

Grayshott Cricket Club



Our Under 9s celebrate after winning the Two Counties League for the second year in succession in 2008



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An
Introduction
to Youth
Cricket

Information
for Parents
and Guardians

2009 Season

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Introduction

Youth Cricket has been played at Grayshott for fifty years now, many thanks to the hard work of so many club members over the years, but probably none so more than Peter Clapham.

The fruits of this hard work were seen last year when the club fielded four adult teams, with the majority of our players being current or former Grayshott youth players. Furthermore the club had probably its most successful season with our Under 9s and Under 15s winning two league titles and our Under 11s and Under 15s being losing finalists.

Running any youth organisation nowadays has to incorporate so many additional requirements. Cricket is no different and in 2005 Grayshott adopted the ECB's "Safe Hands Policy" and achieved Clubmark accreditation demonstrating that the club takes issues like Child Protection seriously. In 2008 the Club acquired Clubmark re-accreditation, the first club in Hampshire to do so.

In 2006, Grayshott was awarded ECB Focus Club status, just one of 37 Clubs in Hampshire to achieve such status which recognises clubs that promote the development of youth cricket. Grayshott continue to retain Focus Club status in 2009

The club have produced this booklet, which hopefully informs every parent/guardian about what Grayshott Cricket Club has to offer both you and your child. Furthermore, it gives guidance on safety equipment requirements including those from the ECB which the Club has adopted. You can also find details of all the Club's policies and codes of conduct.

The Club has always been a family orientated club and is keen to retain this status and continue as a strong village cricket club.

What the Club offer

Grayshott currently offer cricket in the following age groups: Under 9, Under 10, Under 11, Under 13, Under 15 and Under 17. As an inclusive club, we encourage girls to participate in cricket and we successfully introduced both girls and women's teams in 2006. In 2009 we hope to run teams at both Under 10 and Under 13 for girls.

The club enters teams into the Two Counties Youth League in order that the children can experience competitive cricket. Most of the games are normally 20 overs a side. Children particularly in the U15 age groups are also encouraged to play Adult cricket on a Saturday.

Winter - indoor coaching is available for all age groups pre season in February and March and post season in November, Outdoor coaching normally operates from the beginning of May to the end of July.

The Club also holds a Youth Presentation Evening in September which is popular and every junior member receives a form of recognition.

Our view of youth cricket

We believe that our younger members are an essential part of Grayshott Cricket Club, vital to the Club's present and future success. We aim to do all we can to encourage and include younger players and make them feel a valued part of the Club, irrespective of their age, gender or level of ability or length of time with the Club.

We also expect that youngsters should be able to enjoy their cricket and develop their abilities in a safe environment, free from harassment, bullying or other risks.

Our priorities

Our priorities for all aspects of youth cricket, including coaching, youth matches and adult matches involving youngsters, are:

- The safety and welfare of the individual;
- Enabling youngsters to enjoy the game;
- Coaching and encouraging younger players to help them develop their cricketing skills;
- Helping children to establish self-confidence, both on and off the field, and develop enthusiasm for the game of cricket.

Our Expectations

We expect youth members to behave in a reasonable and sociable way to others, including their peers, coaching staff and other youth and adult members. Furthermore when representing the club we expect our Junior members to wear both the club cap and shirt available from the club or our youth sponsor The Sportslocker.

Likewise, all adults who have responsibility for youth cricket in any way at Grayshott Cricket Club are expected to respect individuals and conduct themselves appropriately. It is a policy of Grayshott Cricket Club that ALL youth coaches and any others who might reasonably have contact with youth members have received clearance via the Criminal Records Bureau.

In addition, all coaches will be required to attend specific training in child welfare (e.g. implementing the ECB's "Safe Hands - Welfare of Young People in Cricket Policy" and the provisions of the Child Protection Act).

Membership

Youth Cricket at Grayshott is popular and subject to the Club being able to fulfil its obligations with coach and supervision ratios, new members are welcome. To become a Junior Member of Grayshott Cricket, you will first of all need to complete a Junior membership form which can be obtained from the Club's website at www.grayshottcc.co.uk

The Annual Junior Membership fee is £27, payable before the 31st May. This fee is inclusive of Summer Coaching and any match fees in Junior Cricket matches. It does not however, include the cost of any winter indoor coaching which is charged separately and match fees for playing in adult games which normally includes the cost of providing a tea. To promote Girls cricket the Club in 2009 will be offering discounted membership of £15.

