



## Frequently Asked Questions

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### What is the Ted Crowe Room?

It is the Old Blundellian Cricket Club's own permanent corporate box at Somerset County Cricket Club ('SCCC'), which is located at the Coopers Associates County Ground in the centre of Taunton. The OBCC occupies Box 6 at the top of the Ondaatje Stand (see photo).

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### So it's a corporate hospitality facility?

The OBCC has a long-term lease of Box 6, of which we have exclusive use. The Room and balcony are a magnificent place from which to watch cricket, and the Room also houses an extensive collection of cricket books and memorabilia.

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### What's the history?

Sir Christopher Ondaatje is an Old Blundellian, who has been a Patron and major supporter of SCCC for many years. In 1994, his generous gift enabled SCCC to build a modern indoor cricket centre and stand with six corporate hospitality boxes and related facilities. A condition of Sir Christopher's gift was that the Old Blundellian Cricket Club was granted a long lease over Box 6. Sir Christopher encouraged the OBCC to name Box 6 in honour of his great friend Ted Crowe. Ted was a distinguished Old Blundellian, who spent his life teaching at Blundell's. He ran the Box for the first ten years.

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### Who is entitled to visit the Box?

The Members of the Ted Crowe Room. Membership is open to all members of the Old Blundellian Club and the Blundell's community, including parents.

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### How do I become a Member? How do I arrange to visit?

To become a Member for the season, please complete and return the [Membership Application Form](#) with the appropriate remittance. Then, when you propose to visit the Ted Crowe Room to watch cricket, you must 'book in' with the Room Coordinator, David Dibb, in advance - one week in advance if food is required. Contact David preferably by email on [tedcroweroom@gmail.com](mailto:tedcroweroom@gmail.com), or by phone on 07747 727576.



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The Ondaatje Pavilion - The Ted Crowe Room

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## How much does it cost?

Membership for the season is £40.00 per person and automatically enters you into the OBCC 100annual Club draw. Membership is paid annually in advance by Standing Order.

As a special concession, school leavers pay an annual subscription of £5.00 for the first five years after they have left school.

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## The Membership fee seems ridiculously low for such a special facility.

### Are there other charges?

Membership of the Ted Crowe Room does not give you free admission to the Copper Associates County Ground.

Many of our Room Members are members of SCCC, paying an annual subscription. This gives them free admission. Room Members who are not members of SCCC must pay the daily ground admission charge.

To obtain SCCC membership, telephone the Club Office on 0845 337 1875 or apply on-line at [www.somersetcountycastle.co.uk](http://www.somersetcountycastle.co.uk). There are various categories of membership (Championship, T20, etc)

If you are purchasing admission for the day, the most cost effective way is to book online in advance (<https://somersetcountycastle.co.uk/buy-tickets/>). Prices vary according to the type of match. For County Championship matches, an adult ticket purchased online in advance was £18.00 in 2024. For the Metrobank One-Day Cup matches, tickets cost £26.00. For Western Storm women's games, entry cost £10.00.

Men's T20 Blast matches at Taunton sell out quickly. Tickets are best purchased online at the start of the season.

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## Even with the cost of admission, the cost of visiting the Ted Crowe Room seems very low. Most corporate hospitality boxes cost a fortune. Am I missing something?

If a Member brings a guest, the Member pays a Guest Fee of £5.00 per day.

There is a bar in the Box from which you may purchase drinks (payment made by card only).

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## Are non-OB's allowed to apply for Membership?

All members of the Old Blundellian Club are entitled to become Room Members as of right. We also welcome applications from the wider Blundell's community, including parents. Persons who are not OB's nor part of the Blundell's community are not normally eligible. In the past, at its discretion, the Room Committee has offered Membership to a small number of persons with a particular connection to Ted Crowe and/or the Box.

The Room Committee has also appointed a number of Honorary Members. These include the Headmaster of Blundell's, senior officers of SCCC as well as OB's who have played first class cricket.



