

2019-2020  
Annual  
Review

# BERKSHIRE CRICKET FOUNDATION

ACHIEVEMENT IN  
ADVERSITY

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“  
Every cricketer -  
good, bad, old, young,  
casual or crazy - has  
a story, a beginning  
”

# WELCOME



In most years, reflecting on the work and achievements of any organisation usually result in the Chair picking a selection of highlights that can be held up and celebrated, he or she selects those things that have been done well, and then grandly confirms the plans for the future with ever repeating success. Under the present circumstances of Covid19, it is difficult to do any of those with confidence. Much of what I would describe as major achievements have been done quietly by individuals, mostly unseen and in extraordinary ways, who carried on just doing great work. This has involved building new relationship across organisations to get things done, provide help and support often unasked for, and going the extra mile as a matter of course.



Over the last year, the staff and Board of Berkshire Cricket have quietly and determinedly developed the resources, infrastructure and support to make cricket a preferred growth sport in the County. In a short time, Berkshire Cricket has merged the County Cricket Board (CCB), the County Cricket Club (BCCC) and the Berkshire Cricket Foundation (BCF), into a single organisation.



Staff from both the County Club and Foundation worked together in extraordinary times to maintain an effective elite pathway, enabling all boys and girls to make the transition from school and club cricket through to representative levels. The Foundation now works in all communities in the County, some of which would not normally be involved, through 'Street' programmes, MCC Hubs, in school curriculum programmes and by providing all-weather pitches in parks.

In this most difficult of years, a shortened cricket season was played safely, with enormous goodwill, and much fun. Through the pandemic Berkshire Cricket staff, where legally able, supported schools, clubs and leagues with coaching, coach and officials development programmes, and holiday coaching, to the extent that these were able to expand the opportunities available to boys and girls to play cricket. In fact, this was probably one of the best and most enjoyable cricket summers for children, however short.

What of the future? Berkshire Cricket has developed a five-year strategy covering performance (BCCC) and recreational cricket (Foundation), working as one to expand and increase participation in cricket in the County. The ECB has signed off the funding for the first year 2021/22. We can assume that if we are to maintain the progress of Berkshire Cricket, a major activity will be raising the funds to pay for it. We are in a good place, as the reputation of the County is a very good one, for delivering what is needed to expand both elite and recreational cricket. This is down to the commitment of the staff of Berkshire Cricket, the Board Members, and the many volunteers who support the organisation.

To all and everyone involved in Berkshire Cricket, I say thank you.

John Bolan  
Chairman





## BUILDING ON SUCCESS

The summer of 2019 will go down as one of the greatest summers in English cricket and the Berkshire Cricket Foundation played its part in engaging over **12,000 children**, helping invest **£26,000** in cricket clubs and accessing **£82,000** of additional funding for project delivery **making it the biggest year in our history**. We wanted to make 2019/20 even bigger!



# FANTASTIC PARTNERS

To expand delivery and maximise reach we have been lucky to work with fantastic partners which support us in continuing to spread cricket across Berkshire reaching new schools, communities, clubs and individuals. We thank them for their continued support and would like to showcase these partnerships . . .

# CHANCE TO SHINE



In November The Berkshire Cricket Foundation won runner up for the second successive year in County Board of the Year in the annual Chance to Shine awards at Lords, recognition for consistently high delivery.

When the 2019/20 Academic Year was curtailed due to Covid-19, the BCF had already delivered to **105 schools, 6,000+ children** through the Chance to Shine Schools Programme.

**6000+**  
**CHILDREN**



**105**  
**SCHOOLS**

# CHANCE TO SHINE STREET



During 2019/20 The BCF ran **8** different street cricket venues with Chance to Shine across the county offering free cricket opportunities in disadvantaged communities. **Our CTS Street programmes give over 95% of our participants their only access to cricket** thanks to its location in the centre of our communities, free equipment and of course the free price!

