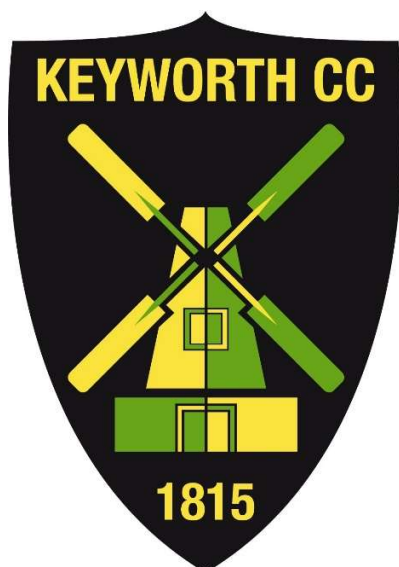


HISTORY of WOMEN & GIRLS CRICKET at KEYWORTH CRICKET CLUB

by BARRY BAKER

**President, Historian & Statistician of Keyworth CC
Founder of Cricket for Women & Girls at Keyworth CC
Coach, now assisting when needed**



Foreword

A team of gentlemen travelled by horse and wagon from the Nottinghamshire village of Keyworth to neighbour village Bunny on 13 June 1815 to play a two innings match of cricket having been inspired by the visit of an All England team of gentlemen who visited Nottingham to play the local town team.

199 years later, I advertised locally that we would be running six, one hour 'taster' sessions once per week at our Platt Lane ground and eight girls attended. Four are still playing for the club and two are among the leading girl players in the County.

Eight years later in 2022 more than 130 women and girls were playing cricket at Platt Lane from 4 years of age up to 50 years plus. Four teams were entered in the East Midlands Women's League, teams played in National Cup competitions at Girls Under 19 & 15 level, played in Nottinghamshire League competitions at Girls Under 15 & 13 level and at Under 11 level in the Nottinghamshire Girls Kwik Cricket League as well as many others participating in training with the Soft Ball Women's group outdoors and indoors and Under 7 Girls learning the game in soft ball beginner sessions.

A precedent had been set in 2008 when the club made the decision to reach out into the local community by organizing a Primary Schools Festival Day and inviting eight local Schools to participate under the leadership of one of our then players, and a local schoolteacher, Simon Tuckwell with a rule that each School Team should comprise a squad of ten players, two of whom must be girls. The inaugural event was won by a team from Willow Brook Primary School in Keyworth.

The Festival has been repeated annually, except one year when the covid epidemic intervened and in 2022 there were 16 School Teams challenging for four trophies and a host of medals & prizes and the championship cup was won by Brookside School from East Leake. Nottinghamshire County Cricket Club sent officials scouting for talent and professional franchise Trent Rockets sent players, Steven Mullaney & Georgia Davies to inspire the children and help with skills competitions over the lunch interval - these days, most of the participating School teams have more than just two girls in their line-up.

Relationships with the local Schools has strengthened over the years and Keyworth Cricket Club regularly sends coaches in to help develop cricket skills during the Summer term at no cost to the School and the club are rewarded by more children wanting to play cricket. A date has already been notified to each of the Schools for the 2023 Festival.

Our 1st XI Women's team comfortably won the East Midlands League Division One and will compete in the Premier Division in 2023, our Under 19 Girls were Midland's champions and reached the National Finals Day whilst our Under 15s were Runners Up in their Midland's Final and won the Under 15 Notts Girl's League, and the Under 11 Girl's reached Finals Day in Notts Kwik Cricket.

Keyworth CC can justifiably claim to be one of the leading clubs in the East Midland's Region and since 2016 has regularly provided players for the Junior County representative teams and hosted County matches. To date 21 of our Girls have been capped and three of them have played in the County Women's team and further, three younger girls passed through the trials to join the County Under 11s squad and will hope to be in the team next summer.

2022 saw a Woman, Georgi Sutton-Walker awarded 2nd XI Player of the Year in Saturday Senior Cricket playing with the men and scoring runs taking wickets and catches and occasionally being accompanied by two more of our girls in the 2nd XI, Olivia Baker, and Annie Williams. All of them earning their place on merit.

We now have a 'professional' player in our Women's 1st XI, Michaela Kirk, born in South Africa of British parents and now seeking to settle in the Keyworth area. Michaela came over to the UK in 2021 with a contract to play for both the Loughborough Lightning & Trent Rockets but sadly had her endeavors abruptly cut short in July when she sustained a serious ACL injury and it was more than a year before she was on the field again playing with Lightning.

On recommendation, the Keyworth Club Committee engaged Michaela to assist with coaching the KCC 1st & 2nd XI women players and this all came to a rapid end when Michaela got injured so it was brilliant to see her on a recovery path playing for Keyworth and batting at number 4 away at Cutthorpe CC in early August 2022 and clipping the ball off her legs to score the first ever 6 by a KCC woman as she went on make a valuable contribution to KCC's promotion year.

Georgi for two seasons has been the leading run scorer in East Midland's women's cricket but with the accent on youth our 24 year old super star might miss out on local representative cricket but we hope that is not the case.

For 2023, Keyworth can boast of players from within their ranks being engaged by the new Regional Professional Women's Team known as 'The Blaze' and based at Trent Bridge. Michaela is contracted to the 1st XI and opening bowler Olivia Baker has a contract with the Academy whilst leg spinner Eeve-Mae Hicklin and wicket-keeper Annie Williams are in the EEP (Emerging Player Programme) and pushing for places in the Academy, and Michaela, Olivia, Eeve-Mae and Annie will also be pushing for places in the Nottinghamshire County Women's team if it is decided by the ECB to continue with T20 women's cricket at this level.

Keyworth are now one of the main clubs contributing players to the Nottinghamshire County Junior teams. Olivia Baker, Eeve-Mae Hicklin, Sadie Hodgson and Liv Wade are in the Under 18s squad and Evie Barr, Annie Brown, Darcey Graham, Meghna Rajan, Charlotte Reek, Florence Waghorne, Nelly Weaver and Annie Williams are with the Under 15s. Isabel Dashwood and Amelia Holley are with the Under 13s and Callie-May Dickins, Jasmin Kulkarni, and Lauren Sleeman with the Under 11s. In all, 17 players from Keyworth benefiting from the extra technical coaching provided by the County.

The future is bright and it is wonderful to think that if somebody is reading this in ten or twenty years they would wonder what all the fuss is about with regard to females playing cricket, hopefully when gender will have no relevance.

The review of each season that follows since female cricket was introduced, charts the progress made by the club and individual women and girl cricketers.

2014

The original eight girls attending the 'taster' sessions, with the youngest aged just six years remind me of some fond memories, particularly how they struggled to concentrate and much of the time they were doing handstands, cartwheels and other gymnastic movements in the field rather than watch the ball and it was not surprising that we lost a match played on 2 July against an established and older Plumtree Girls team, by 34 runs.

Our team is pictured (right), back row, left to right...Lucy Westbrook (an extra player who didn't attend the tasters), Barry Baker (Coach), Ella Sheehy, Meg Ledward the oldest girl and captain), Paula Baker (Assistant Coach), Heidi Marlow and kneeling...Lily Phillips, Annie Williams, Olivia Baker, Imogen Foulds, & Chamonix Jackson (now a Great Britain international ice hockey player).



Meg Ledward became the first female to collect a Club Award in being nominated Girl Player of the Year.

2015

KEYWORTH CRICKET CLUB

- Launch of KCC Book
- Premiere of KCC Anniversary Video
- Launch of KCC 200 club
- Overview of year's events

KCC Club House
Platt Lane
Friday 6th March
From 7PM

**OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF 200TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR
CELEBRATIONS!**

A season of huge celebrations for the Bi-Centenary of Keyworth Cricket Club and fitting that even though it took 199 years to happen, females were now playing cricket with the club.

We entered the Junior Girls Nottingham Under 12 League (South Division), 8 a-side Pairs 'Kwik Cricket' matches played on Sunday mornings against other club teams in South Nottinghamshire...Kinoulton CC, Plumtree CC & West Bridgfordians CC and won all 5 matches that we played with our squad... Olivia Baker, Elli Haynes, Sukhmani Kaur, Meg Ledward (capt), Heidi Marlow, Abbie Morris, Hannah Pratt, Ella Sheehy, Lucy Tuttey, Alice Walton (vice capt) & Annie Williams.

Alice, a promising talent was voted Player of the Year but decided to choose athletics over cricket and she has become a very good middle distance runner. The bonus was that her brother Ben stayed with the club and has become a fine 2nd XI bowler pushing to move up to the firsts.

2016

Over the Winter break I attended a Seminar at Attenborough Cricket Club's pavilion. Three lady officials from the ECB (England & Wales Cricket Board) had come up from Lord's with the aim of encouraging East Midland clubs to engage with Women & Girls cricket – below is the relevant correspondence...

Helen, thank you for the communication which I have circulated to our club committee.

I am delighted to say that following my attendance at Attenborough and reporting back, a decision was taken at our AGM last week to place Women & Girls Cricket among our major priorities for the season ahead and I have made the decision to step back from coaching boys, which I have done for the past 30 years and focus completely on coaching female players and one of our girl's dads is currently on a Level 2 Course with the intention of providing me with full support – we are going to give it a real go and see if we can welcome more young ladies from our community into the experience of enjoying cricket at our club.

