



BCB News

Latest information from the Bucks Cricket Board

Issue 7 - Oct 2013

One Year On!

It hardly seems a year since our first Newsletter went out and a lot of water has passed under the bridge since then. Fortunately there was nothing like the same volume falling on cricket grounds in the 2013 season than in its 2012 counterpart!

There are some similarities : that first issue was almost entirely devoted to the results of our home-grown survey and 2013 had a major survey, though this one was generated by ECB and covered the whole country.

Results are still being analysed and it will take quite some time for the Board to come to grips with it. Some details appear below and more are likely to emerge in future editions too.

Head Coach Rich Hudson has been busy refining the pathway for talented young cricketers and an illustration of the latest model appears on Page 3. It is important to get this right since a great deal of the BCB budget is earmarked for assisting the

development of young players, from schools to the Emerging Player Programme. It's pleasing to record that one of those who has benefitted after rising through the various BCB age group teams - Saif Zaib - is set to progress even further (report on a later page.

Other items in this issue include information about the NatWest OSCAs, Bucks Cup results, what BACO is doing to get us up to speed on the Law changes which come into effect in the 2014 season and a tribute from Adrian Saunders to Dick Keeble who died last month. Dick will be sorely missed.

John Bushby

email [click here](#)



Eureka! - ECB's National Player Survey

Our July Newsletter managed to mention the National Player Survey but the timing was unfortunate: we didn't have much notice of the survey and it ran for only a short time. Nevertheless Bucks managed to get a good number of responses, well above the norm for the size of its population.

This was the first-ever national survey of cricketers and the early analyses of the results are starting to come through. Bucks was treated to its own presentation towards the end of September - with representatives from Bucks Sport, leagues and a mix of

clubs and organisations as well as people from ECB and the Bucks Board.

Although we won't have all the answers this year, it told us some things that were new as well as confirming some of what we already suspected. This is intended to be the first step of a process with the ultimate objective "to ensure more people play cricket more frequently in teams". There will be a lot of follow-up work for the Board and further surveys to find out what the players want.

We've tried to give you a few of the initial results below

Some of the Player Survey Results

- ❖ This first-ever Player Survey had over 20,000 responses nationally
- ❖ Nationally nearly 1 million people play cricket in teams
- ❖ Only just over ¼ of those are 'core' players playing in 12 or more weeks of the season
- ❖ Cricket's male, middle England base is shifting - those from an Asian background play much more cricket **BUT** they are less likely to do so in traditional clubs
- ❖ Players tend to drop out of cricket between the ages of 28 and 29, with half the players aged 26 or more.
- ❖ Most lapsed players would like to return
- ❖ It's [still] a sociable sport - players in Buckinghamshire describe cricket as a sociable sport, to a greater extent than average
- ❖ Cricket makes players happy - over 80% of players say cricket is more enjoyable than other sports they play

- ❖ The more frequently players play, the higher their satisfaction with cricket - BUT
- ❖ Discontent is higher in less frequent players
- ❖ Too many players are dissatisfied
- ❖ Nationally and in Buckinghamshire, players aged between 26 and 44 years are least satisfied with end times
- ❖ Captains and club secretaries want to start later than rank and file players
- ❖ The most important factor on game day according to players is that it's played in the RIGHT SPIRIT SPIRIT OF THE GAME. It's the most important aspect of game for Core players, slightly less so for occasional players
- ❖ Cost is a barrier for younger players
- ❖ There are not enough links between clubs and schools - many school leavers who would like to continue playing don't know how to join in



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Player Pathway

Our next page shows the latest version of the Player Pathway for the best young cricketers in Bucks.

There have been some alterations to the pathway in the last couple of years, with the introduction of

- Development Squads sitting underneath County squads on the Boys side,
- The Skill Sets programme for boys and girls to work on more specific areas of their games, and
- The Emerging Players Programme for high performing and high potential players.

We want all our young cricketers to reach their potential including going onto playing for Buckinghamshire CCC Academy XI, the full county side, First-Class Academies, and England Development Programmes.

NatWest OSCAs

It was probably too much to expect that we'd have the same success this year as we'd had with our nominees for 2012, when three were shortlisted for the national awards. That doesn't mean that this year's batch was any less deserving. All those nominated from Bucks deserve our congratulations and we hope they enjoyed the opportunity for their trip to Lord's for the awards ceremony and celebration lunch.

Derek Richards won the Behind the Scenes award for his work as a driving force behind the Bucks Youth Cricket Trust and as a coach and mainstay at Ballinger.