The girls street project in Slough was one of the first in the country to reopen after lockdown and the opportunities it created earned a nomination for Street project of the year in 2020. The biggest hurdle for us was finding venues who were open for bookings. As a result of the pandemic, plenty of sports halls remained closed to the public post-lockdown, however, we were able to return to the Furze Platt Leisure Centre in Maidenhead and resume our sessions there.



**CHANCE TO SHINE**  
Spreading the power of cricket

**290**  
**PARTICIPANTS**

**8**  
**VENUES**

# MCC HUBS



The MCC Foundation run a network of cricket Hubs that provide free-to-access training and match play to **2,500** state-educated young cricketers at over **60** sites across the UK. The Hubs focus on talent: helping promising youngsters who have been engaged through mass participation activities or non-traditional formats to join cricket clubs, develop their hard-ball skills, and access the formal talent pathways.

2020 saw our Slough and Reading hubs into their third and second years respectively, as well as the launch of our first girls hub in Slough which saw **16 girls** enrolled on the programme. We saw an increased number of our CTS Street participants trial and get selected for the MCCF squads. After successful trials at both hubs, **96** participants across two age groups (U13 & U15) were selected for the programme. The timing of the very first lockdown enabled us to deliver a large majority of our 10-week programme before coming to a sudden halt. Of course, the consequences of this major lockdown were suffered by all as we had to come to terms with a new way of life.



# MCC HUBS



FOUNDATION

Given that we had completed a majority of the programme, we were in a good position as the first restrictions were eased, allowing us to be ready to play our first hub games in the summer once we were allowed. Hosted by Reading Cricket Club, both age groups took part in a Reading v Slough 4-match series.

One of the outcomes that we were most proud of was that **we were able to give over 90% of the participants access to their first bit of cricket activity post-lockdown.** We were also able to trial and test our new streaming kit, Frogbox, which enabled the umpires to live score the games while live streaming online. The girls were busy too during the summer where they won their first ever match against the Berkshire U13s.



# ECB CITY CUP

The ECB City Cup is a national city-based annual T20 competition that acts as an arm of the ECB's player ID and development network. The aim to give players from inner-city areas an opportunity to showcase their talent in a national arena, potentially leading to players being picked up by county academies.