Regards,

Barry Baker – President, Keyworth Cricket Club

From: Helen Pack [<mailto:helen.pack@ecb.co.uk>]

Sent: 02 December 2015 10:35

cc: Laura Newton; Sue Redfern

Subject: What Women Want - Women's Club Cricket in the Midlands

Dear All

Thank you for joining us at one of the 4 sessions we held in November across the Midlands exploring how we could create a fantastic season of cricket in 2016, providing appropriate playing opportunities for women of all ages and abilities.

I have attached the presentation we shared and have highlighted below some of the key discussions we had:

- **How can I make my club more welcoming to women?**
 - Think about the physical environment, the club house and toilets, as well as the welcome new players get when they arrive for the first time. What does your website say about you? Does it feel welcoming to new parents or members, explaining the experience you give rather than just the games you play? More information on this can be found on www.ecb.co.uk/clubsupport where you can also register for the club support newsletter
- **How can I promote my club better?**
 - Think about the images and language you use in promoting your activities. Speak to women's values rather than just the type of cricket you offer. Think about how you use Facebook, Twitter and other social media to keep your players connected.

- **How can I increase the opportunity for women to play?**
 - You are probably clear on the formal league offer that you have. Think about how you can support more informal accessible offers, be that soft ball festivals, mid week pairs cricket or some T20 on a county Sunday. Does your local County Board support this or can you run your own festival and invite other local clubs? Please register for our This Girl Can campaign on www.ecb.co.uk/thisgirlcan where we are developing resources to support clubs offering new soft ball playing opportunities.
- **How can I get the league cricket experience our players want?**
 - The Women's Midlands League have just had their AGM and the clubs voted to reduce the number of overs being played in line with player feedback. Leagues wants to listen to your views so please make sure you share your thoughts on the type of cricket that your players want to play. Keep talking with your players and don't just be swayed on the views of the better players, the views of our cameo players are really important.

If you need any further support please get in touch. We would also love to hear about any news ideas you have and what has gone well for you during 2016.

All the best for a fantastic 2016 – indoors and out!

Yours

Helen Pack : County Cricket Board Network Operations Manager

**England and Wales Cricket Board : Lord's Cricket Ground
London, NW8 8QZ, England.**

I came away enthused and with the support of the Club Committee it was decided that we would offer one of the suggestions made at the Seminar. Speak to ladies at our club - wives, partners, mothers, sisters & supporters and offer space on the field, kwik cricket plastic bats, stumps, soft balls and provide some basic instruction.

Jacqui Dakin, wife of committee member Chris, took on the challenge immediately and asked that we lay on a glass of Prosecco for each participant for after the match. A total of 15 ladies had themselves a great time, laughing and giggling like schoolgirls and quickly got stuck into the post-match drink.

Ladies 'Fun' Cricket Social @ KCC

What is it?

Fun ladies game of Kwik cricket followed by drinks in the bar (don't worry, no special skills needed, this is just an opportunity to have a go!)

When?

Friday 6th May 6.30 – 7.30pm

Where?

Platt Lane

What do I need?

A pair of trainers

Any questions?

Contact Jacqui Dakin on 07903 280135 or
jacqui.dakin@moypark.com



The worry for the committee was that men and boys playing and watching on the field at the same time, might whistle and cat-call. It didn't happen, the ladies were warmly welcomed and encouraged and below is a photo taken at the start of their first session together.



In a short speech after the match, I suggested that it had been such a successful evening that we should repeat once a month, to which I was loudly shouted down as the ladies insisted they wanted to play every week from then on and so they did.

Led by Jacqui and lieutenants, Jane Rummery & Nicola Anderson, women's cricket has not looked back at Keyworth CC and very soon they adopted England & Notts player Samit Patel as their hero and not only were they playing but supporting as a group, Nottinghamshire CCC at Trent Bridge & England Women at Loughborough, Derby & Leicester.

Cricket had become their hobby and many friendships have blossomed since.

The first ever KCC Ladies team played in an 8 a-side Kwik Cricket Tournament at Derby CC on Sunday 21 August, winning two and losing two matches and the team is pictured below, left to right...back row...Nicola Anderson, Chris Dakin (Coach), Barry Baker (Girls Team Manager), Jade Pope, Claire Till, Hayley Doran and front row...Anna Newell, Jacqui Dakin (Captain), Maria Lewis & Jane Rummery.



At the end of season presentation evening, they lined up with the guest for the evening and their hero in the photo below, left to right...Chris Dakin, Samit Patel, Jane Rummery, Jacqui Dakin, Hayley Doran, Claire Till, Nicola Anderson, Anna Newell, Jade Pope & Maria Lewis.



More and more girls, were attending training sessions...

Eight Keyworth Girls, Ruby Atkinson, Olivia Baker, Vicky Ball, Megan Bennett (capt), Imogen Foulds, Hannah Pratt, Ella Sheehy & Lucy Tuttey were selected to represent the district Rushcliffe Royals team and they reached the Nottinghamshire Under 12 Regional Cup Final before losing to Bassetlaw Blades at Attenborough CC's ground.

RUSHCLIFFE ROYALS

County Development Coach Tim Ward, assisted by County women player Amy Gauvrit, ran the sessions at Platt Lane and were talent scouting at the same time.

On 25 July, Olivia Baker became the first Keyworth female player to represent Nottinghamshire at Junior level in a match against Warwickshire CCC at Welbeck CC's ground and I remember it well as on arrival at the ground, Olivia had to be coaxed out of the car. Just 25 days after her 10th birthday she was so nervous and at the end of the season, she was joined by three more KCC Girls selected for County Winter training, Victoria Ball & Megan Bennett (U13s) & Lucy Tuttey (U12s).

2017

Highlight of the year was our Under 11 Girls winning the County Gilbert Cup Final in front of a packed Trent Bridge crowd and playing at Lords in London in front of another full house during the interval of the Royal London One Day Cup Final match between Notts & Surrey.

The squad that participated in the 8 a-side Pairs 'Kwik Cricket' match beating Gedling Colliery girls at Trent Bridge on a tie by most wickets taken on 14 May was...Olivia Baker (capt), Lexi Birchall, Rubie Pommeroy, Hannah Pratt, Hannah Thomas, Morgan Wells, Annie Williams & Amy Wood, coached by myself. The team are pictured right with the Gedling girls who wore blue caps. Gedling Colliery from that day



forward have continued to be the biggest challengers in the County to the KCC Girls and many good friendships have developed over the years.

The Gilbert National Cup Final squad that lost to Dulwich CC at Lords on 1 July was...Olivia Baker (capt), Imogen Foulds, Rubie Pommeroy, Hannah Pratt, Hannah Thomas, Lucy Tuttey, Annie Williams & Amy Wood with Morgan Wells in reserve.

England & Lancashire fast bowler Kate Cross acted as their host for the day and led the team out on to the ground, after warm-up sessions with Kate and England Captain Eoin Morgan. The English Cricket Board had organized a bus to take the players from Keyworth to Lords and back home along with parents and supporters.

The team posed for photographers before emerging onto the pitch and can be seen below with Coaches Barry Baker (right) & Keith Williams (left).



A squad containing Lucy Tuttey (capt), Olivia Baker, Imogen Foulds, Emma Lowe, Hannah Pratt, Ella Sheehy & Annie Williams had taken part in an Under 12 Indoor competition through the preceding Winter at the Barr Lane Centre, in Basford.



A very young KCC Under 13 Girls squad went into the cauldron of the Lady Taverners Cup, 8 a-side hard ball cricket. They won the Nottingham Zone by virtue of West Bridgfordians CC being unable to raise a team and were then drawn to play at Stoke on Trent in the Midlands quarter finals against a very strong J G Meakins CC team full of Staffordshire County players and were thrashed, bowled out for just 5 runs. The KCC line up included three girl guests from Gedling Colliery CC, as the rules allowed. The event had provided a harsh lesson that in the following years stood the girls in good stead.

A series of friendly Under 13 matches against Gedling Colliery CC, Plumtree CC and West Bridgfordians CC took place through the season against opponents generally more experienced and of the five matches KCC won only one against Plumtree but Keyworth players were starting to gain recognition with two KCC girls, Olivia Baker & Emma Lowe playing for the Nottinghamshire County Under 12 Girls team against other County teams across the Midlands & North of England and six other KCC Girls being awarded County Trials at U12, U13 & U15 age levels at the end of the season.

The club entered a group of younger girls into the Nottinghamshire Under 12 Kwik Cricket League (South Division), two teams, Keyworth Millers and Keyworth Kittens playing matches on a regular basis on Sunday mornings with the Millers winning 8 and losing 3 matches and the Kittens winning 6 and losing 5. Players involved were Freya Amos, Evie Barr, Lexi Birchall, Imogen Foulds, Savana Graham, Hannah Hutchings, Holly Hutchings, Sukhmani Kaur, Connie Murray, Helena Murray, Freya Newton, Rubie Pommeroy, Hannah Pratt, Caitlyn Ravenscroft, Ella Sheehy, Beth Smith, Hannah Thomas, Emily Till, Katie Tomlinson, Lucy Tuttey, Annie Williams & Amy Wood with a coaching team of myself, Jacqueline Sheehy & Keith Williams.