Key Contacts

The latest details for Grayshott Cricket Club contacts for youth cricket at all ages are available on the Club's website (www.grayshottcc.co.uk). The main contacts are as follows:

Youth Manager	Graham Sampson	01420 88616
Club Coach	Andy Meears	01428 658393
Coaching Co-ordinator	Jim Haywood	01428 658357
Child Welfare Officer	Kathryn Gregory	01428 652486
U9 Coaches	Tim Fry Andy Wheble	01252 782495 01428 608796
U10 Coaches	Robert Ward Mark Bussell	01428 729751 01252 792034
U11 Coaches	Sri Sriharan	01420 479984
U13 Coaches	Anthony Brixton	01428 717598
U15 Coaches	Phil Coleshill	01428 607576
U17 Coaches	Paul Heath	07976 456375
Girls Coaches	Andy Meears Steve Caffrey	01428 658393 01428 607708

Coaching Programme

Our coaches produce a programme for both our Summer and Winter sessions. Coaching sessions will start with a warm-up and comprise a mixture of technique demonstration and practice, skill and fitness games and practice matches.

Some coaching will be done using the nets (although net sessions will only be used as part of a coaching session. Players will be told in advance if we will be running net sessions the following week - parents/guardians are requested to ensure that players bring the necessary equipment (See Safety & Protective Equipment section) for those sessions.

Throughout all the coaching sessions we will cover the following cricket skills, particularly with U9, U11 and U13 age groups:

- Fielding - techniques of retrieving, intercept and throwing
- Batting - repertoire of attacking and defensive strokes
- Bowling - bowling action plus introduction to spin and swing bowling

In addition, we will cover the basics of fielding positions, umpiring signals, laws of the game, club and cricket general knowledge and history.

Winter Indoor Coaching

Winter coaching sessions for all our age groups including girls take place at the Sports Hall at Amesbury School, Hindhead normally from the beginning of February for a period of nine weeks and in November for certain age groups.

Exact dates and times for our Indoor coaching sessions are published on the Club's website at www.grayshottcc.co.uk

All coaching sessions are run by qualified coaches and will include at least two adults in supervision.

It would be appreciated if all parents come to the Sports Hall at Amesbury School to drop off and collect their child/children and not in the School Car Park.

The cost for coaching sessions (all age groups) is £24 to cover the full nine weeks.

Summer Outdoor coaching

Summer coaching sessions normally start towards the end of April and take place outdoors at the Sportsfield in Grayshott at the following times:

Under 9	Saturday mornings from 10.00am to 11.30am
Under 10	Saturday mornings from 10.00am to 11.30am
Under 11	Saturday mornings from 10.00am to 11.30am
Under 13	Friday nights from 6.30pm to 8pm
Under 15	Thursday nights from 6.30pm to 8pm
Girls	Monday nights from 5.45pm to 8.15pm (times vary on age group)

Exact dates and times will be published on the club's website at www.grayshottcc.co.uk

Getting involved/volunteer support/supporting the club

We always welcome additional help in running our youth coaching and youth matches. Coaching assistants (who will be supervised by qualified coaches) do not need to be qualified coaches. However, we do require that anyone helping with youth coaching has received Criminal Records Bureau clearance - this is straightforward and at no cost and the Club's Child Welfare Officer can give advice on this.

For those wishing to take a formal coaching qualification, Coaching courses are available in the winter and the Club will assist with the cost of these. As well as helping our younger members develop their skills, coaching is a great way to get involved with the Club. The Club's Coaching Co-ordinator can give further advice on any aspect of coaching.

For those individuals who cannot help in this way there are many other roles away from coaching where help is always need with the running of our youth teams. If you would like to help, please contact our Youth Manager.

You can of course help the running of our youth section by offering financial assistance. As you will appreciate the cost of running a youth cricket club is not cheap e.g. the club provides fully qualified coaches and cricket equipment across every age group.

