



BCB News

Information from the Bucks Cricket Board

Issue 4 - Club Special - March 2013

Club News Pre-Season Special

This is a special edition devoted (almost) entirely to clubs and self-help. Because it contains very important and time-limited information we make no apologies for sending it out earlier than originally intended - the January offering was delayed owing to problems with our emails.

Thinking - and doing something - about next season is the theme for this issue and it's very important that clubs act straight away. Don't leave it to somebody else - make it happen instead!

On these pages you'll find something about: various initiatives that will help you get ready for the 2013 season including

- [ECB's Small Grants Scheme](#)
- [CricketForce \(5, 6 & 7 April 2013\)](#)
- [Jewson Privilege Account Scheme](#)
- [BCB's Affiliation Package](#)
- [Inspired Facilities funding](#)

We hope that it will help you, but we have added a bit of light relief at the end, just in case ... !

John Bushby
email [click here](#)



ECB's Small Grants Scheme

A separate email has been sent out to club officials about this scheme and a more detailed note on the website gives full details to those who have registered and logged in.

The starting point for this is on the

[Facilities and Funding Pages](#)

Main points:

- The scheme is open now
- It is open only to clubs which are ClubMark-approved or who are registered and working towards accreditation.
- Grants will be between £200 and £4,000 although, given the small total available to BCB, awards are unlikely to come close to the higher figure.
- Applications must be sent electronically to Bucks CB by the closing date of **15 March**
- The object is to support purchase of relevant products or materials that support the playing of the game of cricket or that reduce the operating costs of cricket clubs, e.g. covers/sheeting or energy-saving devices.
- Clubs must find at least 50% of the cost - this can be met by non-ECB grants or an EWCT loan.
- Clubs which received funding from the 2012 scheme cannot apply this year
- BCB has published its own priorities in our detailed note.
- Do take advantage of our negotiated price deals which apply whether you are applying under the Small Grant Scheme or not.

CricketForce (5, 6 & 7 April 2013)

Register your club NOW !!!! (it's free)

- **30 free tee shirts** for the first 1650 clubs that register
- **Jewson privilege account.** Invest £100 and **get £400 from ECB to spend at Jewson** for 1400 new clubs (the 800 that accessed this last year are ineligible - but Jewson are offering these clubs a partner card deal with special discounts). This is an exceptional offer from ECB and clubs can benefit from it by purchasing tools and materials from their local Jewson branch
- **Some new official supporters**
www.ecb.co.uk/natwestcricketforce
- **Step by step guide on how to organise** a club NWCF event
www.ecb.co.uk/natwestcricketforce
- **Monthly newsletters with prize draws** for equipment and special offers

BCB has organised **special prices for Bucks clubs** with a range of suppliers who are bettering CricketForce prices.

*** Details on the next page.***



Volunteers Wanted!

The ICC Champions Trophy 2013 is coming to England & Wales in June, and there is an opportunity for **you** to be involved through the Cricketers Volunteer Programme.

ICC are looking for up to 900 Cricketers (volunteers) to support the tournament.

The Cricketers will be the face of the ICC Champions Trophy 2013, meeting and greeting the spectators, supporting on field entertainment, ground staff to media operations.

Full details on the [ICC Champions Trophy 2013 Volunteer Portal](#)

Closing date 12 noon on Monday 11th March

Support Bucks Youth Cricket

Make a charitable donation or raise funds for Bucks Youth Cricket Trust - go to www.byct.org.uk & click on the VMG icon





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Inspired Facilities Funding - New Round Opens

We've already covered Inspired Facilities in some detail ([Newsletter 2 - November 2012](#)) but it's worth reminding you about it if you've significant plans.

- **Bids will be accepted for the fourth round of Inspired Facilities Funding from 4 March 2013**
- **There's substantial money available!**
- **There's a very good success rate!**
- **It can cover areas where ECB funding doesn't reach!**
- **YOU CAN APPLY ON-LINE NOW !**

Several Bucks clubs have already benefitted.

- **North Crawley CC** secured £27,870 funding for building new nets - with an application made through the local Parish Council.



• **Stony Stratford CC** secured £45,400 for urgent repairs to the clubs pavilion and a necessary upgrade to modern standards.

- **Chesham CC** was awarded £50,000 in a major project to replace its pavilion destroyed by arson 2 years ago.



BUT - do remember - these clubs worked hard to help themselves.

We'll do what we can to help you but you must be prepared to research your projects and provide the ammunition to back up your application.

HMRC PAYE enquiries into cricket clubs

HMRC often collects substantial amounts of unpaid PAYE tax and National Insurance (NI) from sports clubs with liabilities that can go back several years.

This is because clubs have not kept to the rules for deducting PAYE and NI from their employees. Many - and probably most - of our clubs will have no problem because they rely on totally unpaid volunteers. But often payments are made to other staff and workers - for example Overseas and other players; Bar staff; & Coaches.

BCB is not qualified to give tax advice but we have received some notes which outline what you should do should HMRC approach your club.

