

Village Football and Cricket

A village football club was first formed in 1876 and prospered so much that, by the 1890s, the team was considered to be the strongest in the locality. The Oving Villages Cup started in 1889 and, in its first ten years, North Marston were champions six times and runners up twice! The photograph of the team in the late 1890s shows several of them proudly wearing their medals.



Winners' medals in those days were of gold and silver. The sport was so popular that gate-money started to be charged in the 1890s and village crowds sometimes totalled three-hundred. Football continued to be an important village sport through the 20th century. In the 1930s the team was very successful in the Aylesbury District League. A twenty-three year campaign in the Sunday Football Combination League from 1972-95 saw considerable achievements in Divisions One and Two.

Cricket matches in North Marston are reported as early as the 1870s and were big social occasions with enthusiastic crowds enjoying the beer and food tents. This picture shows the village team of 1936.



Between the years of 1947 and 1953, North Marston cricket team dominated the Buckingham & District Cricket League, winning the championship six times! The team also won the Buckingham Challenge Shield in 1953 and the Holton Festival Cup in 1954. In one memorable league final, Robin Harwood scored ninety of North Marston's winning runs, took two wickets and bowled thirteen maiden overs.

Cricket dinners during these years, held in the Memorial Hall, reflected the popularity and importance of the game, and were attended by all the players and their wives along with local dignitaries and officials from the Buckingham District (see photo). A church service was held every November as a thanksgiving for the past cricket season.



The village mustered cricket teams throughout the 1960s and 70s and matches were played in Granborough Road on the site which is now known as the North Marston and Granborough Community Sports Field. In 2009 a new North Marston & Granborough Cricket Club was formed and in 2011 the England cricket captain, Alastair Cook, (on the right in the picture) opened a new pavilion.