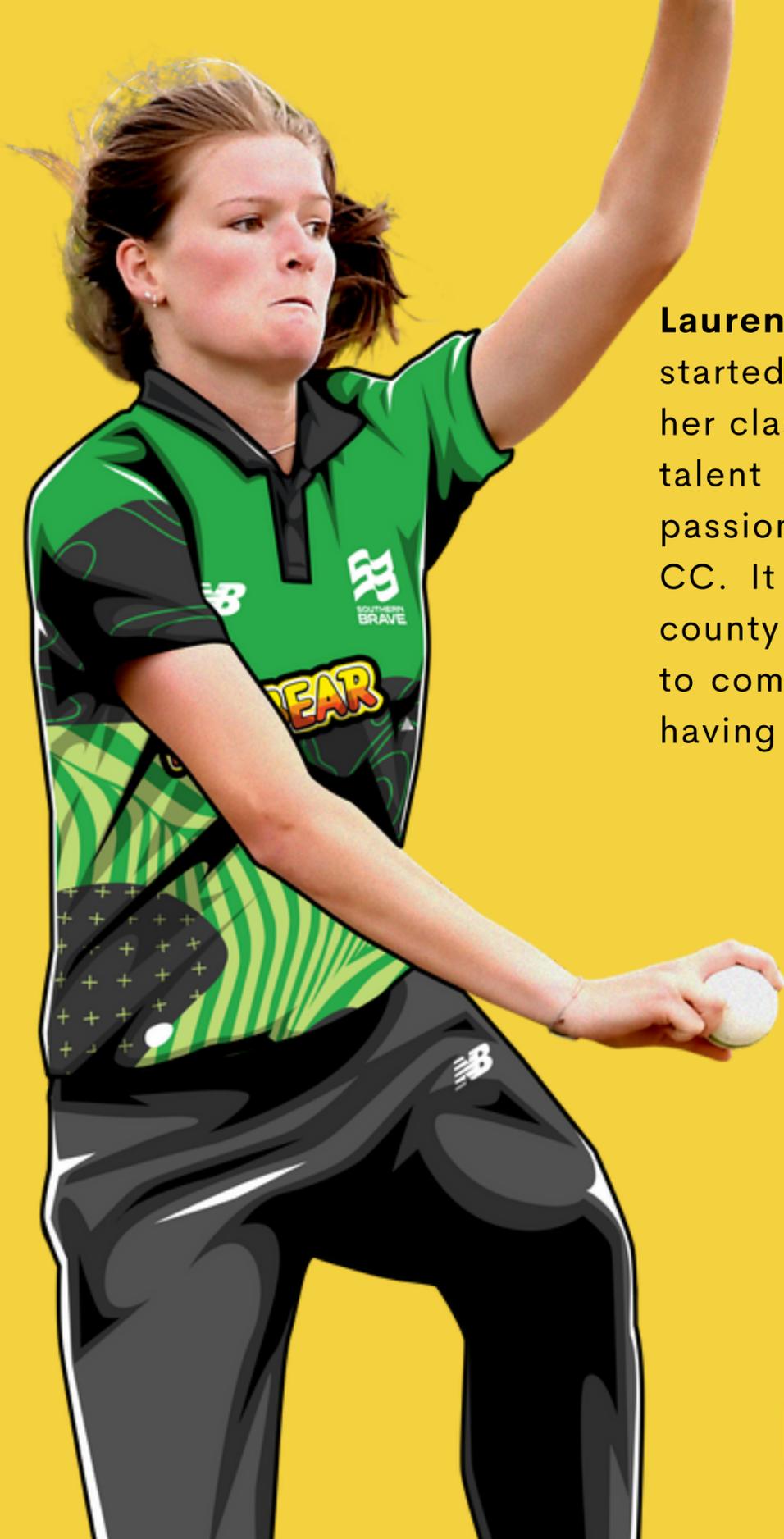
After restrictions were lifted in July, we hurried to arrange a City Cup programme, to make sure that we wouldn't have to go through 2020 without running the programme. Unfortunately, the national competition was cancelled by the ECB. However, we were determined to still run something on a local basis, and fortunately, Surrey Cricket Foundation organised a regional competition for the cities in the South East to take part in. Open trials were initially staged at Slough CC and Reading CC, and following this, we played a series of trial matches to select the final squad.

This Slough City Cup team travelled to Dulwich on Thursday 27th August. In the absence of a full national competition this year, credit must go to the Surrey Cricket Foundation for organising a regional competition, with Slough, South London, East London and Luton taking part. Our boys did themselves proud, defeating South London in the opening game. Unfortunately, the rain then hammered down for the rest of the afternoon, preventing us from taking on East London, who had comfortably defeated Luton in the other Semi-Final.



# T20 CITY CUP





# BERKSHIRE ROLE MODELS

**Lauren Bell**, who hails from Hungerford in West Berks, first started playing cricket when a Chance to Shine coach visited her class at St. Bartholomew's School in Newbury. Her natural talent instantly shone through and she quickly developed a passion for the game which resulted in her joining Hungerford CC. It wasn't long before she was playing in the Berkshire county system and it was at the age of 16 when she decided to commit to pursuing a professional cricket career after also having a successful football journey with Reading FC.

## PLAYER PROFILE

Age	20
Role	Bowler
Batting	RH
Bowling	RFM
Bat Sponsor	Chase

## Where Can You Watch Her?

Lauren is one of the game's best bowling prospects, currently playing for Berkshire Women and the Southern Vipers under England legend, Charlotte Edwards.

## What's Next?

Look out for Lauren in the ECB's new The Hundred tournament where she has been drafted by the Southern Brave. Also, look out for Lauren on the international scene where she is involved in the England training squad.

