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EST. 1984

SANDYFORD CC: HOME GROUND

Damage to Sandyford CC Home ground due to Longitude and proposals to fix it

SEPTEMBER 2, 2022
SANDYFORD CRICKET CLUB
Marlay Park, Co. Dublin



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Context

The Sandyford CC is in Marlay Park, with the home ground as shown below:

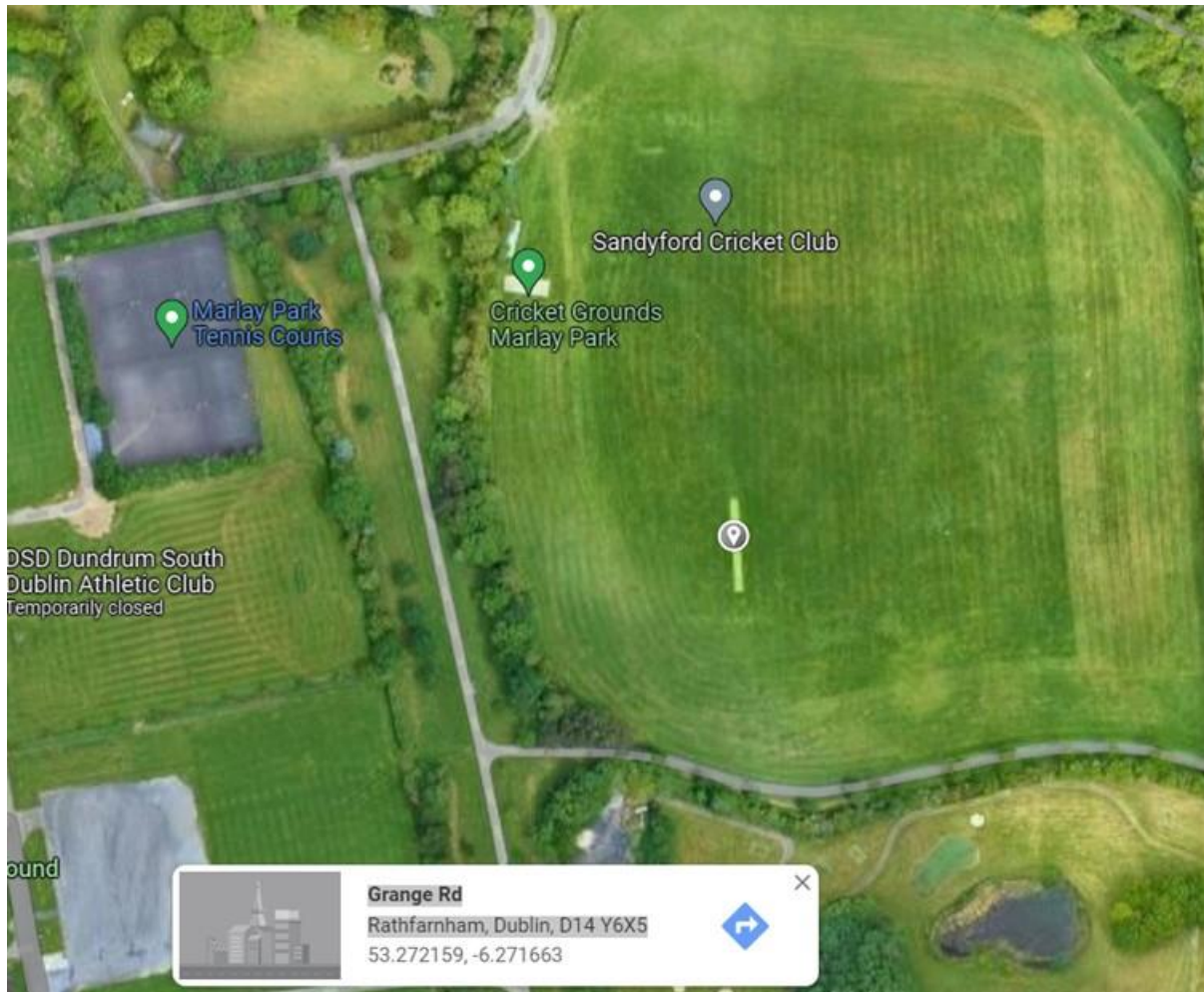


Figure 1 Sandyford CC cricket field location at Marlay Park

The grounds where the cricket pitch is located was damaged significantly during the 3 concerts and Longitude music festival held between 27 June and 03 July 2022.