These are no substitute for getting appropriate professional advice and - above all - taking your responsibilities and any such enquiry seriously and dealing with it promptly.

If you do need further information please contact [John Bushby](#) or [Stuart Beck](#)

BCB's Affiliation Package

We have been busy contacting suppliers of many kinds of equipment which clubs and groundsmen need - pitch covers and sheeting, sightscreens, netting and all manner of kit. We've negotiated discounts which beat ECB's CricketForce price offers (in most cases) and some which aren't on the CricketForce list at all.

Details are being published on the [BCB website](#) but - because the offers are exclusive to Bucks Cricket **you'll only be able to see them if you're registered with BCB and logged in.**

That shouldn't be a problem for your club officials at least one of whom will already be registered with us. If you aren't registered and would like to be able to access these parts of the site - as well as receiving newsletters etc directly - you can do so by clicking on '[Registration](#)' on the left-hand menu and entering your personal details.

At present we have arrangements with

**Stuart Canvas
Durant Cricket
Huck Cricket
Tildenet**

all of whom provide a wide range of kit for the ground ranging from sheeting to scoreboards and sightscreens.

In most cases there is a specific person to contact and you will either need to quote a code or say that this is part of the Bucks Cricket Board arrangement.

We have just signed up **Turney Groundforce** who will give significant discounts off new Dennis and Sisis equipment.

It's also worth contacting them if you're looking for good used mowers etc.



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ECB CricketForce 2013: Jewson Privilege Account Scheme



How it Works

1. Clubs make an initial payment of £100 into a Jewson account
2. It will then have £400 added to it at no further cost to the club to help with NatWest CricketForce projects.
3. This money can then be spent at Jewson branches nationwide at preferential rates

To ensure your club has access to its account in time for the NatWest CricketForce Weekend (5/6/7 April) **please apply no later than Monday 11 March 2013.**

Clubs who joined the account scheme last year can't join but will receive other benefits.

BCB Affiliation Fees Due NOW

Club affiliation fees are due now - please make sure your Treasurer has paid us.

And **do** keep details of your officers up to date on our website. We need to know about your Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Junior Organiser, Welfare Officer and Groundsman

BCB Ground Equipment Trailer

The Board has reluctantly decided that it cannot justify the expense of providing, insuring and maintaining the trailer. The equipment has been used by only a few clubs - possibly because its existence has not been publicised very well. However that's not the only obstacle to wider use.

In a county that stretches nearly 80 miles from North to South it's a near-impossibility to find a suitable base for storing a single set of gear safely while making it available to most clubs.. We shall be selling the spiker and a few other items, with our clubs having first chance to purchase on advantageous terms. More information will appear in the News section of the BCB website very shortly.

If interested - don't delay.

Dates to Note

11 March	Deadline for Jewson Privilege Accounts for CricketForce
15 March	BCB Small Grants Scheme Deadline
24 March	Groundsman's demonstration of pre-season work - Wormsley. Email John Bushby for details
5-7 April	ECB CricketForce weekend
6 April	UKCC Level 1 Coaching Course - Beaconsfield - places still available †
20 April - 5 May	Bucks Cups 2013 Mini-league matches to be played
11 May	Start of 2013 season for most leagues
July/August	UKCC Level 2 Coaching course - to be completed in one week & aimed at university students and others who are available during the daytime †

† There's a comprehensive list of other courses on the [Education page](#) of the BCB website



A Down-under View Pitches and Umpiring in Australia

At this time of year there is not much to do apart from the usual winter jobs but I'm lucky to be able to turn to a bit of umpiring in Melbourne on my visit to my son in Oz. This means a change of culture from the generally slower English tracks to the high clay content pitches - as well as some welcome warmth!

Over here even newly laid pitches like High Wycombe's have a clay content of only about 28% and those of us with much older squares have a lot less. I have umpired and played on many turf pitches out there and, although unusual in Melbourne, one had a clay content of 80%. There was no grass on the wicket and not a ball moved offline in the whole match!

Generally speaking, in the more temperate southern Victoria climate, much less clay is used (about 50%) which is still much more than over here. If we had this much clay we would never get grass to grow. Over there they use common couch grass which is regarded here more as a weed, but it spreads quickly and covers well. They also leave much more grass on pitches

but the harder surface, coupled with a smaller seam on the ball, means that it does not move around much, though the pace and bounce is good.

During their winter most pitches are played over with Aussie Rules and pre-season work amazingly includes renovation we would do at the end of the season - but there is enough heat to make the seed grown in time for the cricket season.

At the Adelaide Oval they play 40+ games of Aussie Rules in the winter and prepare the square in 3 weeks for 1st class cricket to take place! Up on the Murray River, in Moama, the groundsman said that they do the same at the 3-week Christmas break. It's a different world!

The upshot of this is that batting technique is better and the bowlers have to make sure they bowl a good line otherwise they get worked away with ease.

Adrian Saunders

(who will be back in time for the English season!)