KCC Ladies, inspired by the leadership of Jacqui Dakin went from strength to strength competing through the Winter in the Derby/Notts Ladies Indoor Development League at Derby Leisure Centre and in the Derbys/Notts Ladies Softball Festival 8 a-side Pairs 'Kwik Cricket' tournament and were developing a reputation as one of the leading pioneers in Ladies Softball Festivals across the East Midlands and the stand out player, Claire Foster became the first lady to play in a Hard Ball 'mens' match v Cropwell CC for the KCC Sunday XI on 3 September.

The Ladies, fully supported by the Club Committee continued to promote their activities, attempting to get more players interested and more clubs to embrace female cricket as the poster below shows.

ATTEND OUR NEXT WOMEN'S SOFT BALL CRICKET FESTIVAL AT



Keyworth Cricket Club
Sunday 2nd July 2017
10.00am – 14.00pm



8-a-side pairs format/ suitable for new and existing participants
Fun, Safe and Social (No equipment, No special clothing)
What's provided?

- BBQ
- Free Ice Cream for Kids!
- Bouncy Castle
- Group Activity/ Warm Up



#Expect

Book now via web : www.ecb.co.uk/womenssoftballcricket or contact graham.redfern@nottsccc.co.uk or message us directly!

The squad of Lady players below includes, left to right, back row...Christine Wood, Paula Baker, Jane Rummery, Christine Viggers, Claire Till, middle row...Kellie Etherington, Nicola Anderson, Candy Phoenix, Jade Pope, Hilary Southwell, Clare Kulkarni, Caroline Howell and front row...Anita Blacklock, Jacqui Dakin & Maria Lewis.



2018

Keyworth Cricket Club won the prize for Community Group of the Year at the Rushcliffe Annual Awards, a fitting reward for the many unpaid volunteers who had helped the growth and development of the club. A year in which the club had hosted at Platt Lane the Under 12 & Under 15 Nottinghamshire County Girls teams in matches v Leicestershire & Staffordshire and hosted the Rushcliffe Girls Schools Cricket Festival Day and continued to deliver 'free' coaching in local primary Schools. Keith Williams, Chris Dakin, Jacqui Dakin (holding the trophy) and Geoff Baker were on hand, to receive the accolade.



The Ladies continued to play in Softball Cricket Festivals across the East Midlands, through the season, winning the majority of their matches and on occasions fielding up to three teams, and their standing was elevated when on 27 July they were invited to demonstrate Ladies Soft Ball before a packed Trent Bridge crowd prior to the start of a Notts CCC T20 match. Once again, the squad had participated in the Notts Ladies Indoor Championship League at Bar Lane and the Derby/Notts Ladies Indoor Development League at Derby Leisure Centre, February through April.

Keyworth's Ladies went on tour for the first time playing at La Manga (Spain) in 6 a-side Cricket Festival, 10-13 May, pictured below are Nicola Anderson, Jacqui Dakin, Kerry Bingham, Jacqueline Sheehy, Claire Kulkarni, Rachel Matravers and sitting Caroline Howell, Jane Rummery, Anita Blacklock & Debbie Cox.



The early season sun from the Spanish trip obviously proved beneficial training as on 20 May, at Ellerslie the Ladies won a Nottinghamshire Soft Ball competition with left to right in the photo below...Jane Rummery, Georgia Viggers, Anne Mills, Paula Baker, Emma Richardson, Hilary Southwell, Jacqui Dakin & Christine Viggers.



The club fielded a Women's Hard Ball XI for the first time ever and a practice match was played on Monday 11 June in which a Women's team took on a Girl's team and before the game they all posed as one group.



Six Girls, Victoria Ball & Emma Lowe (Under 15), Lucy Tuttey (Under 13), Olivia Baker, Ruby Randall & Annie Williams (all Under 12) represented Nottinghamshire County age group teams. Olivia (centre in photo), Ruby (left) & Annie (right) played in all 9 matches for a County under 12s team that was undefeated all season. Ruby was nominated, the County U12 Batter of the Year.



Our Under 15s suffered another bruising encounter in the Midlands round of the Lady Taverners Cup, beaten soundly by another team from Staffordshire filled with older County players.

Porthill Park CC winning by 165 runs on 13 May a few days after the Under 13 Girls had exited the Lady Taverners Cup at Under 13 level when Gedling Colliery beat them by 4 runs in a keenly fought match.

The Girls participated in an Under 15s Nottingham Youth League, competing against Gedling Colliery CC, Kirkby Portland CC, Plumtree CC and West Bridgfordians CC, winning only one of the eight matches they played, and entered a Girls team in the Newark Youth League at Under 14 level playing against Boys teams and finished in third place, winning four of the eight matches they played.

Over the Winter in pre-season the Girls entered two teams in the Nottinghamshire Under 13 Indoor League at Barr Lane Centre, Basford. Keyworth Millers...Megan Bennett (capt), Olivia Baker, Victoria Ball, Emma Lowe, Freya Newton, Ruby Randall, Emily Till & Lucy Tuttey.

Keyworth Kittens...Ella Sheehy (capt), Imogen Foulds, Emma Lowe, Eleanor Owen, Hannah Pratt, Beth Smith, Annie Williams & Amy Wood.



A KCC Girls team played in the Nottinghamshire 8 a-side Pairs 'Kwik Cricket' League on Sunday mornings playing against Caythorpe CC, Gedling Colliery CC, Kinoulton CC, Plumtree CC & West Bridgfordians CC with a squad consisting of Evie Barr, Lucy Brown, Amelia Bunting, Imogen Bunting, Sophie Burke, Evie Byng, Connie Murray, Helena Murray, Hannah Thomas, Beth Smith, Eloise Wakeling, Lilly Wakeling & Amy Wood. Coached by myself & Jacqueline Sheehy.

Keyworth was adopted as the Nottingham Hub of Loughborough Lightning's Super Women's League team's Summer Camp for Girls and they brought along to conduct coaching, World Cup winner Jenny Gunn, Scotland spinner Kirstie Gordon & Leicestershire County player Lucy Higham, photos below.



**LIGHTNING
GIRLS SUMMER
CAMP**

Nottinghamshire
6th August- Keyworth Cricket Club

9-14 Years
10am-3pm

Learn new skills, Batting, Bowling, Fielding.
Meet Lightning players
Recieve FREE T-shirt



Contact Lauren Rowles
for more information:
L.Rowles@lboro.ac.uk
07458 126734



Former England Women's left handed batter & TV pundit Lydia Greenway came along to Platt Lane to deliver a Masterclass in Fielding for both the KCC Ladies & Girl players and later in the season came back to deliver a three day Summer Camp for our Girls.



2019

The club was rapidly and proudly, gaining a reputation as a home for female cricket in Nottinghamshire and hosted County matches and coaching events through the season including two T20 Notts Women's matches v Kent & Lancashire with all three teams featuring some international players and we again hosted at Platt Lane, Junior matches including Notts Under 17, 13 & 12 Girls all against Leicestershire and were scheduled to host the Rushcliffe Girls Primary Schools Festival on behalf of the Notts Cricket Board but the day was washed out by rain and for 6 weeks, through July & August the club hosted the Rushcliffe Royals Primary Schools Hub, again on behalf of the Notts Cricket Board.

Keyworth Cricket Club was honoured by the Notts Cricket Board at their Annual OSCA's ceremony, for it's 'Diversity' offer which included Disability Cricket through entering a 'partnership' with Ash Lea School and running a number of coaching sessions, plus the club's expansion of its School's programme in providing 32 one hour Coaching sessions at 8 Local Primary Schools which then culminated in 14 Schools entering teams for the KCC Primary Schools Festival which was staged for the 12th successive year.

At the same OSCA ceremony, the club received the award of 'Coaching Club of the Year'. A tribute, not only to the many men and women who volunteer their time coaching and managing the club's many teams but for the new recruits who give time to go through the qualification process.

The club had launched its Cultural Exchange Programme through the successful visit of Timmo Thomas & Essan Warner from Antigua for ten weeks and were looking forward to two Keyworth youngsters travelling to Antigua in the following March/April 2020 and further exchanges in the future.

Keyworth again hosted Summer Camps for junior boys & girls thanks to Chloe Williams and her Little Wickets organization, and through the season benefited from visits by a number of former professional cricketers to provide coaching sessions to aid player technical development

The most significant event of the season for female cricket however was the founding of a Women's hard ball team playing friendly matches and participating in the ECB promoted Kia Summer Smash tournament at Caythorpe CC for Midlands based women's teams meanwhile the Ladies continued to play a prominent role in Women's Soft Ball cricket throughout the East Midlands.

The Women's 1st team made its debut in an 8 a-side match against an experienced Plumtree team at their ground on 9 July and the team that lost by just 9 runs lined up, left to right was Kiran Hassan, Jacqui Dakin, Freya Winfield, Jacqueline Sheehy, Clare Kulkarni, Jenny Garnham, Mary Butler & Nicola Anderson.



