

'Nostalgic' return of cricket after 55 years

HUNDREDS of cricket lovers turned out to celebrate the first game at a classic Suffolk ground since 1953.

A gala match of "Suffolk" against "Norfolk" took place at Campsea Ashe Park Cricket Club on Saturday – the first time residents had heard the sound of leather on willow for 50 years.

Suffolk proved the winners of the return of the sport at the venue, managing 152 all out compared to Norfolk's 98.

But the event was more about the nostalgia than the result for 10 players who last wore cricket whites on the ground 50 years ago.

Sally Ball, chairwoman of the Campsea Ashe village hall fundraising committee, which held a fete at the event, said: "It was absolutely fantastic to see cricket back at Ashe Park.

"It is the most wonderful setting and it was a hugely nostalgic occasion.

"There were spectators there who had watched their parents play and someone told me one of the things that had got him through the Second World War was the thought of returning to Ashe Park to play cricket, so that was really nice."



ROLLING BACK THE YEARS: Batsmen, watched by spectators, right, walk out at Ashe Park, Campsea Ashe, for the first time since 1953

Photos: SIMON PARKER

She added the day had been a huge success, with in excess of £1,000 raised towards funding the village hall.

Magnus Spence, joint captain of Campsea Ashe Wanderers, who hosted the match, said the day had been great fun.

"We pretended it was

not drizzling and did not come off once for rain. But we were very lucky the weather did not spoil the cricket.

"For the last three years we have been playing local sides at their grounds, so it is great to have our own pitch now – it is a fabulous setting."



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