

Hampshire Cricket Board

Annual Report 2025



Chair's Welcome

As I sit here in glorious sunshine, it feels like the perfect signal that the outdoor season is just around the corner. For some, this will be the first chance of the year to dust off their kit, get back to training, and play those long-awaited first matches. Yet for many across Hampshire, cricket never really stops - players, coaches, and volunteers have been working and growing the game throughout the winter months too.

That certainly includes the Hampshire Cricket Board (HCB) Executive Team, who continue to deliver and develop an outstanding range of cricket opportunities across the county year-round. I am sure the whole cricketing community joins me in expressing huge gratitude for their dedication, energy and commitment.

Last year, Chance to Shine named HCB their Delivery Partner of the Year for the first time in 2024. That achievement has now been built upon in style, with HCB retaining the award again in 2025. The impact of this work is clearly reflected in the continued growth of the game:

- Over 400 schools (primary and secondary) now take part in cricket competitions
- We have seen a 34% increase in girls' only teams entering the Serious Cricket Hampshire Junior Championships – the junior league structure HCB introduced in 2024
- Over 150 young players from Hampshire's urban cricket programme attended Hawks Fest, the annual community cricket festival
- Over 250 Super 1s and SEND participants are now regularly involved in HCB disability cricket programmes

However, as everyone involved in the game knows, cricket wouldn't happen without the huge network of volunteers behind the scenes. Coaches, team



managers, grounds staff, scorers, umpires, clubhouse volunteers, and those who make post-match teas and barbecues happen week after week are the heartbeat of the game. To recognise this, HCB hosts an annual ECB Cricket Collective Awards event celebrating those incredible contributions. Last year, over 250 people gathered at Utilita Bowl for our Celebration Event, with four Hampshire winners going on to receive national recognition at the Cricket Collective Awards in Leicester – three national winners and one highly commended.

The growing number of young people coming into the game in Hampshire, alongside the extraordinary volunteers who support them, is hugely exciting. But it also brings fresh challenges - ensuring we have the facilities, resources, and opportunities in place to sustain and expand this growth across the county.

That is the challenge for HCB, and one we are fully committed to meeting. We look forward to continuing to build on the success of recreational cricket in Hampshire, and to supporting the game to thrive at every level in the years ahead.

Alex Ehrmann
Hampshire Cricket Board Chair

Managing Director's Welcome

Every year HCB produce an impact report to showcase the progress and achievements across the recreational game. 2025 has been a pivotal year for the organisation, focused on the development of our new strategy, Breaking Boundaries. Central to this strategy is our new vision - Cricket is at the heart of our communities where everyone belongs, thrives and grows. This report represents the starting point of that next phase for the recreational game in Hampshire.

Breaking Boundaries ensures we are well positioned to meet the evolving needs of our communities and the game over the next 4 years. Alongside this, we are continuing to implement a new staffing structure that will increase our capacity and strengthen the expertise required to deliver our strategic priorities and ambitions over the coming years.

As ever, the progress highlighted in this report would not be possible without the outstanding commitment of volunteers across the county. From clubs and leagues to coaches, officials and administrators, your commitment remains the foundation of the game. On behalf of HCB, thank you for everything you do to help cricket thrive in our communities.

Ben Thompson
Cricket Development Director



Key Moments of the Year



Hampshire Cricket Board Hosts Community Iftar

Over 150 members of Southampton's community gathered at St Mary's Leisure Centre for the third Wicketz Celebration Event. The event brought together people of all ages, faiths, and genders, and once again included an Iftar during Ramadan. The evening concluded with a shared meal, celebrating the strong community spirit surrounding the programme.



ECB Girls' Schools Indoor County Finals at Utilita Bowl

The ECB Girls' Schools' County Finals for U13 and U15 teams took place at the Utilita Bowl Indoor School, delivering two days of competitive cricket. Priestlands School retained their U13 title, while King Edward VI School claimed the U15 crown.



Hampshire Crowned Champions in Inaugural T10 Disability Cup

Hampshire were crowned champions of the inaugural T10 Disability Cup at the 1st Central County Ground in Hove. Competing against Essex, Sussex, and Surrey, they progressed comfortably through the semi-final before securing a narrow win in the final.



