

# WALKING CRICKET

## *April – May 2024 Newsletter*

We have had a difficult time sorting out an indoor venue this winter. Unfortunately we were not allowed in the Dome as they decided to use all the space in their sports hall for an exhibition about computer games.

There is clearly an argument to be had about this but we are past that for the time being.

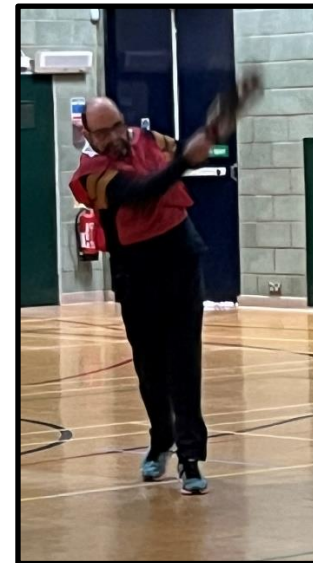
Thanks mostly to the efforts of our secretary Diane Woolven, we are now playing at a new venue, The Dearne Valley Leisure Centre.

After a few games we have realised it is a much better venue for our games with a cleaner floor, better lighting and easy access. The only real problem is its location which makes it difficult for a few members to get to.

We are expecting to go back to Goals in the Spring but for the moment we are very happy with the new location.

If any members are interested in joining the group you are most welcome. No experience is required so please contact me. My details are at the back of this newsletter.

*Chris Woolven*



## *February - March 2024 Newsletter*

After a frustrating month trying to find a suitable indoor venue, 24 members of the Walking Cricket group enjoyed the camaraderie of a lovely Christmas lunch at the Lakeside Beefeater.

*Chris Woolven*



*October-November 2022 Newsletter*

### **Doncaster v Barnsley Match**

Doncaster won the toss and their captain, Mark Scrivener chose to bat second. The Barnsley batters took the field and with some very creditable batting put on a good show. They struggled a little with the unfamiliar surroundings, and apparently a slightly smaller playing area than they were used to. The damp artificial grass and shiny new ball kept pitching low and was quite difficult to hit squarely. They had a bit of luck though, as the shiny wet ball was quite tricky to catch and the Doncaster fielders failed to catch a few. After scoring a respectable 93 runs, a short break and a sandwich for the umpire, Barnsley confidently took to the field and Doncaster came in to bat. Barnsley's early confidence began to wane as the Doncaster openers managed to average six runs an over for the first four overs.



At that rate it was not difficult to extrapolate and to predict a possible 96 total ahead for Doncaster, somewhat wiping the confident smiles from the faces of the visitors. We had a real match on our hands.

As the pitch began to dry out and the shine left the ball, the Doncaster players continued to improve with fours and sixes galore.

The average runs per over increased from 6 to 9 at the end of the match with Doncaster scoring an outstanding 144 runs to Barnsley's 93!

It was a great afternoon with a terrific atmosphere. We are planning a friendly replay visit to Barnsley where both U3As are each hoping to field a second team.

*Chris Woolven*







#### *April-May 2022 Newsletter*

In November the weather finally got the better of us and we retreated to the shelter of the Dome to play walking cricket.

Numbers are growing so we are able to set up some good matches between the reds and the blues. I think we all find the lighting and the number of lines on the floor distracting. But such is the pull of 'the game' we keep turning up!

We are all waiting for better weather so we can move back to the astro at Goals once again but meanwhile if you would like to join us do come along - no previous experience necessary.

*Wendy Hattrell*



### *February-March 2022 Newsletter*

Twenty seven happy Walking Cricketers gathered for a Christmas lunch at the Lakeside Beefeater for a very well received get together. The atmosphere was brilliant as we all enjoyed the company whose presence we had so often shared and enjoyed at the wicket over the past year. We were fortunate to have fitted the event in early December before the dreaded Omicron Variant began to make its presence felt. The food and service were excellent too. We went there for our last Christmas meal back in 2019 and it certainly lived up to our expectations.

Now that the festive celebrations are more or less over we are back to our regular bi-weekly Thursday sessions at the Dome 1p.m. – 3p.m.

If any members are interested in coming along for a “Not-Too-Serious” game of walking cricket, please contact me. It doesn’t matter whether or not you have ever played before, as we tend towards a competitive attitude of ‘Who cares who wins?’.

