street
Esher
Surrey
KT10 9SD

Dear Mr. Burrows

Re: East Molesey Cricket Clubs proposal to form a new second pitch on Hurst Meadow, East Molesey.

I write to confirm Surrey County Cricket Club's full support for East Molesey CC's proposal to the Council for a second pitch.

East Molesey CC is a Clubmark accredited club and they are looking to become a Surrey Cricket focus club during 2010. They have an up-to-date development plan which Surrey Cricket are helping to deliver and are a very aspirational club looking to develop further.

We are also aware of the Club's plans to redevelop the Pavilion and understand it is the Clubs wish to strengthen its position as one of Surrey's top clubs, as well as providing an important new facility for the local community.

We have visited the site and think that it is perfect for a new pitch. It is also interesting to note the history of this piece of ground, and the fact the Club is reinstating a ground where one has been lost in the past.

We hope that the Council will support the proposal and we look forward to working with, and advising, the Club to realise this project.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J Paul Taylor".

J Paul Taylor
Director of Cricket Development – Surrey County Cricket Club



East Molesey CC - Current Statistics

Schools :

*None at present as we
are at capacity*

Players :

221 Participants

Facilities :

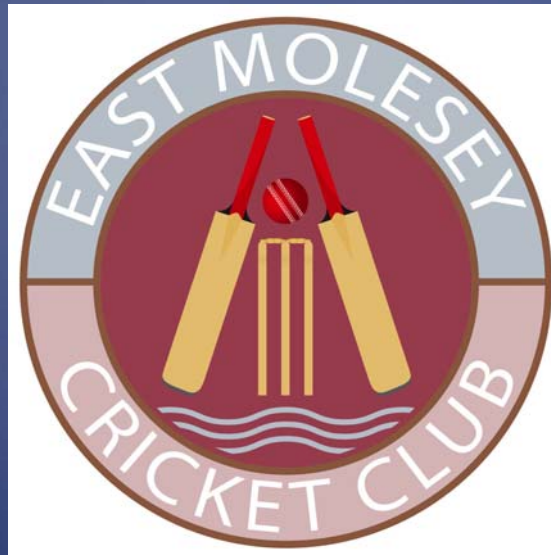
*We hire two indoor
schools and one out door
pitch. One pitch owned*

Coaching :

128 Sessions

Volunteers :

19 Volunteer Roles



Competition :

123 Matches

Coaches :

23 Coaching Roles

Talented Players :

9 Players



East Molesey CC – 5 year vision

Schools : 4 Schools

**Players :
350 Participants**

Facilities :
*We will hire two indoor
schools and one out door
Pitch + retain 2 pitches*

**Coaching :
170 Sessions**

Volunteers :
65 Volunteer Roles

**Competition :
175 Matches**



Coaches :
28 Coaching Roles

Talented Players :
15 Players

Summary

East Molesey Cricket Club is a thriving, local sports club with a long and glorious history. In order to ensure its future success and for it to continue to serve the local community, it needs to expand and improve its facilities. The Club believes that a second pitch on Hurst Meadow represents an excellent first step in that process. In addition, EMCC believes that the new pitch and proposed pavilion will add greatly to the facilities available to the local community, relieving some of the pressure on other halls and venues in the area.

The Club recognises the seasonal aspect of the sport but would actively seek to share its resources with other local clubs and organisations in order to extend their use to the whole year. The future of EMCC depends on its ability to expand. This proposal describes a carefully considered two-phase expansion that will enable the Club to maximise its potential over the next decade and ensure continued success for many years to come.