The Women's team had won a warm-up game against Keyworth Girls and also played twice more against Plumtree, both times at Platt Lane and on both occasions losing and in the Kia Smash tournament they lost to Charlbury CC and Kibworth CC but much experience had been stored away for the future.



More women were now making themselves available to play in Senior hard ball cricket and Paula & Olivia Baker became the first ever Mother & Daughter to do so in the same match, on 13 July in a 4th XI match away v Collingham & Winthorpe CC.



Our women's team at the Kia Summer Smash tournament at Caythorpe CC, from left to right, back row...Nicola Anderson, Claire Foster (capt), Jacqui Dakin, Kiran Hassan, Vicky Chambers (guest player), Barry Baker (coach), Emma Richardson & Shelley Thompson (guest), front row...Kellie Etherington, Beth Foster, Freya Winfield, Sharika Kuhan & Nat Odell (guest).

Olivia Baker was one of six KCC Girl players representing Nottinghamshire in County Junior matches during the season along with Lucy Tuttey (U15s), Eeve-Mae Hicklin, Ruby Randall & Annie Williams (U13s) and Eleanor Owen (U12s).

Olivia was awarded Notts Girls U13 Player's Player of 2019.



The KCC Girls had won the Under 15 Indoor Nottinghamshire Championship pre-season, an event sponsored by Loughborough Lightning Women's Super Cricket with a line up, left to right, back row...2 Lightning players, Lucy Tuttey, Ella Sheehy, Emma Lowe, Sharika Kuhan, Lightning player, front row...Olivia Baker, Eeve-Mae Hickin, Annie Williams & Eleanor Owen.



KCC Under 15 Girls played in the Nottingham Youth Girls League winning five of their six matches and losing only to Gedling Colliery CC and the rivalry continued as they shared the trophy with them. Plumtree CC and West Bridgfordians CC also participated.

To further aid experience their Under 15 Girls entered the Newark Youth Under 13 League where they competed against eleven boy's teams and finished a creditable 10th and lost only 7 of their 11 matches.

KCC Under 13 girls lost to Amber Valley CC in the Lady Taverner's Cup and competed in the Newark Youth Under 11 League winning one of their 8 matches, including losing to a KCC Boy's U11 team, and an Under 12 Girls team played in the Nottinghamshire 'Kwik Cricket' League (South Division) against predominantly boy's teams. Coached by Jacqueline Sheehy, the players included Amelia Bunting, Lucy Brown, Millie Burke, Sophie Burke, Evie Byng, Emma Harris, Amelia Holley, Madeleine Jesky, Saumya Kuhan, Emma Leddie & Adia Strong.

Lydia Greenway again came along to Platt Lane to coach and help prepare the girl's, left to right...Lydia, Victoria Ball, Ella Sheehy, Ruby Randall, Madeleine Bowry, Olivia Baker, Imogen Foulds, Emma Lowe, Freya Winfield, Lucy Tuttey, Isabella Bowry, Eleanor Owen & Eeve-Mae Hicklin.



The Ladies Soft team again participated in the Notts Ladies Indoor Championship League at Bar Lane, Basford, October through December 2018 and the Notts Ladies Indoor Cup Competition, March 2019 both at Bar Lane Centre, Basford and in an East Midlands Women's Indoor Soft Ball World Cup, Jan-March 2019 competition at Radcliffe on Trent Leisure Centre.

During the summer months the Ladies were very active around the East Midlands in the Soft Ball League and various Festivals across the region with enthusiasm still high and new players joining.

2020

The year will always be remembered for the impact on cricket from the coronavirus Covid 19 pandemic. Midway through March all cricket activities ceased as the pandemic seriously impacted the UK with Indoor Training sessions halted for all teams and players at Trent Bridge and South Wolds School Sports Hall.

Sam Foster and Tom Rock had barely settled into life in Antigua on the Exchange Programme and played just one match before they had to abandon the island and fly home before all airline travel was severely curtailed and the planned fixture lists for all senior and junior League cricket was cancelled for the season.

Coronavirus prevented any match cricket until 11 July when just seven weeks of the season allowed for 'friendly' matches under very strict health regulations – no teas, no use of dressing rooms, sterilizing of equipment and balls and so on.

Jenny Garnham made an exceptional effort, enabling the Club to manage all the requirements the ECB had placed on clubs in allowing cricket to re-commence and for this she was awarded the Eric Watson Best Supporter Trophy at the end of the season. A season when no other awards were made.

The Women's 1st XI after training and playing friendly matches the previous season, made their debut in the inaugural East Midlands Women's hard ball Cricket League and a future star player was welcomed to Keyworth.

Georgi Sutton Walker was playing in 2019 with Sutton Bonington CC and the University of Nottingham Ladies team and confessed to be looking for a club offering competitive Women's League cricket. A University student with County experience in Yorkshire and with Durham Women, her debut with KCC was delayed by the pandemic but it was not long before she made an impact with her all round skills and became a great support to new Women's Captain, Claire Foster and a somebody to look up to, for the many talented junior girls.

The Women lost in a tight finish at Market Overton CC in Leicestershire on their 19 July debut in the EMWL League before Eleanor Owen became the first KCC female player to hit a Half Century with 65 against Ockbrook & Borrowash CC in a League match at home on 2 August then on 13 September 2020 Georgi Sutton-Walker (67 not out) & Olivia Baker (66 not out) set a new Women's Cricket Partnership KCC Record in a return match and a 52 run victory at Market Overton their only victory in the six matches that comprised the season



The socially distanced team line up before their debut match in EMWL at Market Overton, back row, left to right...Evie Mae Hicklin, Eleanor Owen, Paula Baker, Simon Pope (coach), Victoria Ball, Lucy Tuttey & Annie Williams and in front...Olivia Baker, Ruby Randall, Claire Foster (capt), Kiran Hassan & Kereng Mrwata.



And, the winning team line up on the return to Market Overton, back row, left to right...back row...Vicky Ball, Paula Baker, Eleanor Owen, Annie Williams, Olivia Baker, Ruby Randall, Freya Winfield and front row Claire Foster, Kereng Mrwata, Kiran Hassan & Georgi Sutton-Walker...



KCC Ladies soft ball team also made their debut in the East Midlands Women's soft ball League, playing in the North West Division at home against Clumber Park CC on 26 July. Losing the match but when



they travelled to Clumber Park for the return fixture at the attractive away ground, they were victorious.

The Ladies played 6 League and 4 Friendly matches in the curtailed season, winning 4 and losing 6.

With no official Junior competitions, the Under 15 Girl's played two home and away friendlies with Gedling Colliery CC losing both and the Under 13 Girl's lost a friendly with Bingham CC and some of the players gained further game time playing with the Junior Boy teams and in Saturday 3rd & 4th XI matches whilst a limited County Junior Girls programme saw Olivia Baker & Ruby Randall active with the Under 15s, Evie-Mae Hickling, Eleanor Owen, Nelly Weaver and Annie Williams, the Under 13s and Evie Barr and Beth Smith with Under 11s, and Mabel Rhodes playing with Derbyshire County Girls Under 13s.

Eight matches over four weeks were possible in the Nottingham 'Kwik Cricket' League and Callie-May Dickens, Evie Dickens, Emma Harris, Madeleine Jesky, Emily Newman & Imogen Gerrard played alongside our boys in the one team entered by KCC.



2021

Some covid restrictions were still in place and whilst the Seniors were back playing competitive cricket, all Junior cricket continued to be friendly.

Keyworth's 1st XI Women missed out on promotion in the East Midlands Women's League, finishing third in Division One but had the pleasure of beating Caythorpe CC, the former Plumtree women playing under new colours, the only defeat the promoted champions had in their entire season.

Georgi Sutton Walker scored the first ever female century for Keyworth in an away match against Kibworth CC away on 18 July in a Division One game. She made 130 not out and combined with Eleanor Owen (89) in setting a new Women's Partnership record of 260 for the first wicket. The team resplendent in their new team shirts are picture below left to right, back row...Florence Conn, Ruby Randall, Claire Foster (capt), Liv Wade, Eeve-Mae Hicklin, Eleanor Owen, front row...Jasmine Saunders, Olivia Baker, Georgi Sutton-Walker, Mabel Rhodes & Annie Williams.



Squad players missing from the photo above are Karin Hassan, Kereng Mrwata, Frankie Neil, Emma Richardson & Nelly Weaver of the regulars.

Our arch-rivals Gedling Colliery CC gained the Runners Up spot and experienced teams Sileby Town CC, Thrapston CC, Ockbrook & Borrowash CC and Kibworth CC finished below us. Our 1st XI played 13 matches including one friendly, won 8 and lost 5, and this was considered real progress.

Keyworth fielded a Women's 2nd XI in Division One of the EMWL Super 8s League and they finished fifth in a seven team League and our Women's 3rd XI playing in Division Two North, finished sixth.

Keyworth Ladies Soft Ball, technically our fourth team in the EMWL, played in the Softball Central Division and unfortunately lost all fourteen matches played, seven in the League and seven friendlies. The team was in transition with several founder members of the group dropping out and a few new faces learning the game and impressing - Susie Bateson, Danusia Ephraim, Rachel Oldfield, Fiona Oliver and Laura Smith.