Hampshire Urban Tri-Series Festival

Over 100 young cricketers took part in the Hampshire Tri-Series Cricket Festival at Wellington Sports Ground, delivered in partnership with Hampshire Cricket and the Hampshire Cricket Foundation. The event showcased pathways for state educated players from urban areas, with matches alongside bat making workshops, programme development input, and a communal lunch bringing players, families, and coaches together.

Key Moments of the Year



Dynamos Cricket County Finals at Utilita Bowl

Local Schools Dynamos Cricket festivals across Hampshire acted as qualifiers for the County Finals at Utilita Bowl. The girls' final saw 15 teams compete, with Weeke Primary School crowned champions, while the open final featured 18 teams, won by Merdon Junior School.



Hawks Fest 2025

In August, over 140 young players from Hampshire's urban programmes – Wicketz, Chance to Shine Street, and MCC Foundation – attended the annual Hawks Fest at Wellington Sports Centre. The festival included Hardball, Tapeball, and Softball competitions, alongside life-skill and wellbeing workshops, wellbeing activities and fun challenges. Hampshire players Kyle Abbott, Keith Barker, and Daisy Mullan were on hand to support participants, with the day concluding with lunch, presentations, and giveaways.



Metro Bank Women's Final Showcase

On 21st September, the Metro Bank Women's Final celebrated women and girls' cricket in Hampshire, bringing together players, clubs, and supporters. The event featured interactive stalls on kit, wellbeing, disability cricket, and officiating, alongside on pitch demonstrations from W10 finalists, the England Women's Visually Impaired team, and the Hampshire Adders. Local club milestones were marked with mascots and a guard of honour.



Hursley Park U19 Girls Crowned U19 National T20 Champions

Hursley Park U19 Girls were crowned 2025 U19 National T20 Champions after a thrilling finals day. The team impressed throughout the tournament, winning their semi-final and producing a tense last-over victory in the final.

Strengthen Clubs and Leagues

Ambition – Thriving, inclusive and sustainable clubs and leagues

Objectives:

- Create links with schools and community programmes to establish and sustain new junior sections
- Participant centred playing offers, which inspire participation, aid retention and junior to adult transition to grow the game
- Provide financial and technical assistance, while fostering connections to suppliers, to modernise club facilities with a strong focus on environmental sustainability
- Clubs at the centre of their communities, providing opportunities for all



Number of Hampshire weekend teams

380

(+12 from 2024)

Number of junior teams

600

Number of Hampshire midweek teams

225

(+16 from 2024)

PLAY-CRICKET

Number of completed matches on Play-Cricket

8676

(+124 from 2024)



Percentage of clubs with trained safeguarding officer

74%



All Stars & Dynamos participants

3400



Number of Hants Top Guns

59

Strengthen Clubs and Leagues

Schools

Our primary and secondary school programmes continued to grow in 2025, with more schools bringing cricket into the curriculum and more staff feeling confident to deliver sessions themselves. Extra-curricular clubs and stronger links with local clubs and community programmes also helped create more opportunities for young people across Hampshire to play, learn and enjoy the game.

School statistics

Number of primary schools (direct delivery)

173

(+35 from 2024)

Number of primary schools in competitions

210

(+60 from 2024)

Number of teachers trained

259

Number of secondary school teams in competitions

199

Serious Cricket Hampshire Junior Championships (SCHJC)

The SCHJC 2025 outdoor season saw impressive growth in the championships in many areas. Rising numbers at the youngest age groups and in Girl's cricket bodes well for future increases as well as strengthening the diversity of the game across Hampshire.

12% ↑
teams entered

19%
of matches
now girls only

19% ↑
U9 teams entered

50
different clubs
winning a Division

34% ↑
Girls' only teams entered

29% ↑
'Summer Hundred'
teams entered



Case Study:

Facility Improvements at The Heath Pavillion

Petersfield Cricket Club has successfully completed significant facility improvements at The Heath Pavilion, enhancing both sustainability and user experience for members and the local community.

The project focused on replacing the pavilion roof, including roof tiles, flat roofing, and upstairs cladding. As part of the upgrade, new insulation was installed to improve energy efficiency, helping to reduce long term running costs and environmental impact. In addition, security bollards were installed at the ground entrance to improve site safety.

Delivered during a challenging off-season with adverse weather conditions, the project represents a total investment of over £40,000. This included a £10,000 grant from the ECB County Grants Fund, alongside partnership funding from East Hampshire District Council, Petersfield Town Council, local councillors, and the Police and Crime Commissioner. The remaining funds were contributed by the club and through individual donations.

