

## Community & Development Team Report - 2015

As the sun sets on yet another amazing and record breaking year at Trent Bridge, and before it becomes a distant memory, I wanted to reflect on some of the great achievements within the Nottinghamshire Cricket Board.

Whilst we would like to deny it, team sports and cricket participation continues to decline. We have to be bold and brazen as we move forward, embracing the new whilst protecting the traditions and values that make recreational cricket the game we love.

As a team, we are responding to this challenging and changing environment by working with our leagues, clubs and partners to make sure cricket continues to be the sport of choice in our county.

We are supporting our leagues with 'Get The Game On', a new ECB campaign emphasising that every game matters and £39,000 has been distributed to 28 clubs across the county to assist with this initiative.

We are communicating with our current and lapsed players, which has resulted in leagues changing start times, finish times, and establishing consistency around rules and regulations. Whilst there is still much work to do, the level of collaboration between leagues, officials and clubs is encouraging.

Ongoing and open dialogue with our clubs and partners is key; we have invested in a new Website for the NCB, and appointed a part time Communications and Marketing Officer.

Twenty-six cricket clubs, meanwhile, achieved Clubmark re-accreditation in 2015 and seven are working towards being newly accredited. Fifty-three Clubs registered for NatWest Cricket Force.

Our volunteer workforce for the Investec Ashes, meanwhile, reached a record number of 135 volunteers, some general and some entertainers. We also extended our Programme to include people with disabilities, one of our recruits Jenny Gray who plays for Notts & Arnold, also became a 'This Girl Can' Cricket Ambassador, a very proud achievement all round.

Our overall ambition for the 2013 and 2015 Ashes was always to leave a true and lasting legacy for the people of Nottingham. Amongst other projects and initiatives, this has included building the new Cricket Pavilion at Victoria Embankment, and appointing a part time dedicated City Development Officer to support a 5yr cricket plan for this project.

The Nottinghamshire FA will use the facility between October and March, with cricket being delivered from April to September each year. The site will aim to facilitate continued growth of social cricket through the Last Man Stands League, Tape Ball cricket and by offering competitions, festivals and summer camps to local school children.

This ground breaking project successfully secured £432,000 in grant-aid, with the residual of circa £350,000 achieved in partnership with 55 construction industry businesses. Products, professional skills and services were committed free of charge or at cost as a service to their community. Without the support this project would never have got off the ground.

The build has also seen apprentices and volunteers from Central College, The Prince's Trust and Management Trainees from Willmott Dixon provide their time and support. The new pavilion will assist our objective of getting more new players into cricket each year. In 2015, 533 new adult players have been attracted through a variety of projects, which have also brought about the training of 29 'Cricket Activators' to support 'Easy Cricket' across the county.

Our social cricket offering has seen significant growth with 15 teams playing in our Last Man Stands Twenty20 competition at Victoria Embankment, and the Forest Recreation Ground is playing host to an inaugural South Asian league.

Not all our work is conventional. This year we launched a new project training members of the PT Staff at Lowdham Prison as 'Cricket Activators', facilitating the launch of the Lowdham Prison Cricket League, with 14 teams playing inter-house cricket.

Also new for 2015 was the ECB U19s T20 club competition with eight teams taking part. The finals day saw Plumtree, or 'Plumtree Plumdogs' as they were known, as the eventual winners.

For a younger age-group, we launched our Mini Outlaws programme our fundamentals for three to five-year-olds. Delivered throughout holiday periods, 15 children and their families regularly attended our creative mini-cricket sessions, kick starting their love of the sport.

Curricular cricket coaching has, meanwhile, been delivered in 90 primary schools across the county and 5,400 children have been engaged in school cricket. Over 300 participants in these sessions successfully migrated into the junior sections of cricket clubs.

Our Kwik Cricket competitions in 2015 featured 326 primary school teams and a total of over 2,600 children taking part. The Trent Bridge Classroom, which operates during the close season, attracted 34 class visits, which equates to 945 students attending a one-day experience at our ground and returning with an educational workbook theme around England's Ashes triumph.

