

COMMUNITY GIVES CLUB NEW LEASE OF LIFE

CRICKETERS of all ages, armed with paintbrushes instead of bats, turned up in force to revamp Prestatyn Cricket Club. *By Abigail Hughes. Photographs by Stéphanie Durrant.*

Around 100 men, women and children honed their DIY skills and donned old clothes for a mass decorating project to inject new life into the aging facilities, as part of a nationwide scheme by ECB (English and Welsh Cricket Board) and Natwest.



Above Williams Owen, Mike Rushton and young Darren Durrant helping with the painting

"The idea was to boost community spirit and get more people involved in the sport at a grass roots level, while also getting some much needed refurbishment work done," explained club chairman, Tony Young.

Local building companies provided the volunteers with decorating supplies free of charge, while supermarkets laid on a lunch spread of sandwiches, pies and cakes.

From Left, Rhys Jones, Morne Williams, Mike Rushton, Williams Owen and Owain Thomas.



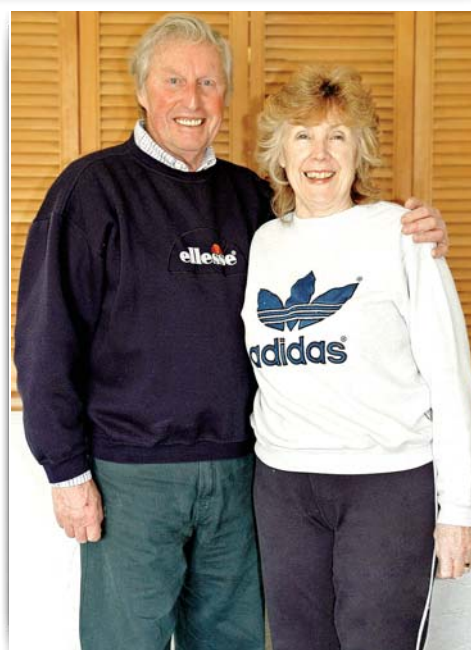
And despite the nippy weather, plenty was achieved in the two day blitz.

"We transformed both the lounge area in the main bar, and the tearoom," said Tony. "Our facilities for wheelchair users have been modernised and the umpire's room which was previously housed outside has been moved inside."

The grounds were also tidied up as part of the project and the scruffy exteriors of buildings and garages were treated to a fresh lick of paint.

Traditionally viewed as a summer sport for men, cricket – in Prestatyn at least – has become a strong family orientated sport, with specific youth and women teams.

"Since starting a junior committee five years ago, it has really taken off and we now have 100 members aged six to 15," explained Tony. "It's great because, of course, it is the next generation of players keeping the game alive for the future." ■



Above Tony & Ann Young