Annie Williams became the first Keyworth Girl to make a century in County Girls cricket with 100 not out for Notts U13s v Derbyshire away at Clifton on 29 July (photo right). Annie went on to make her debut in the County Girls U18s on 8 August 2021.



Keyworth hosted five County Girl's matches at Platt Lane at age levels Under 18, 15, 13 & 11 years and were well represented in the various County teams through Olivia Baker, Florence Conn, Eeve-Mae Hicklin, Eleanor Owen & Ruby Randall at Under 15 and Evie Barr, Beth Smith, Nelly Weaver & Annie Williams at Under 13 whilst two Keyworth players who live just over the border near East Midlands Airport, Mabel Rhodes & Jasmine Saunders represented Derbyshire at Under 15 level.

Most of our Junior Girls were playing in the three women's hard ball teams so only one age group friendly, at Under 13 against Wollaton CC, was played in the season and was lost.

Four Girls were part of a Mixed Junior Under 15s team that lost only one of the fourteen friendly matches they played. Nelly Weaver, Olivia Baker, Annie Williams & Mabel Rhodes can be seen on the left of the front row of the squad photographed at the Annual Presentation Evening.



The Junior Girls Nottingham Kwik Cricket Under 11 Pairs League continued to function and our Girls deservedly won the title after 12 matches, finishing 6 points ahead of Caythorpe CC in a seven team league with a squad including... Maisy Beck, Isabel Dashwood, Callie-Mae Dickins, Evie Dickins, Emma Harris, Alice Hopkinson, Madeleine Jesky, Jasmin Kulkarni, Emily Newman, Jessica Newman, Emma Odam, Nerissa Shim & Lauren Sleeman.

2022

All cricket was back to normal, except sit down 'teas' had been cast into history and all competitions restored for what was to prove a very successful season for our Women and Girls teams and a continued upward spiral of new members. On the point of 'teas', whilst an enjoyable tradition, it always placed a heavy emphasis on volunteers and with the modern ethnic mix of players and the 'five a day' culture, players bringing their own 'picnic' of food that suits their own personal need makes a lot more sense.

During the Winter Indoor training period we learnt that two of our 1st XI women's squad players, Florence Conn and Eleanor Owen had decided to leave the club to join teams playing in the EMWL Premier League. It was presented as a *fait accompli* with "we want to play at a higher level to help further our careers".

Florence had been with the Plumtree girls set-up before they moved to Caythorpe CC so her decision was understandable but the news of Eleanor's departure, a player who had come through the club coaching programme from being a raw beginner to a promising talent, opening the batting at County Junior level, left a bad taste, triggering a steely determination within the coaches and squad to go hard for promotion ourselves to the Premier level and this was achieved in fine style as the 1st XI went through the season unbeaten until the last match when we were already champions and lost on a rare off day.



Georgi Sutton Walker became the first female to play at 2nd XI Senior level for KCC on 30 April v Oxtou CC and then on 17 May became the first female to play at 1st XI Senior level in a match versus Attenborough CC 2nds in the South Notts League T20 Cup and she also went on to make the highest ever score by a KCC player irrespective of gender, with 172 not out for the Women's 1st XI against Thrapston CC in the EMWL on 31 July and to top all that off, Georgi took 5 catches v Cutthorpe CC on 7 August to equal the club record and become the first person to do so, not as a wicket-keeper.

The stats from the EMWL Division One season make impressive reading from the ten matches played, the first nine all won comprehensively with Sileby Town CC women running us the closest but still losing by 7 wickets and the highest team score 306 for 4 v Cutthorpe CC. Georgi hit 491 runs, Annie 213, Olivia 135, and Michaela 121 from only three matches.

Georgia also hit another century, 111 away against Cutthorpe and there was an impressive knock of 77 not out by off spinner Lydia Turton in the home match v Cutthorpe on the occasion when some of the top three in the batting order unusually mis-fired and there were century partnerships, the biggest of which was between Georgi and Olivia in the Cutthorpe away match when they amassed 185 runs together.

Liv Wade with her slow, accurate, good length off spin was the top wicket taker



in the entire East Midlands Women's League with her analysis of 60.2 overs bowled, 23 maidens and 26 wickets for 105 runs at an average of 4.04 which included her taking 6 for 7 in a devastating spell at Sileby Town CC and Georgi weighed in with 5 for 7 against Ockbrook & Borrowash CC in the one defeat of the season, bringing herself on late after giving an opportunity to some of the bowlers who didn't

regularly bowl and Nelly Weaver scooped up four catches v Cutthorpe CC.

Liv Wade is pictured above being presented with her Bowler of the Year trophy by Women's Cricket Director Rob Baker.



The Division One Champion team line up, left to right, back row...Lydia Tudor, Olivia Baker, Ruby Randall, Olivia Wade, Annie Williams. Front row...Michaela Kirk, Georgi Sutton-Walker (capt), Nelly Weaver, Eeve-Mae Hicklin, Evie Barr & Darcey Graham. Other players who featured in some of the matches included retiring former skipper Claire Foster, Annie Brown, Amelia Bunting, Jenny Garnham, Kiran Hassan, Lucy Hobbs, Amelia Holley, Kereng Mrwata, Mabel Rhodes, Emma Richardson, Charlie Roberts & Lucy Tuttey.

East Midlands Womens League Division One Final Table:

	Pld	W	L	Pts
1 KEYWORTH	10	9	1	168
2 SILEBY TOWN	10	7	3	135
3 GEDLING COLLIERY	10	6	4	122
4 OCKBROOK & BORROWASH	10	5	5	102
5 CUTTHORPE	10	2	8	77
6 THRAPSTON	10	1	9	52



Non-alcoholic bubbly was produced by the Women's Director of Cricket, Rob Baker and the F1 style celebrations began after the home win in the penultimate match against second place Sileby Town CC by 8 wickets which sealed promotion to the EMWL Premier League.

On a Saturday afternoon, Georgi became a fixture in the Senior 2nd XI and ended the season as their Player of the Year & Batter of the Year having scored 412 runs from 14 innings, twice not out and averaging 34.33 with a top score of 109 not out coming against Ruddington CC 2nd XI. In addition, she took 21 wickets at an average of 16.57 and on occasions was joined by Annie who made 85 against Calverton CC before being run out and Olivia whose bowling accuracy and pace surprised a few experienced male players. The three are pictured in the team photo below and it was terrific to listen to one of the more senior male players make a point of saying "these girls are in the team on merit you know" as I walked past him on the boundary, of that I didn't really need to be convinced but nevertheless it was good to hear him think so.



Keyworth Women's 2nd XI finished 5th among six teams in Division Two North of the EMWL and the 3rd XI also finished 5th among six teams in Division Two South/Central of the EMWL.

Former South African & Namibia professional footballer Kereng Mrwata (photo left receiving her 2nd XI Player of the Year award from Jade Pope) was the standout player at this level with a top batting score of 45 and 10 wickets with the ball and there is no better player to have on your side in the field. Her enthusiasm, competitiveness, and constant encouragement as well her athletic ability, are a real positive asset to the team, and in contrast to much of

sport these days, she never sledges the opposition.

The highlight of the season for the 2nds was enjoying a win against neighbour club, Plumtree CC's 1st XI. The team are seen celebrating below, left to right... Amelia Holley, Danusia Ephraim, Jade Pope, Charlie Roberts, Jenny Garnham, Kereng Mrwata, Imogen Foulds, Elizabeth Shaw, Kiran Hassan (capt) & Amelia Bunting.





Super 8s Team had fun and are pictured here at Caythorpe on 24 April from left to right...Daniel Garnham, Jenny Garnham (capt), Annie Brown, Madeleine Bowry, Imogen Foulds, Evie Barr & Charlie Pope. Kneeling...Nelly Weaver, Isabella Bowry, Amelia Bunting & Jade Pope. Daniel & Charlie were on hand to support their mums and help with umpiring and scoring.

The Softball Ladies were again invited to provide a demonstration at Trent Bridge in conjunction with a Notts T20 match, back row...Charlie Roberts, Jacqui Dakin, Sue Ferraro, Claire Dashwood, Rachel Oldfield, Caroline Howell and front row...Esther Mole, Susannah Mole, Fiona Oliver, Danusia Ephraim & Mary Butler and were placed 6th from 8 teams in the EMWL Soft Ball League Division 2 North/Central.



In party mood our Soft Ball Ladies played a friendly on a baking hot summer day against Attenborough CC, line up, back row...left to right...Danusia Ephraim, Laura Smith, Charlie Roberts (coach), Mary Butler & Susie Bateson, front...Jacqui Dakin (capt), Rachel Oldfield, Claire Dashwood & Fiona Oliver.



In the past our Junior Girls teams had suffered thrashings in the ECB National Cup competitions but with many of our players now older and more experienced the renaissance was complete as both our Under 19 and 15 teams covered themselves with glory in bringing silverware to the club – hopefully the beginnings of a trend.

Drawn to play at the beautiful ground of Clifton CC near Ashbourne in Derbyshire on 3 June, a magnificent 2nd wicket partnership of 128 between Annie Williams (75) and Olivia Baker (51) set the standard as a 133 run victory was achieved and it was grand to welcome three players as guests from Gedling Colliery CC in the team – the rules permit up to four players from one other club to be loaned for the competition if their club is not participating and they fitted in as we expected they would.