These improvements ensure that The Heath Pavilion remains a safe, modern, and sustainable facility, supporting the continued growth of cricket in the Petersfield community.



Value Volunteers

Ambition – Organisations have a strong volunteer workforce providing the best possible playing experience

Objectives:

- Inspire the next generation of volunteers and leaders
- Recruit and train a voluntary workforce that represents our communities
- Minimise administration for volunteers by maximizing the use of digital systems



Number of new
and existing
coaches trained

244

Number of Coaches'
Association members

320

Hampshire
Association of Cricket
Officials members

297

Number of new
and existing
officials trained

119

Number of new and
existing grounds
people trained

99



Number of young
volunteers trained
(Hampshire Champions)

100

Case Study: Cricket Collective Awards 2025



The Cricket Collective represents the army of volunteers who make cricket happen at every level. From long serving club stalwarts to those giving a few minutes each week, volunteers are the lifeblood of recreational cricket, supporting matches, coaching, grounds, and inclusive community activity.

The 2025 Cricket Collective Awards marked a record breaking year for Hampshire, receiving 236 nominations across 15 categories – the highest in the award's history. This reflects the strength of volunteering across the county.

On 7th November, Hampshire Cricket Board hosted its annual Cricket Collective Celebration Event at Utilita Bowl, welcoming 250 volunteers. Held alongside the Utilita Bowl Fireworks, the evening celebrated county winners and the wider volunteering community.

2025 County Winners:	
Coach of the Year:	Jonathan Manhire (Havant Cricket Club)
Connecting Communities:	Sarisbury Athletic Cricket Club Cycle 2025
Cricket Innovators:	Stephen Osgood (Sarisbury Athletic Cricket Club)
Game Changer:	Rohan Handa (Hartley Wintney Cricket Club)
Growing the Game:	Rachel Cutler (Langley Manor Cricket Club)
Inspired to Play:	Katie Stares (Portchester Cricket Club)
Lifetime Achiever:	Steve How (Sway Cricket Club)
Outstanding Contribution – Services to Coaching:	Andrew Morris (Ropley Cricket Club)
Rising Star:	Josh Bentham (Hook & Newnham Basics Cricket Club)
Safe Hands:	Ian Crowley (Hedge End Junior Cricket Club)
Tackling Climate Change:	Hursley Park Cricket Club Willow Farm Project
The Metro Bank Champion of Girls' Cricket:	Chris Russell (Petersfield Cricket Club)
Unsung Hero:	Kerry Meredith (Locks Heath Cricket Club)
Volunteer Grounds Team of the Year:	Cadnam Cricket Club
Young Coach of the Year:	Ben Brett (Gosport Borough Cricket Club)



National Recognition

Several Hampshire winners also achieved national success at the ECB National Cricket Collective Awards, held at the National Space Centre in Leicester.

Stephen Osgood (Sarisbury Athletic Cricket Club)

National Cricket Innovators Winner - Created the SACC Kit Exchange supporting over 80 families through refurbished cricket equipment

Rohan Handa (Hartley Wintney Cricket Club)

National Game Changer Winner - Recognised for coaching, fundraising, and wider community impact in Hampshire and abroad.

Ian Crowley (Hedge End Junior Cricket Club)

National Safe Hands Winner - Awarded for creating an inclusive and supportive environment for young players at Hedge End.

Kerry Meredith (Locks Heath Cricket Club)

National Unsung Hero Highly Commended Nominee)

2025 was a record-breaking year that highlights the strength of volunteers in Hampshire and the vital role that the Cricket Collective plays in growing the game at every level.

Accelerate Growth in Women's & Girls' Cricket

Ambition – Every junior club with a sustainable women's and girls' section

Objectives:

- Increase the transition of girls from schools and All Stars/Dynamos into new club teams and women from softball to hardball cricket
- Enhance support to existing clubs to make Women & Girls sections sustainable
- Train inspiring new volunteers, leaders, and role models
- Promote equitable access to welcoming facilities



Women's
hardball teams

31
(+5 from 2024)

Total clubs with a
girls' section

39
(+5 from 2024)

Total girls' club teams

114



W10 teams

49
(+6 from 2024)

Total clubs with
women's section

56
(+5 from 2024)

Clubs with women's
and girls' sections

34
(+5 from 2024)

Number of girls
school teams entering
competitions

120

Percentage of
junior sections
with girls' teams

49%



Female coaches
trained each year

53
(+23 from 2024)



Girls in All Stars

676



Girls in Dynamos

389

Case Study: Growing the Women's and Girls' Game at Portsmouth & Southsea Cricket Club

Over the past five years, Portsmouth & Southsea Cricket Club has significantly grown its women's and girls' section. What began during the COVID-19 pandemic as a small initiative has grown into a well-established and expanding programme, now engaging 31 women and 27 girls.