Our secondary school programme, meanwhile, achieved a total of 296 inter-school matches. This included indoor and outdoor fixtures for both boys and girls.

Our representative cricket offer has seen the introduction of U10 boys and U12 girl's development squads, which has engaged 42 new girls into the talent pathway. The U12 boys emerged victorious from the Oundle Cricket Festival, while the U13 boys reached the

Northern Counties Cup Finals where they were defeated by Yorkshire. The U17 boys, meanwhile, were defeated in a close semi-final of the ECB's one-day competition having qualified as group winners.

Within our own county, we piloted an U9s festival, playing on small pitches in a shorter format of the eight-a-side game. This was well received and over 36 of the most talented club hardball cricketers were engaged, a number we are aiming to grow next year.

Five Nottinghamshire boys – Connor Marshall, Jack Blatherwick, Tim Wyatt, Tom Keast and Liam Patterson-White – were selected to represent the Midlands at the ECB's U17s 'Super 4s' competition, with Keast earning player of the tournament and going on to earn selection for the England Development Programme.

Three girls from our Emerging Player Programme went on to represent Nottinghamshire's senior women's team and – following her impressive performances for the U17 girls and senior women – Georgie Boyce has been selected for the England Women's Development Programme.

The Nottinghamshire Women's T20 Development League has grown significantly and we have expanded into our first indoor competition for women, hosting four new teams. Over 60 women have attended our neutral coaching sites and we now host eight women's sections across club cricket in our county.

Jenny Gunn and Danielle Wyatt have continued to represent England at senior level throughout the year.

Our disability cricket offering, meanwhile, has gone from strength to strength with 15 special schools receiving curricular and extracurricular coaching. This led to 1,216 young people being coached and 17 special schools entering four annual competitions.

Nottinghamshire has four disability squads; two for the visually impaired, one for physical & learning disability and one for hearing impairment; with the Nottinghamshire Deaf Club having made the transition to mainstream cricket entering the South Notts League this year.

We are seen as a model of good practice for disability cricket development and are proud of our partnership with Attenborough Cricket Club and Cerebral Palsy Sport in delivering our annual Table Cricket League.

In the latter part of 2015, a new partnership has been created, bringing professional sporting organisations including Nottinghamshire County Cricket Club, Nottingham Forest, Notts County, Nottingham Rugby Club and the National Ice Centre together under the banner of Team Nottingham.

As a consortium, we have partnered with the Royal Foundation, the charity of the Duke & Duchess of Cambridge and Prince Harry, which has culminated in a grant of £120,000 to support the recruitment of 20 Apprentices, who will work across the major sporting venues on a one-year apprenticeship programme.

For ourselves, we will recruit four young people into our business, giving them the opportunity to develop their employability skills as well as receiving educational support through an NVQ Level Two.

55 candidates undertook our UKCC2 Coaching course, 23 have successfully completed, 28 are still finalising their bolt on modules. We also hosted jointly with Derbyshire a Women's only course, 5 attended from Nottinghamshire. 10 Candidates completed the new Coach Support Worker course, which has replaced the old UKCC1 Assistant Coach certificate.

155 Cricket Leaders were trained throughout the year, through 12 Secondary Schools, 84 boys and 60 girls will now support their primary schools and community clubs with cricket leadership.

We have been investing in our Coaches Association, with 318 coaches affiliated.

Our established Smith Cooper Coach Development Programme, meanwhile, saw eight university students spend the summer with us. They assisted in delivery of our international and domestic matches, as well as supporting the Cricket Board and the Trent Bridge Community Trust at events, cricket festivals and holiday programmes. We extended the offer this year to include three new students with remits in IT, media and communications. Stephen Campbell and Andy Marchant, both Smith Cooper recruits, successfully secured full time employment at Trent Bridge and Suraj Karavadra with Buckinghamshire Cricket Board.

All that remains is to thank Nottinghamshire Cricket Board and the myriad of volunteers and supporters who invest their time so freely to the recreational game for their unwavering support.

Tracey Francis