The team pictured relaxing before fielding at Clifton, left to right...Ruby Neal (guest), Evie Barr, Imogen Foulds, Eeve-Mae Hicklin, Olivia Macey (guest), Nora Masterson (guest), Ruby Randall, Ella Sheehy, Olivia Baker (capt), Nelly Weaver & Annie Williams the wicket keeper padded up.

A home draw followed against fellow Notts club Caythorpe CC from the EMWL Premier League, and we thrashed them comprehensively by 119 runs and in no small part thanks to an inspirational spell of bowling by leg spinner Eeve-Mae, as she swept through the opposition taking 4 wickets for just 6 runs.

This led to a Midlands Zone Semi Final against serial winners at youth level Porthill Park CC from Staffordshire and known as the 'Northern Stars' and fortunately as it transpired on a dark cloudy evening we were drawn at home. 'The Stars' won the toss and put us in to bat, no doubt expecting us to rollover quickly but we battled our way to a score of 94 for 7 wickets off the full 20 overs with the visitors guilty of taking their time when bowling, and leaving very murky conditions for them to bat in and our opening pace bowlers Olivia Baker and Ruby Randall licking their lips at the prospect. At 68 for 2, Porthill looked on course to win but Olivia came back on for the 'death overs' and Park finished one run short of the target with Olivia 4 overs bowled and 3 wickets for 5 runs. The Midlands Zone Final at Platt Lane was date delayed as our opponents Berkswell CC from Solihull in Warwickshire prevaricated to ensure their best players were all available. It didn't matter as with the light fading we cantered home to an 80 run victory and had the Midlands Zone Cup under our belts and hoisted high by captain Olivia Baker as her joyful team mates surrounded her. Annie Williams had set the tone from the outset with a quickfire 37 off 33 balls and a combination of outstanding catching and fielding and tight bowling provided Keyworth with victory leaving utter surprise on the faces of the visiting coaches, players and supporters.



Cup Finals Day was staged at Kibworth CC's splendid ground in South Leicestershire on 31 August, meaning with a holiday booked, captain and opening pace bowler Olivia was going to miss the event so Annie took over as skipper.

Our oldest players were only sixteen years and it quickly became apparent that we were going to be facing eighteen and nineteen year olds. In the semi-final we lost by 87 runs against St Cross Symondians CC from Winchester in Hampshire, a team with Southern Vipers top level players in their ranks and in the third place match, we lost by 8 wickets to Thriplow CC from Cambridge but all agreed, to reach the finals day had been a major achievement and something to strive for again when our girls will be a year older.

Our Under 19 Cup Finals Day squad lined up left to right, back row...Keith Williams (Coach), Olivia Macey (guest), Ruby Randall, Rhianna Jones (guest), Ruby Neal (guest), Nora Masterson (guest), Georgi Sutton-Walker (Head Coach), Barry Baker (Coach) and front, Amelia Bunting, Evie Barr, Annie Williams (capt), Eeve-Mae Hicklin, Nelly Weaver & Liv Wade.



A special mention must go to Georgi who proudly led and coached the girls, giving up her time as a busy vet and she also led our Under 15 Girls in their Cup challenge as well.

195 runs, 2 catches and 8 stumpings from Annie. 63 runs and 5 wickets from Olivia and 39 runs and 9 wickets from Eeve-Mae stood out from what had been outstanding efforts from the entire squad who all played for each other with a spirit of togetherness throughout the entire six match campaign

At Under 15 level our Girls lost in the Midlands Final of the ECB U15 T20 Cup but won the Nottinghamshire Girls U15 Development League.

In the National Cup, an 8 a-side competition we started on 15 May by beating Shepshed CC at Platt Lane by 50 runs with skipper Annie Williams 53 not out.

Next, was an away trip to face a North East Derbyshire team, not a club side but more a collection of the best under 15 girls in their region. It was close but we emerged victorious by 3 runs thanks to a brilliant stand between Annie and Nelly Weaver for the 2nd wicket of 125 with Annie remaining undefeated on a glorious 115 not out, the first player in Junior Girl's cricket to score a century.

We hosted Knowle & Dorridge from Warwickshire in the next round, a combined team of three clubs from the Solihull district and at Under 15 level we were not employing any guest player yet we won comfortably by 8 wickets helped by an opening stand of 84 between Annie and Liv Wade.

For the Midlands Zone Final we travelled to Whitmore CC, another Staffordshire based club and despite an outstanding knock of 65 by Eeve-Mae we lost by 33 runs to collect the Runners Up Trophy.

Keyworth won the Nottinghamshire Girls Under 15 Development League in a tie with old rivals Gedling Colliery CC having defeated both Plumtree CC and West Bridgfordians CC home and away and beating Gedling by 17 runs at home but losing away by just 4 runs and apart from the excellent performances already mentioned at this level it was pleasing to witness good batting scores from Liv Wade & Nelly Weaver (retiring on 37 not out), Annie Brown, Hannah Toyne & Florence Waghorne (each retiring on 35 not out) and Darcey Graham (33 not out) with Liv Wade collecting 12 wickets through the season, Nelly 8 and Florence 6.



Keyworth's Under 15s in the photo lined up as, left to right...Georgi Sutton-Walker (Coach), Annie Brown, Nelly Weaver, Mabel Rhodes, Eeve-Mae Hickling, Keith Williams (coach) and kneeling Annie Williams (Capt), Darcey Graham, Evie Barr, Elizabeth Shaw & Liv Wade but a number of other players featured in the Cup & League games during the season including...Amelia Bunting, Evie Byng, Isabel Dashwood, Amelia Holley, Madeleine Jesky, Alice Hopkinson, Mahi Mehta, Emma Odam, Hannah Toyne and Florence Waghorne.

We entered a young team in the Nottinghamshire Girls Under 13 Development League and finished a creditable 3rd. Gedling were champions and seven clubs participated which was encouraging for the future growth of girl's cricket. Evie Barr, Hannah Toyne, Amelia Holley and Isabel Dashwood stood out with the bat and Amelia Bunting was very consistent with her leg breaks claiming 6 wickets through the season whilst Hannah had an outstanding match v Wollaton CC taking 4 wickets for 9 runs with her seam bowling. Ten year old Lauren Sleeman made such an impression that the Notts Cricket Coaches decided to include her in the County Under 11s even though she had not been part of the Winter training squad.

Once again, our beginner Girls in the Nottingham Kwik Cricket League did well, finishing runners up in the Group One League of six teams and qualifying for the Finals Day at the Lady Bay ground where they finished in fourth place. The Finals team lined up, left to right, back row...Imogen Drummond, Maisy Beck & Millie Burke and front row...Millie Harrison, Jasmin Kulkarni and Evie-May Dickens.



Women & Girls are making big contributions off the field, with Joint Women's Director of Coaching Jacquie Dakin (photo right) managing the Ladies Soft Ball and sitting on the East Midlands Women's League Committee and Chloe Williams not only a regular scorer of Junior & Senior matches but also working on Nottinghamshire County Committee's involved in the development of female cricket.

Jacqueline Sheehy continues to run the Sunday Morning Kwik Cricket teams and beginner soft ball training on a Friday training evening, assisted by Charlie Roberts who also took over coaching the Soft Ball Ladies, standing in for Darron Cox and Roger Wilson who had done so over the previous seasons.

Jane Rummery has over the years been a wonderful support to Jacquie Dakin with the Ladies Soft Ball as well as undertaking the role of Club Social Secretary and not least found the time to devote to helping people with disabilities to enjoy cricket.

Jade & Simon Pope were recipients of the Chairman's Club Person of the Year Trophy at the end of the season, recognizing Jade's tireless work as the Club Welfare Officer and for ensuring that the Club's Clubmark certification was renewed by the ECB. Simon for his time and devotion as Women's 2nd & 3rd team coach as well as managing and coaching the Junior Under 11 & 10s. Without people like Jade, Simon and many other volunteers, the club could not provide cricket outdoors and indoors for so many players and teams.

It was also pleasing to see one of the founding girls at Keyworth, Ella Sheehy whose progress has not been as rapid as some of her contemporaries being rewarded in front of a big crowd at Trent Bridge for her work in grass level disability cricket and she can also be seen regularly assisting the coaching of our beginners at Platt Lane and in Winter sessions at South Wolds Academy.

Girl players were in evidence giving back to the game, assisting the coaches with the All Stars & Dynamos programmes outdoors and indoors and on the Schools Festival Day and helping to produce our players of the future.

The 14th running of the Keyworth CC Primary School's Festival took place on Tuesday 21 June and was another resounding success. Blessed by wonderful weather, 16 teams from the local schools enjoyed four matches of cricket each, plus the opportunity to test their skills with Trent Rocket's players Shaun Mullaney & Georgia Davis. The event has taken place every year since 2008 except 2020 when the covid pandemic intervened and Darcey Graham, Ella Sheehy & Nelly Weaver who were among the junior helpers on the day, can be seen in the centre of the photo below between the two professionals.





160 local children and their teachers enjoying the day.