**fun fact** *Lauren was the first girl to play for the Bradfield College 1st XI.*



# WOMEN & GIRLS

The pandemic had a huge impact on many of our programmes however, our **Women & Girls** section continued to climb to new heights and seemed to thrive post-lockdown. **55** participants from across the county took part in our Women's Softball Festivals.



September saw us welcome the beginning of **Women's Big Cricket Month**. We profiled 16 women throughout the month to highlight their achievements and impact in the game. The likes of England international **Anya Shrubsole**, **Phoebe Graham**, **Lissy Macleod** and Chance to Shine chief executive **Laura Cordingley** was featured on our Instagram story, receiving over **2000** interactions. We capped off the month with an Instagram takeover from future England star and Southern Brave's **Lauren Bell** who took viewers on a behind-the-scenes of her day and hosted a Q&A in the evening.

# WOMEN & GIRLS

Clubs in Berkshire continued to see growth in the W&G sections as well. **2020** saw an additional **3** women's cricket teams created and a remarkable **13** more girls teams were launched to take the totals to **13** and **51** respectively.



**34% INCREASE**  
**IN GIRLS TEAMS**



# Men's Performance



October 2019 started like any other October would with our Boys Performance program kicking into action for an 8 week pre-Xmas period of development sessions for around 360 boys from the ages of 10-12, our specialist skill sessions for our 13-18 year olds, three nights a week of sessions for our EPP players and one night a week for extra provision group. A very busy but enjoyable end to the year for our different groups within the pathway.

From November 2019 six players from our county pathway began their Winters on 1st Class Academies. These were **Henry Leach, Rhodri Lewis and Toby Greatwood** at Middlesex, **Kamran Khanna** and **Toby Albert** at Hampshire and **Yousuf Majid** at Surrey. This was great reward for their hard work within our pathway over an extended period of time and also their exceptional performances in the summer.



# Men's Performance

In February 2020 we were delighted to be informed that our EPP would be granted hub status and as such greatly financially supported by the ECB from September 2020. This funding affords comprehensive support to 12 of our highest potential players at zero cost to parents. Each week we have been delivering 3 S&C sessions, an interactive psychology programme, Q&A's with professional cricketers, and individual review calls on technical drills. We greatly look forward to being able to deliver in person this summer, with an extensive training and matchplay programme.



# Women and Girls Performance



This was clearly a season like no other, however, Berkshire's Women and Girls remained resilient, with playing opportunities enjoyed across all county teams despite the short season.

With the Women's 1st XI Royal London competition written off due to the pandemic, once the green light to resume was received, squad training restarted in July and, despite the weather frustrating efforts further, six 1st team/Academy friendlies took place throughout August.

Furthermore, thanks to the new normal of Zoom, the coaches also remained in touch with our U11 to U17 squads throughout lockdown, setting physical and tactical challenges, running weekly fitness sessions along with online challenges and quizzes that kept the squads engaged and eager to return.

Berkshire's Women and Girls squads played in excess of 30 matches during July and August with the U17's enjoying the most success by winning five out of their six matches, followed by the Women's 1st XI/Academy winning four out of six. Across all squads, there were notable performances with the bat from 1st XI player **Ashleigh Muttitt** who scored 198 runs in total from her six games, followed closely by Academy/U17 **Rhianna Heer** scoring 194 runs from her twelve games.



