



BCB News

Latest information from the Bucks Cricket Board

Issue 10 - June 2014

Welcome to BCB News

We make no apologies for cramming my waffle into a much smaller space to give prominence to information about ECB's second annual National Cricket Playing survey.

Although Bucks managed a good number of responses last year compared with many other counties the responses were very patchy and we want to see a much wider spread this year as well as a good increase in numbers.

Why is it important?

ECB has been working hard to try to help us find out what local cricketers want. Owing to the fragmented way leagues and other cricket in Bucks is set up BCB needs more info to pass on to the leagues and to make better provision for you, the players.

So please DO take part - you never know, you might even win a prize!

We have included a number of other features including:

- News of funding successes
- Competition News
- Last Man Stands
- Groundsman's Corner
- Club Open days
- Disability Cricket News
- Visits by 2 England captains

Finally let's hope that the weather improves after the wet start to the season!

John Bushby
email [click here](#)



THE NATIONAL CRICKET PLAYING SURVEY

HAVE YOUR SAY AND HELP IMPROVE CRICKET IN BUCKS

Bucks Cricket Board would like all our cricketers to have their say in the second annual National Cricket Playing survey and so influence the future of cricket at grassroots level.

More than 450 players in Bucks responded to the survey last year - the first of its kind ever undertaken in cricket - and BCB is already acting on the feedback received. Clubs and leagues too are reviewing formats, rule changes, start times, travel distances to matches and we are trying to introduce greater opportunities for women, girls and disability cricketers to play the game.

Last year's survey attracted a fantastic response and we intend to listen and respond with innovative and forward-thinking ideas which will all help attract more players and volunteers and make it as inclusive as possible.

BUT - we can only tailor the way the game is structured to suit you if we hear from as many of you as possible - not just from one league or section of the community but also as wide a cross-section as possible. *That means current players, those who've stopped playing, women and girls, ethnic minorities, the disabled and even those who've never played are ALL invited to have their say.*

It's easy to do, there are prizes to be won and costs nothing so please do it - and please **DO IT NOW!** - *and persuade others to do the same too.*

Complete the survey and have the chance to win prizes like signed bats and pairs of tickets to an England vs India ODI
Please scan the QR code or go to ecb.co.uk/playingsurvey2014



BCB News

- 8-a-side amateur Twenty20 league
- Each game is completed in about 2 hours, making it perfect to play on a weekday evening
- 20 overs are played, but with five balls per over instead of six
- Sides can only be bowled out when all eight players are dismissed – so 'Last Man Stands'
- ...and if that wasn't enough, you score 12 if you hit a six off the final ball of an innings!
- Progress from local to regional, national and world championships



LastManStands.com™
THE NEW WAY TO PLAY CRICKET

Want to play cricket but can't fit it into your weekly schedule?

A new Last Man Stands League has been launched in Aylesbury this summer

LMS is a social cricket league playing a brilliant and exciting format of the game. It is played throughout the world, with over 40,000 players signed up and it has an ever-growing number of players in the UK with increased support from the England and Wales Cricket Board.

- Each LMS game is completed in just two hours
- This makes it the perfect game to play on midweek summer evenings.
- It's quick, exciting, and fast-paced - so what are you waiting for?
- Last Man Stands is all about the excitement of Twenty20 cricket with a difference.
- Twenty overs are played, but with five balls per over instead of six,
- Each side consists of eight players as opposed to the regulation 11,
- Sides can only be bowled out when all eight players are dismissed - hence the name, Last Man Stands.

Matches started on 12 May and take place each Monday and Tuesday evening at Aylesbury Town CC and Alfred Rose Park between 6 pm & 8pm.

- Join up as a team of 8 or sign up as an individual, work colleagues or mates... register as soon as possible.
- Mixed gender and ladies teams are also welcome.
- All players must be aged 16+.

The league has been set up under an ECB initiative to get more people playing cricket. ECB provided funding for the new non-turf pitch in Alfred Rose Park. It is being managed by Aylesbury Vale District Council and Aylesbury Town CC in conjunction with Last Man Stands.