Platt Lane played host during the season to six Nottinghamshire County Girl's matches at Under 18, 15, 13 and 11 age level against teams representing Leicestershire and Warwickshire and the Notts U18 County Girls team below includes on the front row KCC's Annie Williams in the middle and Olivia Baker on the right. Nora Masterson & Ruby Neal who played as guests for KCC U19s in the ECB National Cup are on the left at the front. At the back on the right is Maddie Ward, the wicket-keeper who has been selected for the England squad travelling to South Africa to compete in the first ever Under 19 Women's World Cup.



Olivia Baker & Eeve-Mae Hicklin became the first ever KCC players to play for Nottinghamshire CCC Women's 1st XI when on 10 April at Cuckney they played against Leicestershire CCC and they were joined by Annie Williams on 18 April at Crosby v Lancashire Women – three KCC players in the Women's County XI playing against professionals, some of them international players. Olivia played on the County Championship T20 Finals Day v Lancashire for Notts, with our Women's Coach Michaela Kirk still unable to play due to recovery from her ACL injury in July 2021.

At the end of the 2022 season, Michaela had her contract with Lightning extended and Olivia was offered a two year contract with the Lightning Academy and Eeve-Mae & Annie were invited to be members of the Lightning EPP (Emerging Player Programme) for 2023. The ECB Regional Franchise expired for Lightning at the end of the 2022 season and has now moved to Trent Bridge under the 'new' branding of 'The Blaze'.

Women's cricket and Keyworth Cricket Club have come a long way in less than a decade and during the 2022 season supplied many players into representative cricket...

Lightning Women...Michaela Kirk.

Lightning Academy EPP Girls...Olivia Baker, Eeve-Mae Hicklin, Liv Wade & Annie Williams.

Nottinghamshire County Women...Olivia, Eeve-Mae & Annie.

Nottinghamshire County Girls U18s...Olivia, Eeve-Mae, Liv Wade & Annie.

Derbyshire County Girls U15s...Mabel Rhodes.

Nottinghamshire County Girls U15s...Annie Brown, Eeve-Mae, Ruby Randall, Liv, Nelly Weaver & Annie.

Nottinghamshire County Girls U13s...Eeve Barr, Amelia Holley & Florence Waghorne.

Nottinghamshire County Girls U11s...Lauren Sleeman.

Leicestershire County Girls U11s...Hannah Toyne.

Nottinghamshire County Girls U11 trialists...Tara Al-Karmi, Millie Burke, Isabel Dashwood, Callie-May Dickens, Jasmin Kulkarni & Sumyuktha Vijjandra. Jasmin & Callie-May will join Lauren in the 2023 U11s squad & Isabel will join Amelia in the U13s.

Looking Forward to 2023

Is it possible that we could have a season with weather as fantastic as that enjoyed in 2022, I do hope so.

My optimism about what could be achieved in 2023 is tempered by not knowing what the demands on our best players will be from The Blaze and Nottinghamshire Women and of course, injuries.

Some of our Girls will have GCSE & A levels to contend with but if we are able to field our best selection of players, the next couple of seasons could be exciting before a number of the players will inevitably be going away to University, or with jobs, might decide to marry and move from the area and maybe become pregnant and this makes it all the more important that we continue to concentrate on bringing more junior players through.

At full strength I would like to think our Women's 1st XI will be competing among the top three teams in the EMWL Premier Division and that with all the emerging young talent coupled with experienced women, our 2nd XI could get promotion out of the EMWL Division Two.

Having had a taste of success at Under 19 and 15 level, I hope that our Girls will be hungry to match or even surpass their amazing 2022 achievements now that they will be one year older and I am really excited to observe the development of our Under 15, 13 and 11 girls, many of whom will be playing in the County age group teams which should accelerate their progress. To watch 8, 9 and 10 year old girls in the nets last season, casually bowling out the back of their hands, on line, and length as if it is the most natural thing in the world to do, blew me away.

Having worked with Annie Williams since she was six years old, the best young prospect I have seen since is Lauren Sleeman. A completely natural cricketer whether batting, bowling and keeping wicket. She is confident, unfazed and competitive. I had no hesitation in recommending her to Tim Ward the County Development Coach. He hummed and hawed, saying she had not been through the Winter training programme but in the end relented and invited her for a trial. Next match she was opening the batting and keeping wicket for the County under 11s, and even got to bowl as well. Not to put any pressure on her but I see her as the leader of a new generation of players and it will be interesting to see how the other many promising talents progress alongside her.

The Sunday morning 'Kwik Cricket' League is a wonderful nesting ground where young girls can begin to understand how cricket is played, socially interact and generally gain confidence on the field of play. It is where many of our current women and girl players began, and I very much hope that we will continue to attract new players, coaches and parent support.

Mention of new players and we are excited by the possibility of the Cultural Exchange Visitor from Antigua & Barbuda for 2023 being a woman, following on from the successful visits by Essan Warner and Jaylen Francis.

I understand that Shawnisha Hector is keen to come and a West Indies Cricket website describes her as...*a gentle giant from Antigua, Shawnisha is a pacer who can bounce and antagonize batters but she's one of the quiet ones. Not a talker, but she lets her bowling speak for her. She has been around the West Indies Women's set up for a couple of years and currently captains the Leeward Islands Senior Women's team.* Shawnisha plays for Trinbago Knight Riders and has a central contract with West Indies Women having been the first Antigua woman to represent the West Indies.

We extend a welcome to Sadie Hodgson, a player many of us know through Nottinghamshire County Juniors, an allrounder with a lively personality, she will slot comfortably into our Women's 1st XI and Under 19 Girls squads, levels that she has played with Notts. Sadie lives at Wollaton and has been playing with Caythorpe CC which she found to be a long journey and is looking forward to a quicker run around the ring road.

Charlotte Reek trained with our girls toward the end of last season having played mixed cricket at Kinoulton CC where they don't have women & girls teams. She is a friend of Florence Waghorne who also moved over successfully last season. Charlotte, like Florence plays in the Notts County Under 15s team and we look forward to seeing them perform together with our Women's 2nd XI and Girls Under 15s next season.

Thank You Volunteers

Any amateur organization is only as good as its volunteers and Keyworth Cricket Club is no exception and this comes right from the top with our Chairman Geoff Baker who works tirelessly to maintain a continued development structure of coaches and helpers and through his work as a Director of Keyworth Sports Association in collaboration with Keyworth United CFC and local County Councillor John Cottee and through his work on Keyworth Parish Council and in the many committee roles he is involved with in Nottinghamshire Cricket.

Our 'joint' Directors of Women's Cricket, Jacqui Dakin and Rob Baker both still continue to play and yet Jacqui has found time to be a founding member of the East Midlands Women's League Committee and Rob is not only Coach of the Women's 1st XI but also Director of Senior Saturday Cricket, selecting and managing five teams.

Jacqui has stood down from the EMWL Committee and now Women's 1st XI skipper Georgi Sutton-Walker has been elected on to the body with a lead role in the management of the hard ball 40 over divisions where I'm sure her technical knowledge and general experience as a leading player will make her a major asset in her new role. Georgi is a full-time working Veterinarian, and also coaches the Under 19 & 15 Girl's teams.

Jade and Simon give an awful lot of time. Jade having been instrumental in KCC retaining ECB Clubmark status for another three years and has the onerous position of being the Club Welfare Officer. Simon coaches the Women's 2nd & 3rd teams and the Boy's Under 11 & 10s. Both are schoolteachers and still play at the weekend and in the Winter, Simon coaches Rugby.

Chloe Williams was instrumental in introducing the Pitchero membership system that takes payments and assists coaches in selecting and managing their teams on-line and as the owner of Little Wickets is the key organizer of the beginner All Stars and Dynamos programme, so successful on a Friday in producing the cricketers of tomorrow. Chloe is also involved with committee work developing and advancing the growth of cricket among young boys and girls in Nottinghamshire. Chloe can frequently be seen scoring matches.

Jenny Garnham who still plays in the Women's 3rd XI is another important volunteer in organizing and managing training sessions for juniors at Platt Lane and was key to the club plotting its way through the covid pandemic and also has got herself involved in scoring matches and in terms of the wider game Jenny is Chair of the Lord Taverners cricket organization.

Jackie Bain was another star through the pandemic in her role as Treasurer and gave service for a number of years, looking after the finances of the club. She has now retired from the role and Ranjit Bhabra has taken over. Ranjit, a former player is well known in Nottingham cricket circles and it is brilliant that even though he never played for us, felt committed enough to put his hand up.

Jacqueline Sheehy has been a tower of strength in leading young soft ball cricketers on Friday evenings, Sunday mornings and Monday evenings indoors for quite a number of years, having first assisted me and now her daughter Ella is getting very involved with assisting her mum as well as working with another brilliant volunteer Jane Rummery, who has been a willing assistant to Jacqui in developing Ladies Soft Ball cricket, and to Darron Cox with Disability cricket as has Ella.

Darron Cox and Roger Wilson put in many hours of coaching with the Ladies Soft Ball players over a number of years and when they both had to pull out through family health concerns it was brilliant that one of our new hard ball women players Charlie Roberts immediately stepped into the breach and Charlie can also be seen on a Friday evenings, helping coach our soft ball girls and boys.