The Lifetime Achievement award went to **Steve Lynch** - past Captain and Chairman of Beaconsfield CC where he's been a member for over 20 years. Steve played for Bucks in Minor Counties competitions and this year he's played for England Over 60's as well as the county's O-60 side where he played a big part in seeing Bucks Over 60s to this season's wins over Berkshire and Essex.

Fred Noyes, also from Beaconsfield and long-time scorer for the club was our nominated Official and Home Counties Premier League Chairman **Ray Wood**, took the honours for the League & Board category.

Up-and-coming young umpire **Tom Heenan** was our Young Volunteer for 2013 and last but not least the Building Partnerships award went to Aylesbury CC's mainstay, **Keith Dale**.

We're sure there are many others round and about the Bucks cricket scene who deserve recognition and we'd love to see nominations from a wider range of clubs in next year's round. These awards come round regularly each year though the timing may be inconvenient - unfortunately the call for you to put names forward comes early in the season.

So **please** give some thought so that you are ready to nominate someone who deserves wider recognition when the time comes.

Coach Education - Calling All Coaches

In our July issue we told you that changes in Coach Education were coming. Unfortunately we've experienced some delay in organising the new courses which will start early in 2014.

In the meantime we'll be putting out detailed information about them by way of a special edition of the newsletter which will appear very shortly.

Stuart Beck is keen to gauge the likely demand for the various courses which we could run in 2014 - so please **email Stuart** giving your name, club and course(s) in which you're interested.

Cricket Kit Bags

For a small charge clubs and schools can acquire a junior kit bag. Each contains enough items to equip a full junior team: bats, pads, balls, helmets, gloves, stumps...the lot.



Full details and an application form are on the [Lord's Taverners' website](#). Completed forms should go to John Bushby who will forward the application to them.

Bring Your Club Details Up to Date!

We have a number of clubs whose records on our database don't contain anything to show who the officers - Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer etc - are. It's essential that we know how to contact you and we really need **YOU** to keep these records up to date.

At least one person in your club - usually the Secretary - should be able to log in and change the details. This is done by logging on to the BCB website and clicking on 'My Club' (under the 'Clubs' menu!).

If you are registered but don't have the necessary permission to change your club details please contact us by email (support@bucksccb.org).



Buckinghamshire Cricket Board Player Pathway

Nominations & Trials

Clubs & Schools nominate players by mid-July
Boys U10 & U11 initial Nominations Festivals in August
Boys U15 initial outdoor trials in September
All other teams & final trials held indoor between mid-October and early December

Skill Sets

Individual skill focused coaching open-to-all players nominated & in squads. Run in pre- Xmas evenings & School Holidays

Development Squad Cricket

Boys U11-U14 for players close to County Cricket selection
Winter training & summer match programme

County Cricket

Boys U10-U17
Girls U11-U17 & Women's Team
Winter training, summer match & training programme

Emerging Players Programme

Focused coaching for 20-24 high performing or high potential players put forward by their County Coaches
Assessment phase in October & November
Full programme Jan-April including Skill Groups & Boys/Girls split group sessions
EPP 'Drop In' Sessions for those close to EPP & training well in County Squads

England Development Programmes

'Talent Testing': Boys U12, U14, U16 / Girls U14
South & West U15s & U17s (Boys)
England Development Squads U16-U19

Buckinghamshire CCC
Academy & 1st XI

First-Class County Academies (U16-U19)

Links with Northants CCC, Middlesex CCC & Gloucs CCC



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Bucks Cups

The 2013 Finals took place at Beaconsfield CC on the 14th September despite horrendous weather the previous day. Beaconsfield's ground team did sterling work in making the wickets and outfield playable. Congratulations to High Wycombe CC and Chalfont St Giles CC, the respective winners of the Senior and Challenge Cups.

The Bucks Challenge Cup was played between **Cublington CC**, winners two years ago, and **Chalfont St Giles CC**, who were newcomers to the finals.

Cublington batted first but were shot out by Chalfont for a below par 126.

Chalfont St Giles got an early finish knocking the runs off without the loss of a wicket.

Senior Clubs Cup - High Wycombe v Burnham

The start was delayed and the match reduced to 35 overs each. **High Wycombe** lost the toss and were inserted in the Senior Club contest. Patchy batting got them to 135, which was felt by onlookers to be too few.

However the contest moved to an exciting climax with the last two **Burnham** wickets falling in the last over with Burnham two short of the winning score.

Umpires, Nick Piper, Paul Rutland, Michael Knox and Matthew Stevenson, supplied by BACO, played a sterling part in getting the competition concluded, in spite of difficult "ground, weather and light" conditions!