Evidence of the damage can be seen at:

<https://twitter.com/squacko26/status/1547204790295433216>

Note on the photos of damage

The photos below are just the tip of the iceberg. The entire playing area – the cricket ground is bumpy due to trucks having gone back and forth. It is impossible to play cricket and field without getting injured on this outfield.

The cricket pitch itself has endured damage and is scarcely playable.



Figure 2 Damage to Sandyford CC cricket field due to Longitude [1]



Figure 3 Damage to Sandyford CC cricket field due to Longitude [2]



Figure 4 Damage to Sandyford CC cricket field due to Longitude [3]



Inspection

I [Kiran Hegde] reported the extent of the damage to Cricket Leinster and to the Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council. As a result, Donal Kearney from the Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council and Jim Stewart [ref: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/jim-stewart-28573b105/>] from Cricket Leinster scheduled an inspection of the ground on Thursday 21 July at 09:30 hours. I attended the inspection on behalf of Sandyford CC.

Result of the inspection

The following was unanimously agreed during the inspection:

1. That the ground will not be ready for use this year before the end of September 2022.
Meaning: no more cricket in Marlay Park in 2022.
2. That the mat needs to be replaced before more cricket can be played.
3. That even if money was spent to fix up the mat and the ground, there is no way to prevent damage during Longitude next year.

It was also agreed that Sandyford CC will create a proposal based on the results of the inspection and send the same to DLR County Council. This document is the result of such an agreed action item.



State of Sandyford Cricket Club

As of today, Sandyford CC has 55 active members with 3 adult teams and is expanding fast. Due to the large number of enquiries that we have received this year,

1. We know that the adult membership will cross 70 next year and we will have 4 teams.
2. We plan to start a youth section from 2023. We have had to turn away more than 20 kids this year and we do not wish to do so anymore. As a preparation, we have done the following:
 - a. 8 club members have completed child safeguarding courses.
 - b. 12 committed volunteers to run the youth section next year identified.
 - c. Attended the Youth Cricket: Smash-It & It's Wicket Programmes run by cricket Leinster in preparation for starting the youth section.
 - d. We also put together a kids' team of six players to play at a blitz held at YMCA, Claremont Road earlier this month.

Such being the case, we cannot afford to lose our home ground from mid-June each year. We are in the process of signing a licence agreement with the Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council. When we do so,

1. We either need to be relocated to a place where cricket is not disrupted by Longitude for more than 2 weeks, or,
2. We need guarantees from the Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council that the ground will be in a condition fit to play cricket within 2 weeks of Longitude concluding and that cricket will not be disrupted for more than 3 weeks during Longitude in any given season.



Impact on Sandyford CC

If nothing is done, Sandyford CC cannot continue to exist in its current location. If Longitude continues to impact Sandyford as it does today, the impacts are as follows.

Impact on growth of sport

It is impossible to start or sustain a youth section if the ground is not available for more than half the season and all of summer. Cricket grounds are in use from 01 April to 30 September each year. With youth section open, we will be running

1. Easter camps.
2. Weekly training on Saturdays commencing after Easter and going to end of June.
3. Summer camps in July – August.
4. Youth games under the auspices of Cricket Leinster between May and September.

Unless the ground is in a state to play, #3 and #4 above is not possible and as a result, youth section is not viable.

Financial impact on the club

When Marlay Park is not available to host cricket matches, it costs the club anywhere from EUR 140.00 to EUR 200.00 to hire a ground elsewhere. That is: if a ground is available. The cost of hiring grounds in the year 2022 for the club is likely to be anywhere between EUR 500.00 to EUR 1600.00 depending on if Shanganagh park is available as an alternative to Marlay Park.

Our club – small as it is – cannot afford such a commercial burden. We will run out of money and close.



Proposals for fixing the cricket grounds at Marlay Park

Please refer to the

1. Marlay Park master plan: https://dlrcoco.citizenspace.com/parks/marlay-park-master-plan-have-your-say/supporting_documents/Marlay%20Park%20Masterplan.pdf, and,
2. Marlay Park master plan public consultation report: <https://dlrcoco.citizenspace.com/parks/marlay-park-master-plan-have-your-say/results/marlayparkmasterplan-haveyoursay-publicconsultationreport.pdf>.

Now, to the best of our knowledge, the Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council has 2 options:

Option 1: fix the current ground

Roll the current ground, replace the cricket pitch at and make the current ground playable. But then, when damage is sustained next year, we are back to the same position. The ground will then have to be fixed up and made cricket ready.

Once we open a youth section next year, losing the ground from 15 June to the end of cricket season [30 September 2022] is unthinkable. Similarly, the prospect of spending EUR 1,500.00 – EUR 2,000.00 is unthinkable also.