The Bucks Herald is sponsoring the League, providing a cup for the league finals day

For more information contact Steve@lastmanstands.co.uk or phone 07979 907022

Current Initiatives

- Last Man Stands

As well as the new Aylesbury LMS league we are taking steps to revive the league in Milton Keynes and are trying to identify somewhere suitable in High Wycombe; BCB has identified a couple of potential sites as part of its cooperation on drawing up the District Council's new playing pitch strategy.

- Disability Cricket

Bucks has more non-disabled and economically active people than the E&W average but, with Stoke Mandeville as an inspiring centre for the disabled we are bringing more opportunities for those with physical problems and also those with learning difficulties (see page 4).

- Women's and Girls' Cricket

England Women's captain Charlotte Edwards has become a regular visitor to Bucks and is adding momentum to our development programme.

- Schools and Chance to Shine

BCB has extended the range of its school activities and this year we're sending fully qualified coaches into roughly half the county's secondary schools in addition to our established primary school operation.

- Indoor Cricket

New developments in Wycombe (Handy Cross) and Princes Risborough provide an opportunity to start new indoor leagues. Latest thoughts are that we may be able to start a pilot league in Risborough in the last 2 months of 2014. with Wycombe following about a year later.



BCB News

Funding News

- Although money is, as always, hard to come by there are the occasional successes. Details of two clubs which have managed to get projects under way by hard work and excellent planning and organisation. Both came to us in the early stages and we like to think we were able to help, but the real credit is theirs.
- Dinton CC, having recently obtained funding through Sport England and the local council are due to formally open their enhanced changing accommodation and new practice nets on 7 June. The ceremonial ribbon will be cut by MP and House of Commons Speaker the Rt Hon John Bercow
- BCB has now processed applications under the ECB Small Grants Scheme to ECB. Five clubs - Bledlow Village, Dinton, Marlow Park, New Bradwell and Stony Stratford - were successful and should have, on average, 79% of the cost of pitch covers etc met by grants. Many thanks to all of them for making our job easier by agreeing to adjust their claims so that all obtained at least the minimum grant and helped us use our small budget to best effect.

Amersham CC



Amersham CC heard recently that their application for an Inspired Facilities grant has been successful and that they have been awarded £50,000 towards pavilion improvements. Work to carry out enhancements to changing rooms, showers, toilets, the kitchen and umpires' accommodation will begin soon.

This, plus other fundraising, means the club has raised just over £70,000 in 18 months to improve facilities. With excellent new nets and a much improved pavilion over the next 6 months or so the club is really celebrating its return to the Home Counties Premier League in style..

Great Brickhill CC



Friday 2 May saw the opening of the new Cricket nets at Great Brickhill along with new tennis courts and multi-use games area. Total project was £100k+

England captain Alistair Cook (pictured with some of the Brickhill 'Badgers') opened the Cricket Nets now named to recognise the involvement of the Turner family with the Club since the late 1880's.

The tennis courts were opened by Olympic athlete Kriss Akabusi and the MUGA area was inaugurated by local MP and Speaker of the House of Commons Rt. Hon John Bercow.

Junior Competitions

Despite the bad weather in May we are on track with the knockout cups and having adopted a slightly more flexible approach to deadlines in the leagues most clubs are catching

up with their backlog of fixtures. This year there are 764 league fixtures scheduled and we have results reported for 137 of which only 7 have been declared abandoned. Slightly worryingly nearly 15% of the results reported have been walkovers where one club has been unable to field a team for the fixture.



Groundsman's Corner

The older among us will probably remember Springs like this - but usually a little cooler.

The memory dims but I can remember one season when we had 23 games booked before the end of May; only 9 were started and 7 finished. We then had to put the match fees up for the rest of the season to compensate.

There has been plenty of warm weather to go with the rain and just about everything has grown - grass, weeds, fungus, the lot. Despite nitrogen-rich fertiliser, red thread is prevalent. We are just putting more nitrogen-rich fertiliser down as well as selective applications of herbicides and fungicides to try to cure it, but those with limited budgets (most of us) just have to do what we can. If you do want advice please ask because we have the knowledge available.

