

Orpington Cricket Club – Net Replacement Project

The new nets are as good as done apart from some finishing touches which will be done early in March ready for the new season. All the structural work is complete and this is the history of the build.

We are going to see how we have gone from what we have been used to in the picture on the right,



To this.....



We initially had to clear the site ourselves and a small working party quickly put paid to our flimsy old nets leaving a blank canvass for the contractors to start work on



Week 1 - Digging the hole.

You probably wouldn't believe it by just looking but there is over a half metre drop from one corner of the nets to the other. A major part of the project and a major part of the cost was the excavation of close to 350 square meters of soil and chalk. The whole first week of the build was taken up by the digger.



Week 2 - Setting the posts

Once the excavation work had been completed the next stage of the project was to mark out the net lanes and put the sockets for the net posts. This involved a lot of measuring and a lot of string. All mod cons here!!



Week 3 - Laying the base

One of the key elements to a successful net is the base that is made up from very small shingle and has to be levelled perfectly.



By the end of week 3 it does not look like much has been achieved but by now all the really hard work has been done. It's taking the time over these stages of the build that makes all the difference when the nets start being used.



Week 4—Final Stages



Now it's time to start laying the matting and make the nets secure, additional contractors arrive to start putting up the 3m high security fence

Now it's starting to look like a cricket net as the frames go up. All the matting has been laid



So close now.....



And here it is, with only a few cosmetic bits to be done such as the white lines and the batting surrounds, this is the Orpington Cricket Club net facility. A lot of hard work has gone into getting this and we hope that you will use, look after and enjoy it.....

The official opening ceremony for the nets will be on the 30th March 2012. Watch out for more details