Option 2: Move the cricket ground to a new location

As indicated in the Marlay Park master plan: https://dlrcoco.citizenspace.com/parks/marlay-park-master-plan-have-your-say/supporting_documents/Marlay%20Park%20Masterplan.pdf, the cricket ground is to be moved to the North West field.

The figure below shows the current location of the cricket field and the future location of the cricket field as proposed by the Marlay Park master plan.



Figure 5 Cricket field relocation based on Marlay Park master plan

Our opinion is that rather than spending money each year in the current location, it is best to move the cricket ground to the Northwest field right away so that the cricket club can start in the new location from next season.

Hence our request to the Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council is to please

1. Initiate the process of moving the Sandyford Cricket Club to the new location,
2. Create a licence agreement with Sandyford Cricket Club at the new location.

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Note that the licence agreement allows the Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council a say in how the club is run. This ensures that the new location is put to good use and that Sandyford Cricket Club always has a youth section running.

Please review the next section for the dimensions of the cricket field that will be required in the new location in the Northwest field.



Requirements of the cricket field in the Northwest field

A cricket club needs the following:

1. A cricket ground that has boundaries of radius ranging from about 106 metres to 120 metres.
2. A place for practice [please refer to the net bays in the current Sandyford CC location]
3. A tearoom and a place to change.
4. Electricity in the tearoom so that
 - a. It is possible to boil a kettle and serve tea during matches and training session, and,
 - b. Run bowling machines in the training area [net bays]

From page 25 and 26 of the Marlay Park master plan public consultation report

[<https://dlrcoco.citizenspace.com/parks/marlay-park-master-plan-have-your-say/results/marlayparkmasterplan-haveyoursay-publicconsultationreport.pdf>] it seems that the design team is aware of these requirements and has taken these into account when coming up with the Marlay Park master plan.

Proposed cricket field size at the Northwest field

Please refer to the ICC specification of ground sizing at <https://srilankacricicket.lk/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/1-Standard-Test-2014-15-Final-Oct-14.pdf> and <https://www.dlgsc.wa.gov.au/sport-and-recreation/sports-dimensions-guide/cricket>. Obviously, we are not looking for a playing ground that is between 137 and 150 meters in diameter. We are looking for what passes as a “petite, postage stamp sized” cricket field suitable for a cricket club that will never host an international match. The minimum dimensions needed for a cricket ground are listed below.

From	To	Distance [in meters]	Distance [in yards]
Centre of the pitch	Perpendicular to the pitch on either side	50.30	55.00
Centre of the pitch	Along the pitch on either side	54.90	60.00

We are proposing a ground that is slightly larger than the bare minimum required. This is to ensure that in the future, should the club have enough funds, the club can create and maintain turf wickets enabling better quality cricket.

The cricket field that we are proposing is as below:

From	To	Distance [in meters]	Distance [in yards]
Centre of the pitch	Northbound, perpendicular to the mat	53.12	58.09
Centre of the pitch	Southbound, perpendicular to the mat	53.64	58.66
Centre of the pitch	Eastbound, along the mat	64.84	70.91
Centre of the pitch	Westbound, along the mat	64.58	70.63
Centre of the pitch	Northwest boundary	63.09	69.00
Centre of the pitch	Northeast boundary	62.80	68.68
Centre of the pitch	Southwest boundary	64.80	70.87
Centre of the pitch	Southeast boundary	63.00	68.90

Also, please note the location of the net bays [for practice] and the tearoom / changing rooms.