Most of us will be very busy for the next couple of months so it's probably not much help to suggest thinking about renovation work at this time. However, many have colts' wickets to fit in with our normal adult tracks but this will come to an end when the schools finish in 7-8 weeks from now. Then it's time to start repairing worn tracks so that there is less work at the end of the season (and more germination time), especially for those with limited resources.

Just a reminder too, that BGA has a 'Groundsman' spiker based at Marlow Cricket Club which is available on free loan to Clubs. Email me for more details.

[Adrian Saunders](#)



BCB News

Charlotte Edwards visits Bucks



England women's cricket captain Charlotte Edwards visited schools and clubs throughout Buckinghamshire on 16 May, to inspire the next generation of children to play cricket.

Following an exciting World Cup, Charlotte visited Little Chalfont, Aylesbury and Milton Keynes to support our plans to get more young girls interested in cricket. The trip was part of her role as Chance to Shine coaching ambassador and helped to promote Bucks Cricket Board's schools participation programmes.

The programme, supported by Chance to Shine, is a national initiative designed to increase participation in cricket throughout Buckinghamshire. Over 10,000 children took part in Bucks last year and with 18 Community Coaches deployed throughout Bucks, the scheme is set for another bumper season. Charlotte's itinerary included visits to in High Wycombe's Highcrest Academy and to Chesham CC.

One of the highlights of the day was a visit to Little Chalfont Primary School (see picture) where Charlotte mentored aspiring young coach Jason Rance. Jason coaches a boys and girls cricket session plus another after school at Chesham High School, for girls only. These sessions were launched in the school as part of BCB's secondary schools programme to provide pupils with the chance to participate in cricket every week.

Charlotte said: "I hope the girls came away from the day feeling inspired to go along to their local club and become part of a rapidly growing sport for girls. My role as a Chance to Shine Coaching Ambassador is great as it allows me to combine playing international cricket with a job where I can really make a difference."

BCB Cricket Development Officer Clifton Simms accompanied Charlotte and expressed his delight that Charlotte could visit Bucks again. He added: "We want to make cricket accessible to every child in the county and I'm sure Charlotte has inspired more girls to play cricket, join a local cricket club and continue to enjoy the game."



Club Open Days, supported by Waitrose

Have you registered yet? ECB would like recreational cricket clubs nationwide to hold a Club Open Day on an international cricket weekend this summer. Last year 310 clubs held events, welcoming thousands of guests from their local communities into their pavilions.

So far only a handful of clubs from Bucks have registered despite the advantages:

- The opportunity to raise valuable funds
- Get £100 worth of food and drink from your local Waitrose - **BUT only the first 1,000 clubs to sign up will get this** as well as polo shirts and banner - so don't delay
- Engage with your local community
- Access to an online toolkit to help publicise your event
- Welcome potential new members, players, volunteers and even local sponsors to experience your club - perhaps set up taster sessions for new cricketers run by your club coach (men, women, boys, or girls); mini tournaments – 6 or 8 a side; a BBQ, Quiz or curry night -



Disability Cricket News

Wheelchair cricket is up and running at Stoke Mandeville Stadium on alternate Monday afternoons, with the possibility of other sessions when they can be organised..

Mental Health cricket takes place on a Tuesday afternoon 4.30 to 5.30 with plans to play competitions across three counties with events being planned in Bucks, Berks and Oxon. The Milton Keynes mental health team is looking to enter a team into this competition after some coaching. Dates for competitions are currently being arranged.

Autistic cricket day is set for 6 July.

For more details contact Keith Dale of Aylesbury CC by email : info@aylesburytowncc.co.uk - or phone him on 01296 821501 / 07956 513529

Don't forget – keep the TV on so guests can keep an eye on England matches!

More details on the ECB website

<http://www.ecb.co.uk/development/club-cricket/club-open-days/register-now,2898,BP.html>



First Aid Training & Refresher courses

Thurs 17 July Stoke Mandeville Stadium, Aylesbury
Weds 10 Sept Monkston Park Community Centre, Milton Keynes

Courses price £55.00 run from 6.00 pm – 10.00 pm
The courses are being administrated by Leap / Bucks & MK Sports and Activity Partnership

More details: www.leapwithus.org.uk