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## When is the Ted Crowe Room open?

The Room is normally open on all days during the Summer when SCCC or the Western Storm are playing a home game. There are nearly 50 days' cricket at Taunton each season.

Each year there will be two home T20 matches when the Box is not available. This is because the OBCC makes it available to SCCC to hire out to corporate clients. We agree to this in order to help SCCC, which is able to generate valuable revenue. The days when the Box is not available to Room Members will be known at the start of the season.

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## Are there days when the Box is full?

There are a few popular dates when we are oversubscribed, so booking will always be on a first-come-first-served basis. The Room can accommodate up to 30 Members and guests in comfort.

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## What are the catering arrangements?

Lunch is provided only occasionally in the Box, usually when we have a group attending. The terms of our lease are that the only food and drink that may be consumed in the Box are supplied by Somerset CCC. This means that Room Members and their guests are not permitted to consume food they bring into the ground in the Box. Food that is purchased from SCCC outlets inside the ground may be consumed in the Box. If you bring a picnic, the rule is that it must be consumed elsewhere on the ground, not in the Box.

A sit-down Carvery or salad lunch is offered by SCCC in the ground floor restaurant in Colin Atkinson Pavilion, which is short walk from the Box. The cost is around £23 per meal (add £7.50 for dessert or starter) and is paid by you directly to SCCC.

Please book your lunch places directly with SCCC via their website. The link is: <https://somersetcountyycc.co.uk/visiting-sccc-somerset-county-cricket/matchday-food-and-drink/>.

The Stragglers Coffee House on the ground floor of the Marcus Trescothick Pavilion offers sandwiches and snacks on match days. No booking is necessary.

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## Am I allowed to bring my own lunch or picnic?

Yes, but please respect others in the Box who are watching the cricket. Do not leave litter or expect our Steward nor SCCC staff to clear up after you.

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## Is a sit-down lunch ever provided in the Box?

There may be one or two days when a special occasion is celebrated with a lunch in the Box. For instance, there will be an invitation lunch in 2025 to mark the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Box.

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## Who runs the Box?

The Ted Crowe Room Committee, which is elected annually. This is part of the OBCC. With effect from October 2024, the Chairman is Chad Murrin ([chad\\_murrin@msn.com](mailto:chad_murrin@msn.com), 07767 224632).

David Dibb is our Senior Steward and Bookings Co-ordinator. He has carried out this important role for over 10 years. When you arrive at the Room, please make yourself and your guests known to David, who will welcome you and ensure you are looked after. On arrival, please make payment of any guest fees.

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## Could I join the Room Committee or otherwise help?

A volunteer is worth ten pressed men. In first instance, contact Chad Murrin (07767 224632).

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## Does the Box make a profit? Where does it go?

The Committee's approach has been to ensure that (1) operating costs are covered, and (2) a modest surplus is made, which is then used to maintain the Room in excellent condition. Various improvements have been made, most recently renovating the kitchen area and purchasing new furniture.

The Room Committee Treasurer presents annual accounts to the AGM, which is held in October.

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## Is there a dress code for the Ted Crowe Room?

Smart casual at County Championship, Metrobank One-Day Cup and Western Storm matches. The dress code is relaxed for T20 Blast games.

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## May I bring children to the Ted Crowe Room?

Well-behaved children are welcome. You are responsible for supervising them, particularly on the balcony. You will pay a Guest Fee for each child.

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## May I bring my dog to the Ted Crowe Room?

Only assistance dogs are permitted.

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## I understand the Box is on the third floor of the Ondaatje Stand. Is there a lift?

Yes.

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## Am I allowed to park my car in the ground?

No. The nearest public car park is at Canon Street, Taunton TA1 1SW.

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## Can I use the Box for corporate entertaining?

This is not encouraged. A Room Member may invite a maximum of four guests on any one



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day of a County Championship match. At T20 or One-Day Cup matches, you may invite a maximum of two guests.

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