

BOWLING MACHINE TO BE BOUGHT FOR THE CLUB

The club is delighted to announce that we have been awarded a **grant of £4,042 towards purchasing a bowling machine**. The grant comes through the government's Landfill Communities Fund scheme. Peter Lockwood applied on behalf of the club to **Mondegreen EB Ltd** who are an environmental body administering the scheme and funding came specifically from **Todd Waste Management Ltd** who run the landfill site locally at Knapton Quarry. We are very grateful to Mr Richard Todd for his company's support. (You may know, he has already supported the club by funding the purchase of junior equipment a couple of years ago.)

The bowling machine is intended **primarily for the juniors to provide consistent bowling for focused batting practice**. Bowling machines are a well-recognised piece of kit and used up to county and international level. Graham, Nick, John and Peter went at the end of the season to have a demo kindly offered by Peter Silk at Duncombe Park. We saw how the machine can be set to send down various speeds, lengths and bounce, and even swing and spin. It can also be used to **send high catches and other fielding practice**. Although the juniors should benefit most on their Friday coaching nights, I guess senior players might like to have a go as well.

Obviously there are bits of ancillary kit we shall get such as balls, battery & charger, a trolley to carry the thing on (it's heavy), even a set of steps to reach the delivery arm and calibration controls once it's set up on its tripod. We shall, of course, have to look after it and use it properly and safely. There'll be no just messing about with it. (Good job we've got a larger new store to keep it securely, too. Please can we have some space in your shed, Howard?) And there'd be no point sending balls down the practice nets if they go through the holes (despite best efforts to mend them) - so we've budgeted for replacing the nets as well (thanks to John on this). Oh, and we're throwing in a slip catching cradle.

So good news. We shall have to chip in 10% ourselves as part of the scheme but £400 for all this new equipment seems good value. Thanks again to Todd's.



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