The women's section was established through community outreach, initially engaging friends, parents and partners of existing players. This created an accessible entry point into the game and quickly built a committed playing group. As participation increased, the section expanded and the club entered two teams in the 2025 W10 league. The increase in numbers has also seen success on the pitch, winning the W10 League in 2025, and 2025/26 indoor league. Some players are also currently transitioning into hardball cricket, and the club are exploring future entry into the hardball league.

Alongside this, the club has successfully developed a girls' pathway. Through collaboration with Hampshire Cricket Board programmes, including school delivery and Dynamos Cricket, introductory opportunities have translated into sustained participation. In 2025 the club entered the SCHJC competition and in its first year won the U11 South league which was a remarkable achievement. In 2026 the club now runs Under 11 and Under 13 teams, with plans to introduce an Under 9 age group to strengthen the pathway further next year.



Make Cricket Accessible

Ambition – Individuals of all abilities and backgrounds, have equal opportunities to participate, enjoy, and excel

Objectives:

- Deliver in primary and secondary schools in the most undeserved communities
- Establish and sustain inclusive and accessible playing pathways
- Support the growth of ethnically diverse and disability champion clubs
- Improve quality of and access to facilities for underserved communities



Statistics



Urban programme participants on a performance pathway

138

Participants on community programmes in urban areas

357



All Stars and
Dynamos participants

500

**Super
1s**

& SEND participants

250

(+34 from 2024)



SEND schools

16

(+6 from 2024)



Coaches trained with a disability

4



Schools with 40%+ pupils on free school meals areas

37

Disability pathway participants areas

60

(+22 from 2024)

Case Study: Hampshire Urban Pathway

Hampshire Cricket Board's Urban Programmes continue to play a vital role in widening access to cricket and opportunities for young people across Southampton, Portsmouth, and Basingstoke. The Urban Player Pathway is designed to ensure that every young person has the opportunity to engage with cricket and progress within the game.

Young people in urban communities face barriers to participation, including limited access to facilities and club environments, financial constraints, transport challenges, and low awareness of opportunities. Social perceptions of cricket and reduced access to school-based provision can impact early engagement and confidence.

Hampshire Cricket Board continued to strengthen a clear pathway supporting players from early engagement through to performance programmes. Entry points through free programmes such as Wicketz and Chance to Shine Street provided regular, inclusive cricket opportunities for young people in safe and supportive environments.

Through sustained charitable support and strategic programme development, we have built a structured and inclusive pathway:

Wicketz (Lord's Taverners) & Street (Chance to Shine) Cricket

Free, inclusive weekly sessions for young people aged 8-19, providing an accessible entry point into the game.

MCC Foundation Hubs

A free programme offering structured coaching and competitive match play, designed to bridge the gap between grassroots participation and county age group cricket.

Hampshire Hawks Academy

A targeted initiative delivered in partnership with Hampshire Cricket, providing talented players from inner-city areas with a clear progression route towards professional cricket.

State Jets

A supplementary performance programme supporting county age-group players who attend non-fee-paying schools, ensuring equitable access to high-level development opportunities.

Over time, the programme has demonstrated clear success, with increasing numbers of young people progressing through the pathway and into club and county cricket structures.

WICKETZ

CHANCE TO SHINE
STREET

FOUNDATION

14 players from Street progressed into MCC Foundation Hubs

18 total Wicketz/Street players into MCC Foundation Hubs

6 girls **12** boys

WICKETZ

CHANCE TO SHINE
STREET

HAMPSHIRE
HAWKS ACADEMY

13 players from Wicketz progressed into Hawks Academy / State Jets

12 players from Street progressed into Hawks Academy / State Jets

Primary School Reach



Whole School Programme Delivery

Throughout the academic year, we worked with 101 schools, delivering a half term block of high quality sessions. Over time, children built and strengthened their skills all while teachers were guided and supported in developing their own coaching skills. Beyond curriculum delivery, schools also benefited from an engaging assembly, playground leader training for Year 5/6 pupils and a dedicated CPD session for staff.