It is good fun and fairly safe as we use lightweight bats and soft(ish) balls. See the calendar for details.

*Chris Woolven*





## **A Close Walk Thing!**

Having won against Rotherham U3A Walking Cricket team at the U3A Day Tournament in Doncaster, our team was invited over to play them at a friendly return match on 29th June.

The match took place in the lovely surrounds of Clifton Park in an area that had once served as a Bowling Green. The bumpy pitch left much to be desired but with our true U3A spirit we got on with the game. We fielded the best team we could get for the day and after much ado finding suitable parking spaces the match began.

Rotherham were determined to get their own back for the tournament earlier in the month.

We won the toss and batted first and managed a score of 101 runs after some excellent batting from our team, with a good number of fours and sixes. After a short break Rotherham came into bat and started very well. Rotherham replied to our inning and batted equally well.

It was touch and go right to the end and in the final over we were fearful of defeat by 1 run. The day was saved however by the skilful underarm bowling of Lillian Smith who took a wicket right at the end and pushed Rotherham's score back by five runs, giving Doncaster U3A the win by four runs.

A great time was had by all and we look forward to a return match.

*Chris Woolven*

## **Third time unlucky!**

On Sunday 5th September our brave team of walking cricketers travelled to Clifton Park in Rotherham to take on the Rotherham U3A team for the third time this year. After two wins in the previous games hopes were high that we would complete the hat-trick.

Following a week of indifferent weather we were blessed with a bright, sunny afternoon and given a warm welcome by the hosts.

Rotherham won the toss and decided to bat first. We bowled and fielded well and restricted Rotherham to a total of 85 which appeared to be a gettable target. Sadly, after a flurry of wickets at the start of our innings we were always chasing the game and came up short with a total of 64.

Despite the result we enjoyed the weather, the hospitality and the camaraderie so I would like to thank Jenny, Barrie, Alan, Sushil, Lillian, John and Eric for giving up their time to represent Doncaster and for giving their all to the cause.

We'll be back to winning ways next time!

*Peter Hermes*





*August-September 2021 Newsletter*

### **A Walk in the Park**

Five U3A walking cricket teams descended upon Doncaster in June as part of the National U3A Day celebrations.

Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham, Sheffield and Wakefield had all been invited to attend and compete for the Yorkshire U3A Walking Cricket Shield, which was set up last year and funded by The Yorkshire Cricket Foundation.

Our friends at "Goals" kindly donated the free use of two of their pitches for the day and helped by laying out the buffet lunch which had been organised by the Doncaster team.



The weather was perfect for the games, and apart from a few lost balls and minor injuries, the day went without a hitch. All the teams played three matches each, with Doncaster winning two out of our three. We were not quite good enough to make the final but did put up a very creditable performance.

The final was between Barnsley and Wakefield. It was a close-run match with Barnsley just out-playing their opponents to win the tournament.

It was a wonderful day and we were delighted to have met our fellow walking cricketers, from around Yorkshire. Several friendly matches have subsequently been arranged between the teams and we fully expect that some other U3As will be joining us by next year.

Thanks go to the U3A Cricket co-ordinator Mac McKechnie for his efforts in organising such an enjoyable event.

“What’s the difference between Cinderella and a bad batsman?

..... Cinderella knows when to leave the ball!”

*Chris Woolven*







**STOP PRESS:** On Tuesday 29th June our walking cricket team played Rotherham away and we beat them by 4 runs. A full report in the next newsletter.

#### *June-July 2021 Newsletter*

It was great to get back to the game over the last few weeks.

Meeting friends again after so long was evocative of getting back on the playground after missing all your school friends after the long summer holiday.

We all enjoyed the sound of leather on willow plastic on plastic as we laughed and played together.

It was not quite “Cricket”, but it was close enough for us and we all had a thoroughly good time.

If you would like to come along and join the fun, (no prior experience or skill required) then please give me a call or send an email. Details at the back of the newsletter.

*Chris Woolven*







### *April-May 2021 Newsletter*

We are planning to start up our Walking Cricket group as soon as possible. The season starts in April and we have every intention of getting out and knocking a ball around when we are allowed. I hope by then we will all be confident enough to come along to play.

If you are not yet a member of our group, then please consider joining us. We have all levels of experience among our ranks, and the game is designed for all, even those who have never played cricket in their lives. There are as many ladies playing as men, but we all play together. We are a jolly bunch, and much fun is had by all.