Funding News

Inspired Facilities

Congratulations to Dinton CC who applied successfully to the Sport England Inspired Facilities ('IF') fund. They will receive £45,816 of National Lottery funding



It follows that you are unlikely to be able to benefit unless you have everything - such as quotes for ECB-approved systems, planning permission (or confirmation that it isn't needed) and other funding - in place ready for the 'off'. So **now** is the time to do the preparatory work.

The grant is the result of months of hard work by fundraiser George Piggott and Chairman Johnny Morgan and will allow the club to upgrade changing facilities and showers at the clubhouse during the close season.

This makes it an opportune moment to remind clubs that the latest IF funding round - Round 5 - opens for applications on 21 October 2013. **The closing deadline is 5pm 16 December 2013..**

ECB Small Grants

This scheme too has worked to a very tight timetable in the past. Though there is no guarantee that it will run again in the same form, the rules have always been very tightly - and even bafflingly - drawn so that clubs are restricted to items directly related to facilitating playing (mainly pitch covers, Water hogs etc) or to pavilion refurbishment with an emphasis on energy efficiency..

Lord's Taverners' Non-Turf Pitch (NTP) Scheme

Although it cannot be guaranteed that this popular scheme will run again in the same form (or at all), clubs need to be ready to submit applications (through me) if and when it is re-opened. In the past the scheme has been announced in January and closed as soon as funds have been allocated to projects; in 2013 that was around mid-March.

Both the above illustrate how important it is to plan ahead and get your timing right. It's also necessary to ensure that your club has Clubmark accreditation or has registered and is working towards gaining that recognition.

If you need further assistance or information please email [John Bushby](mailto:John.Bushby@virgin.net)

Bucks ACO - Laws Update



The new law where a no ball is to be called if the bowler breaks the wicket in his delivery stride came into effect on 1st October 2013.

In addition, a number of other adjustments to the laws were introduced at the same time, so Bucks ACO will be holding a number of seminars during the autumn in different parts of the county to bring all members up to date. Venues and dates will be confirmed in due course - at least one will be held in the evening and one at a weekend, to give everybody the opportunity to attend.

BACO hopes that all active umpires will attend one of the seminars, and from 2014 preference for BACO appointments will be given to members who have attended a seminar about the new laws.

2014 Level 1 Umpiring Courses

BACO's Level 1 courses start in January at Great Brickhill CC (on Tuesday 28 January) & Penn & Tylers Green CC (on Thursday 30 January) and run for eleven weeks - cost £60.

Contact Alan English by phone (01494 - 443464) or email (margalan.english@virgin.net).



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Changes to DBS checks

Although most of us still refer to them as CRB checks, they are formally known as 'DBS' because the checking is now done by the Disclosure & Barring Service.

There have been a number of changes to the process for acquiring a check in recent months. In short:

- The roles that require a DBS check have been clarified - and checks will not be accepted for roles which don't fit in with something on the list.
[The identity verifiers should have details of these]
- DBS certificates are now sent ONLY to the APPLICANT, meaning that you must send your new certifi-

cate to TMG in order for them to update the cricket system.

- TMG now put the information into the DBS system online. This means that no form is sent to DBS and therefore the info about checking progress via the government website is incorrect - if you try to use this you'll get a message to say "We are unable to process this request because the DBS has not received the corresponding DBS application form".
- There's also an option for new applicants to register for the DBS update service. This has to be done within 14 days of the certificate being issued - but most volunteers won't be interested as it will cost you £13 a year!

Have You Registered With Us?

It's easy to register on the BCB website - it will ensure that you're kept informed about what's happening in the county and you won't have to rely on somebody else to forward messages and newsletters to you.

Simply go to the home page, click on 'LOGIN/REGISTER' and follow the straightforward instructions.

CricketForce Discounts

Although CricketForce for 2013 is over, clubs are reminded that suppliers who had arrangements via CricketForce will often give deals to clubs which had registered.

In particular [Business Energy Direct](#), approved energy brokers to ECB affiliated clubs, claim they have arranged for many clubs to receive the equivalent of 6 months free electricity and gas, after they slashed the prices by as much as 60%.

Contact Us:

You can email Board members or BCB staff via support@bucksclub.org.

Don't forget that BCB member clubs can get our own discounts too!

Attention Club Welfare Officers - ECB "SAFE HANDS" Training & Development Workshop

Stoke Mandeville Stadium Guttmann Road, Aylesbury, Bucks. HP21 9PP

Tuesday 11th March 2014

6.00 pm - 9.30 pm



The Safe Hands training workshop, (previously known as TIME TO LISTEN), delivered in partnership with the NSPCC, is cricket specific and provides full details of ECB's Safeguarding and Welfare policy and associated requirements for clubs.