Engagement days

Across the spring and summer terms we delivered 72 engagement days to schools across the county. These one-off events were designed to give as many children as possible a fun and exciting introduction to cricket, while also highlighting the wider opportunities available to continue playing beyond the school day.

Mini Case Study: Walking Cricket

In 2025, Walking Cricket continued to grow as an inclusive and accessible offer, providing opportunities for older adults and those who prefer a slower format of the game to stay active and connected through cricket.

Across the year, sessions were delivered in a flexible, participant-led format, allowing each hub to tailor activity to the needs of its group - from match play to skills-based sessions. This approach has supported a welcoming environment, particularly for those new to the game or returning after time away.

The programme has played a key role in increasing physical activity levels, whilst also creating regular opportunities for social interaction. For many participants, Walking Cricket has become a consistent and valued part of their weekly routine.

Two festivals were delivered during the year, providing additional opportunities for participants to come together and celebrate their involvement. An indoor festival was hosted at the Utilita Bowl Indoor School, alongside an outdoor festival at St Cross Symondians Cricket Club, further enhancing the social impact of the programme.

Impact at a glance:

4 Walking Cricket hubs established

2 festivals delivered (indoor and outdoor)



90 regular participants engaged



Utilita Bowl on pitch demonstration game scheduled but called off due to rain



Build Partnerships

Ambition – New partnerships which increase our reach, revenue and capacity

Objectives:

- A strong partnership with Hampshire Cricket/Utilita Bowl, which utilises data, events and elite players to inspire participation in cricket
- A network of business partners, charities and foundations that delivers over one third of total income by 2028
- Established relationships with local authorities and facility owners which increase playing capacity and quality of opportunities
- A shared vision for the sport in Hampshire, which is communication with clarity and consistency through all partners



Case Study: Back-to-Back Success: Chance to Shine Delivery Partner of the Year

For the second consecutive year, Hampshire Cricket Board was named Delivery Partner of the Year at the Chance to Shine Awards, held at Lord's Cricket Ground. This back-to-back recognition reflects the sustained impact and quality of HCB's delivery across both school and community programmes.

During the 2024/25 academic year, HCB continued to expand its reach and strengthen its impact through Chance to Shine programmes. Over 21,000 primary school pupils were introduced to cricket through high quality delivery in schools, supporting early engagement with the game and increasing opportunities for children to experience cricket for the first time.

In the secondary phase, the Girls Chance to Compete competition saw record levels of engagement, with the highest number of team entries to date, alongside a double win for Hampshire schools in the regional finals. This demonstrates continued growth in participation and competitive opportunities for young people across the county.

Alongside school delivery, HCB maintained a strong community presence through six Chance to Shine Street hubs. These sessions, delivered in some of the county's most disadvantaged areas, provide a flexible and inclusive format of cricket that reduces traditional barriers to participation and enables more young people to stay involved in the game.

Together, these programmes continue to strengthen the pathway from school engagement into community cricket and beyond, ensuring cricket remains accessible, inclusive and relevant to young people across Hampshire.

EDI Update

Hampshire Cricket Board remains committed to making cricket in Hampshire inclusive, accessible and representative of our communities. In 2025, we made progress across all four areas of our EDI Action Plan:

Drive meaningful change through leadership and governance

New 4-year strategy launched with EDI embedded across all priorities

Progress towards ECB Gold Standard Accreditation

EDI embedded within team objectives and decision making

Champion diversity and inclusive recreational environments

59 girls engaged in new Winter Dynamos programme

629 bursary-funded Women & Girls, Disability and Urban cricket programmes

Super 9s Academy launched to strengthen disability progression

Educate, develop and support our workforce

All staff and casual workforce completed EDI and inclusion training

Fair and transparent recruitment process strengthened

Increased opportunities for underrepresented coaches and staff

Be accountable

Workforce ethnic diversity increased from 3% to 11% (ECB Census)

Annual EDI reporting and governance review completed

New insight work underway to better understand participation and needs

Continued progress across all areas has strengthened inclusion, increased participation, and improved access to cricket cross Hampshire.

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