*Chis Woolven, Group Leader.*



### *December 2020-January 2021 Newsletter*

Well it has finally happened. We were doing so well to keep the Walking Cricket group going too. The weather has done us proud through October and into November and allowed us to extend our season by a few weeks. The Group has shut down now for winter and unless the rules for indoor organised sports change then we will sadly have to wait until spring before we hear the sound of plastic on plastic again.

It had been such fun though. A core group of about 16 or so members have managed to get a game in once a week recently. We even played twice in one week!

We have come a long way since we started last year and we have had quite a number of new players join us since our brief television appearance at Barnsley on "Look North" or whichever program it was. (See Photo).



At our last match we had a first..... There were more ladies playing than gentlemen! This is something we should be proud of. Admittedly some of the newer players are still learning the rules and quite a few have never played before, but we always try to divide the players up evenly in terms of ability and experience. Using the soft ball and the very light composite bats has made the whole game safer and more accessible to all.

We are such a friendly bunch too. I don't think we have ever fallen out in a serious way, even though there have been some decidedly 'Dodgy' umpiring decisions which have set some banter off between (mostly) those of us who should know better.

If anybody would like to join us when we begin again please let me know and I will put you on the mailing list. That way you will be able to join us when we begin again, or even come along and watch. You may not know the rules..... but then neither do some of our current players. All that is required is to turn up and have fun (you won't be the only one who can't bowl either!)

*Chris Woolven*





### October-November 2020 Newsletter

The Walking Cricket group started meeting again in September under strict Covid-19 rules. It took quite a lot of effort to set it up but everyone agreed that it was great to meet again. We do qualify as an “Organised Team Sport” so we are expecting to continue to play on a weekly basis.

The weather was good and although we were all a little rusty, balls were bowled, runs (walks?) were scored and wickets were taken. Nobody cared who won and we all went away happy. We intend to keep playing as long as we can into the autumn.

Current ECB rules do not allow us to transfer to an indoor venue with more than 6 people so we will not be returning to the Dome until they are changed.

If you would like to come along – whether or not you have ever played before – Please let me know. Send an email or give me a ring. We usually have roughly equal numbers of ladies and gents playing so even if you didn’t play at school please feel free to join us. Contact details are at the back of this newsletter.

*Chris Woolven*





## **Walking Cricket Outdoor Venue.**

Winter is still with us but it won't be long until we are able to play outside in the sun and fresh air again. We have one more session booked at the Dome for Monday 30th March.

I am intending that we start back again at "Goals" for our April meetings beginning on Tuesday 7th April.

We are a friendly group and would welcome any new members who would like to come along for a bit of fun and gentle exercise. You do not need to have ever played the game before, and we have both ladies and gents in the group. If you are not sure whether to come along then why not give it a try, you have nothing to lose!

*Chris Woolven*





In July Doncaster U3A Walking Cricket group played in a match against Barnsley U3A. BBC Look North attended this match.

For those who missed the Look North programme you can watch the videoed interview with Doncaster U3A's Eric Styring Wood. Go to <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/uk-england-south-yorkshire-48993401/walking-cricket-player-92-on-his-love-for-the-sport>

BBC Look North wrote: **Walking cricket player, 92, on his love for the sport.**

A 92-year-old walking cricket player has spoken out about his love for the game.

Eric Styring Wood started playing cricket in the Army in Egypt and said he was "always the last man to bat."

He said: "I get a lot of fun [playing cricket], it's a great laugh.

"What would you do without a laugh in life? It would be horrible, wouldn't it?"

Wendy Hattrell said 'We all had fun and eventually agreed the rules! We ran out of time (due to the filming) so an honourable draw was declared.



An enthusiastic group of members got together in June for the first game of the season. A great time was had by all. A new venture for DU3A, Walking Cricket is designed to be accessible to all, whether you have played any cricket before or none. If you would like to join us for some fresh air and gentle exercise, contact the group leader, Chris Woolven. Details at the back of the newsletter.









We were very lucky to have Kendal James of Yorkshire Cricket Foundation come and help us set our first game. The U3A National Advisor Mac McKechnie also came along from Barnsley U3A to be our umpire. YCC are supporting the venture as more of our U3As start their own groups.

*Chris Woolven*