The workshop provides a training pack to enable designated club welfare officers to acquire the core knowledge and develop their skills in order to fulfil their role and responsibilities.

* Successful completion of the Safeguarding & Protecting Children course or equivalent training, is a prerequisite for the Safe Hands workshop

** A trained CWO is a requirement for Clubmark accreditation and for some junior & adult leagues.

*** CWOs need to renew this training after 3 years

Course cost £30. Book via the BCB website: [Click here](#)

Saif Impresses First-Class Counties

15-year-old High Wycombe CC teenager Saif Zaib played for the South and West in the prestigious Bunbury Cricket Festival in Durham in late July.

He was presented with his cap by former England star Paul Collingwood at the start of the festival, which brings together the most promising young players from across the country in a week-long regional tournament (see picture). In its 27-year history the festival has produced 50 England internationals.

Saif came up through the High Wycombe and Bucks junior teams and this year played in Premier League cricket for Wycombe - one of the country's leading clubs - and then for Northants 2nd XI. Zaib was offered academy contracts with both Gloucestershire and Northamptonshire and has now signed up with the latter.





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Dick Keeble

We were all sad to hear of the death of one of the best and most dedicated groundsmen that Club cricket in Bucks has known.

Dick, who died on 24 September aged 78, moved to Bourne End during WW2 and attended Meadows School at Wooburn where he became an outstanding young cricketer.

In 1949 he was watching Jackson's play at Bourne End and was alerted that Wooburn were one short up in the Park. He jumped on his bike and played, scoring 9 not out, all in singles. Thus began the career of one of Wooburn's finest players of all time, who regularly opened the batting and scored well over a thousand runs season after season against top opposition.

In his early life Dick worked as a fitter in various engineering companies around High Wycombe and then on the ground maintenance staff at Cliveden whilst helping out voluntarily on Wooburn's ground.

Having developed skills in the preparation of wickets at Wooburn, he was offered the groundsman's job at Marlow CC in the late 1980's and was there for 20 years before moving on to Henley CC, until he (almost) retired two years ago.

During his time at Marlow he produced some of the finest wickets seen around the County, on what is not a natural clay base. All batsmen will sing his praises and indeed, bowlers who put something in, would also get something out of his tracks.

A very affable man, the only thing Dick detested was poor cricket, but even then he would generally keep his own counsel.

Adrian Saunders

(With thanks to Wooburn Narkovians CC)

Course Vacancies

Clubs are reminded that coaches, Club Welfare Officers etc need to go on refresher courses every 3rd year.



At the time of going to print there are vacancies on the following courses:

- **First Aid** - Milton Keynes (Wed 13 November)
- **Safe Hands Workshop** (previously 'Time to Listen') - Stoke Mandeville (Tue 11 March)
This workshop, delivered in partnership with the NSPCC, is for Club Welfare Officers who should previously have attended a Safeguarding & Protecting Children course or equivalent.
It is cricket-specific and provides full details of the ECB's Safeguarding and Welfare policy and requirements for clubs..
- To book or for more details see the [BCB website](#)

In addition there may be courses available on the Bucks Sport website - www.buckssport.org - [click here](#) for details

Laws of Cricket Animations and Quiz

MCC has just released a first set of animations aimed to help young players, novices and casual fans develop a greater understanding of the Laws of Cricket.

The animations can be viewed on [YouTube](#) or on [the Lord's website](#) - in English, Hindi and Urdu.

Groundsman's Corner - Renovation time

Most clubs will have done their end of season renovation by now and for once the weather seems to be on our side. The warm and damp conditions are ideal for germinating and we can almost see the seed growing before our eyes and with luck there will soon be a thick sward across all our squares.



I did notice however that the worms seem to be arriving a bit early this year and squares will need to be treated shortly after germination is complete.

The experts tell me that the conditions are not only ideal for germination but this carries the risk of early winter fungus infections on the grass so keep an eye out for that too.

Then - other than the winter spiking and fertiliser applications - we can all put our feet up for the Winter!

I'm often amused by the IOG 'Groundsman' magazine, which regularly has articles written on how groundsmen operate at large well-funded football clubs or Public Schools.

Most of us know that the majority of clubs do not have the money to invest in expensive capital equipment or the time to spend on their squares, outfielders and winter pitches.

If anyone is interested in an experienced grounds contractor to do both Summer and Winter maintenance, including end-of-season renovation of pitches, please contact me as I know someone interested in doing more work. He has 20 years experience of groundsmanship and has a pesticide spraying ticket.

Interested parties can contact me either by [email](#), or on 0782 873 6541,

Adrian Saunders