

The Old Rectory
Cholderton
Wiltshire SP4 0DW

9th October 2020

Dear Friends of the Broadwindsor Cricket Club

I am writing to support this magical cricket club in its hour of greatest need.

I am a writer and I have played cricket for 55 years, taking tours all round Britain and the world.

In 2004 I was grateful that my biography of the great Basil D'Oliveira was named the [William Hill Sports Book of the Year](#), and also won an award in 2005 with the British Sports Book Awards.

Just as the BCC ground was recognised by Wisden as one of the five most beautiful grounds in England, so the same institution generously recognised my book, *Wounded Tiger: A History of Cricket in Pakistan* as 2015 Wisden Book of the Year.

This letter is an attempt to save the BCC from destruction.

I have known the chair of the club, Clive Stafford Smith, for many years. He (along with another member, Alastair Crawford) accompanied me on a wonderful tour of Pakistan three years back.

We tried in a small way to take a touring team to make up for that marvellous country's lack of international cricket – largely by the goodwill we engendered by being roundly thrashed by most of the 13 teams we played in 14 days.

I will never forget the pitches we played on, from the lush grass of Lahore to the snow that fell on us when we played tape ball on gravel 12,000 feet high in the mountains.

But just as the Pakistanis celebrate the sport, so should we. To lose a ground like that in Broadwindsor would be an irreparable loss.

Not just for cricketers. It would do permanent damage to our public domain at a moment when it is already under threat.

I hope that we can all assist the effort being made to preserve the club, and to that end I wholeheartedly lend my support.

Yours sincerely

Peter

Peter Osborne