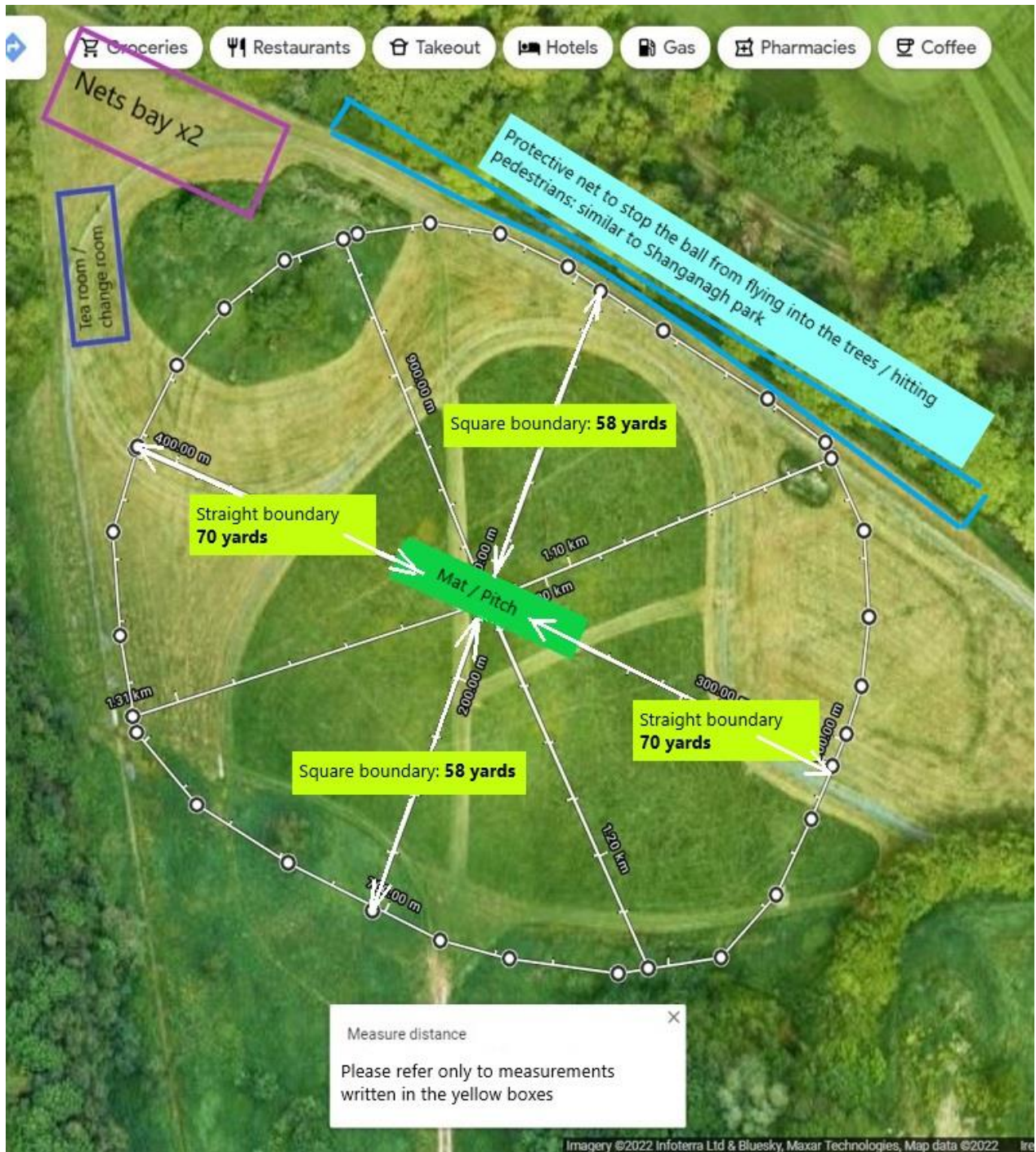


Figure 6 New cricket field proposal

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Request to the Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council

Can you please review our request, and let us know what you can do to help cricket sustain and grow at Marlay Park? We would request that this project be started at the earliest so that we might have an undisturbed season in 2023.



Document control

Version Control

Date	Changed by	Version	Details
25 July 2022	Kiran Hegde	0.1	Created
27 July 2022	Kiran Hegde	1.0	Issued as version 1.00 following review and approval by the Sandyford CC committee.
31 Aug 2022	Kiran Hegde	1.1	Adding more details before seeking help from CL and TDs
01 Sept 2022	Kiran Hegde	1.3	Fixed typographic errors and spelling mistakes
02 Sept 2022	Kiran Hegde	1.4	Tidy up and sent for committee ratification Replaced figure 6 with an updated schematic of the ground
07 Sept 2022	Kiran Hegde	2.0	Issue 2.0; approved by committee quorum

List of reviewers and approvers

Name	Role	Date of review and approval
Kiran Hegde	President	02 Sept 2022
Kiran Hegde	Honorary Secretary	02 Sept 2022
Vaibhav Kotnala	Club Captain	02 Sept 2022
Gaurav P Natarajan	2 nd team captain	02 Sept 2022
Aaditya Shah	3 rd team captain	02 Sept 2022
Rajesh Manirajan	Treasurer	Pending as of 07 September 2022
Vinay Iqbal	Club Coach	Pending as of 07 September 2022
Satyaki Ganguly	Committee Member	02 Sept 2022
Abhishek Pandey	Committee Member	02 Sept 2022
Amandeep Sahota	Committee Member	02 Sept 2022