It is always important to have more coaches putting themselves forward to go on courses to gain qualifications and Graham Holley has in recent years done just that and is now looking after the Under 13 and 11 Girls hard ball teams and the Indoor teams we enter into tournaments at the Basford centre and now, Michaela Kirk and Graham Waghorne have put themselves forward to attend coach training courses – it is a conveyor built we need to keep moving to ensure we can manage the expectations of players and their families.

This is the story of Female Cricket at Keyworth so I have not referred to the many brilliant volunteers we have working with our men and boys however, I must give a mention to Keith Williams who has spread himself right across the KCC teams as a level 3 coach and has given much to the development of many of our girl players including using his contacts to bring outside ex-professional players and coaches along to Platt Lane to provide Master Classes.

Finally, it would be remiss of me not to thank all our many Sponsors especially Internet Ink.com and our many Vice Presidents whose generosity has enabled us to develop cricket for Women and Girls at KCC.

Keyworth Cricket Club would be nothing without all this voluntary help and I urge anybody reading this story and wanting to get involved, please do so, there are plenty of people willing to help you and in turn you will find the experience very rewarding.

GALLERY of Leading Players



GEORGI SUTTON-WALKER – the first female player to be honoured by Keyworth Cricket Club with entry on to the clubhouse Wall of Legends and a former Yorkshire County Junior & Durham Woman player. Women’s Captain.



MICHAELA KIRK – has played for Trent Rockets, Loughborough Lightning & Nottinghamshire Women 1st XI & now contracted to The Blaze.



OLIVIA BAKER – most capped Keyworth player with Nottinghamshire County Junior teams, has played nine times for Nottinghamshire Women 1st XI and captained Notts Under 18s and played for Lightning Emerging Player Programme and now contracted to The Blaze Academy



EVEE-MAE HICKLIN (left below) & **ANNIE WILLIAMS** (right below) – have both played through all the age-group teams of Notts County Juniors and for Nottinghamshire Women 1st XI and Lightning EPP and

recently Evee-Mae has stepped up to The Blaze Academy and despite being a year younger Annie is also training with Academy, part-time whilst on The Blaze EPP.



For the Record

List of Players who have represented Nottinghamshire Women when playing for Keyworth...Olivia Baker (7 appearances), Eeve Mae-Hicklin (5) Annie Williams (2)

List of Players who have represented Nottinghamshire Junior Girls teams when playing for Keyworth...Olivia Baker (55 appearances), Annie Williams (44), Eeve-Mae Hicklin (35), Ruby Randall (34), Eleanor Owen (17), Nelly Weaver (16), Liv Wade (14), Evie Barr (11), Darcey Graham (10), Emma Lowe (9), Lauren Sleeman (7), Annie Brown (6), Florence Conn (5), Lucy Tuttey (5), Florence Waghorne (4), Victoria Ball (3), Amelia Holley (3), Beth Smith (3).

List of Players who have represented Derbyshire Junior Girls teams when playing for Keyworth...Mabel Rhodes (7), Jasmine Saunders (5).

List of Players who have represented Leicestershire Junior Girls teams when playing for Keyworth...Hannah Toyne (5).

END of SEASON AWARDS for WOMEN:

Club Outstanding Performance Trophy:

2021 Eleanor Owen & Georgi Sutton-Walker.

Club Best Supporter Trophy (only award given in the year of Covid)

2020 Jenny Garnham.

1st XI Player of the Year:

2019 Kiran Hassan, 2021 & 2022 Georgi Sutton-Walker.

1st XI Batter of the Year:

2021 & 2022 Georgi Sutton-Walker.

1st XI Bowler of the Year:

2021 Olivia Baker, 2022 Olivia Wade.

1st XI Fielder of the Year:

2021 Ruby Randall, 2022 Annie Williams.

1st XI Best Batting Performance:

2021 & 2022 Georgi Sutton-Walker.

1st XI Best Bowling Performance:

2021 Nelly Weaver, 2022 Olivia Baker.

1st XI Champagne Moment:

2021 Florence Conn, 2022 Lydia Turton.

2nd XI Player of the Year:

2021 Nelly Weaver, 2022 Kereng Mrwata.

2nd XI Batter of the Year:

2021 Florence Conn, 2022 Evie Barr.

2nd XI Bowler of the Year:

2021 Mabel Rhodes, 2022 Amelia Bunting.

2nd XI Fielder of the Year:

2021 Jade Pope, 2022 Jenny Garnham.

2nd XI Champagne Moment:

2021 Victoria Ball, 2022 Nelly Weaver.

3rd XI Player of the Year:

2021 Imogen Bunting.

3rd XI Batter of the Year:

2021 Jenny Garnham.

3rd XI Bowler of the Year:

2021 Isabella Bowry.

3rd XI Fielder of the Year:

2021 Lilly Brookes.

Most Improved Player:

2019 Jane Rummery, 2021 Evie Barr, 2022 Imogen Foulds.

Best Newcomer:

2019 Freya Winfield

END of SEASON AWARDS for WOMEN/LADY Soft Ballers:

Chairman's Club Person of the Year Award:

2021 Jacqui Dakin.

The First Lady Award:

2016 Anna Newell, 2017 Claire Foster, 2018 Jacqueline Sheehy,
2019 Claire Foster, 2021 Debbie Cox, 2022 Claire Dashwood.

Players Player of the Year:

2017 Claire Foster, 2018 Jane Rummery, 2019 Nicola Anderson,
2021 Danusia Ephraim, 2022 Sue Ferraro.

Batter of the Year:

2017 Claire Foster, 2021 Danusia Ephraim, 2022 Laura Smith.

Bowler of the Year:

2017 Paula Baker, 2021 Candy Phoenix, 2022 Jane Rummery.

Fielder of the Year:

2021 Jane Rummery, 2022 Dawn Muston.

Champagne Moment:

2017 Jade Pope, 2018 Christine Wood, 2019 Mary Butler, 2021 Dawn Muston.

Best Newcomer:

2017 Hilary Southwell, 2018 Anne Mills, 2019 Kiran Hassan, 2021 Fiona Oliver,
2022 Esther Mole.

Most Improved Player:

2017 Kellie Etherington, 2018 Beth Foster, 2019 Claire Till, 2021 Susie Bateson.

Almost Perfect Attendance Award:

2016 Nicola Anderson.

END of SEASON AWARDS for GIRLS:

U19 Player of the Year

2022 Olivia Baker & Annie Williams.

U15 Player of the Year:

2014 Meg Ledward, 2015 Alice Walton, 2016 Megan Bennett,
2017, 2018 & 2019 Olivia Baker, 2021 & 2022 Annie Williams.

U15 Batter of the Year

2016, 2017 & 2018 Victoria Ball, 2019 Olivia Baker, 2022 Annie Williams.

U15 Bowler of the Year

2016, 2017 & 2018 Lucy Tuttey, 2019 Victoria Ball, 2022 Olivia Wade.

U15 Fielder of the Year

2016 Olivia Baker, 2017 Freya Amos, 2018 Lucy Tuttey, 2019 Freya Amos,
2022 Annie Brown.

U15 Champagne Moment

2016 Amy Whitfield, 2017 Rubie Pommeroy, 2018 & 2019 Entire Squad

U15 Most Improved Player

2016 Imogen Foulds, 2017 Ella Sheehy, 2018 Eleanor Owen,
2019 Madeleine Bowry, 2022

U15 Most Sporting Player

2017 Imogen Foulds, 2018 & 2019 Megan Bennett, 2021 Evie Barr,
2022 Nelly Weaver.

Junior Spirit of Cricket Award:

2019 Victoria Ball

U15 Development Batter of the Year:

2022 Hannah Toyne.

U15 Development Bowler of the Year:

2022 Nelly Weaver.

U15 Development Fielder of the Year:

2022 Evie Barr.

U15 Team Player of the Year:

2022 Elizabeth Shaw.

U15 Player of the Year in the Newark League

2019 Ruby Randall

U15 Batter of the Year in the Newark League

2019 Ruby Randall

U15 Bowler of the Year in the Newark League

2019 Olivia Baker

U15 Fielder of the Year in the Newark League

2019 Annie Williams

U15 Champagne Moment in the Newark League

2019 Imogen Bunting

U15 Most Improved Player in the Newark League

2019 Imogen Foulds

Young Player of the Year

2016 & 2018 Annie Williams

U13 Player of the Year

2019 Evie Barr, 2022 Amelia Bunting.

U13 Player's Player of the Year

2022 Isabel Dashwood.

U13 Batter of the Year

2019 Annie Williams

U13 Fielder of the Year

2019 Lucy Brown

U13 Champagne Moment

2019 Entire Squad, 2022 Hannah Toyne.

U13 Most Improved Player

2019 Amelia Bunting

Most Improved Junior Player:

2019 Evie Byng

Beginner of the Year

2016 Helena Murray, 2017 Evie Barr & Beth Smith, 2018 Imogen Bunting

Kwik Cricketer of the Year

2017 Freya Newton, 2018 Evie Barr.

Surprise of the Year

2017 Emily Till.

Best Training Attendee

2017 Annie Williams.