# Women and Girls Performance

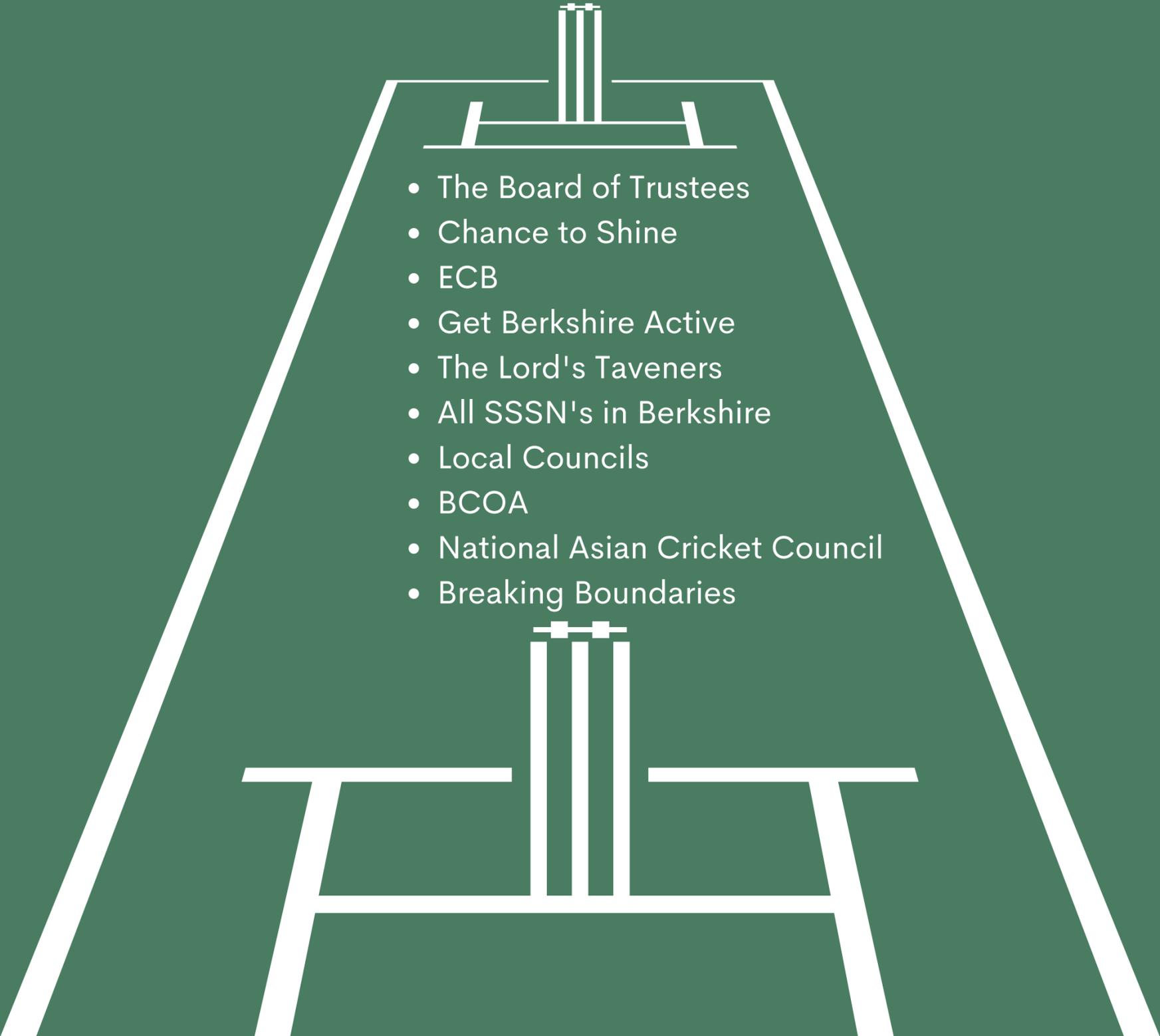


There were also impressive bowling performances from U15 **Poppy Tulloch** who took 17 wickets in total including 5/33 against Bucks U18's followed closely by 1st XI/Academy player **Romilly Hayward** who took 15 wickets during her shortened season. U15 spinner **Tilly Stearns** achieved the best bowling figures of the season with 5/11 against Oxfordshire and an impressive econ of 2.08, the best bowling figures across all Berkshire teams during 2020.

As we approach the 2021 season we are filled with hopeful optimism with our squads very much looking forward to playing significantly more cricket this year and young talent proving that the future is bright.



# Acknowledgements

- 
- The Board of Trustees
  - Chance to Shine
  - ECB
  - Get Berkshire Active
  - The Lord's Taverners
  - All SSSN's in Berkshire
  - Local Councils
  - BCOA
  - National Asian Cricket Council
  - Breaking Boundaries



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