Financial support can be made in a variety of ways, either through donations or sponsorship. The club in 2008 acquired Charitable status to support such donations and the Club is always keen to extend its Sponsorship programme

If any parent or employer is keen to support the running of the youth section in this way, please do not hesitate to contact our Youth Manager in the first instance.

Safety and Protective Equipment

Safety during coaching sessions and matches is paramount. We ask all parents to ensure their children are suitably dressed (and bring when asked to do so in advance) the necessary protective equipment. Not only does this ensure the game can be played safely, but it also increases the enjoyment of the game and promotes greater confidence.

All coaches can provide guidance on what protective and other equipment is suitable. As a minimum, we suggest:

- Trainers with good grip for indoor surface
- Long sports trousers/tracksuit bottoms
- Long-sleeved shirt and shirts appropriate for girls
- Abdominal protector ("box") plus briefs or jock-strap (boys)

The Club adheres to the safety guidance issued by the ECB on the wearing of safety helmets (detailed further on in this book). The Club will provide helmets when these are required, although some players may find it more convenient to obtain their own. These are generally reasonably priced - advice on stockists and sizes can be obtained from coaches.

The Club also enforces the England and Wales Cricket Board's ECB's fielding regulations and fast bowling directives, again summarised further on. We will be using soft balls (e.g. tennis ball, wind ball, etc.) for coaching, although a hard ball may be used for net practice for older age groups.

A hard ball will generally be used for youth matches (except in Under 9 and girls games where an incrediball is used). Coaches will advise (in advance) when specific protective equipment should be brought to coaching sessions.

We suggest all youth players bring their own drink (water or soft (not fizzy) drink) with them to coaching sessions and matches.

Parents/guardians are asked to ensure that coaches are made aware before coaching sessions or matches of any medical condition which might affect their child's performance or which might require specific attention (e.g. asthma), or of any injury which may prevent a child from taking part in elements of coaching (e.g. sprain).

The year starting date of midnight on the previous 31st August is assumed throughout the following Directives.

Appendix 1

ECB Guidance Notes

A. The wearing of cricket helmets by young players

In February 2000 the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) issued safety guidance on the wearing of helmets by young players up to the age of 18. This original guidance document can be found at www.playcricket.com/helmets. In brief, the guidance recommends that:

- helmets with a faceguard or grille should be worn when batting against a hard cricket ball in matches and in practice sessions
- young players should regard a helmet with a faceguard as a normal item of protective equipment when batting, together with pads, gloves and, for boys, an abdominal protector (box)
- Young wicket keepers should wear a helmet with a faceguard when standing up to the stumps.

With the assistance of schools, cricket clubs and leagues, the wearing of helmets by young players is now standard practice in cricket throughout England and Wales. Helmets are widely available and are covered by a British Standard (BS7928:1998).

The original guidance allowed parents or guardians to give their written consent to allow a young player not to wear a helmet. However most clubs, schools and leagues have decided not to accept this parental consent and require all young players to wear a helmet in all junior matches. Grayshott Cricket has also adopted this policy.

If a club or school does agree, in exceptional circumstances*, that a young player need not wear a helmet they must ensure that an ECB Team Card is completed and given to the umpires before the start of play whenever the young player takes part in a junior match.

At the beginning of 2007 the ECB clarified the guidance relating to young players in adult matches and confirmed that all young players who have not reached their 18th birthday must wear a helmet with a faceguard when batting and when standing up to the stumps when keeping wicket in adult matches.

Parental consent not to wear a helmet should not be accepted in adult cricket.

This guidance applies to all players up to the age of 18, both in adult cricket and in all junior cricket played with a hard cricket ball. The guidance also applies during all practice sessions. Any individual taking responsibility for players should take all reasonable steps to ensure that this guidance is followed at all times.

The ECB asks that the guidance is communicated to the parents or guardians of all young players through clubs and schools, and that young players are not allowed to bat or stand up to the stumps when keeping wicket against a hard ball without wearing a helmet.

* Additional guidance on what constitutes 'exceptional circumstances' can be obtained from the ECB Cricket Department.

B. Fielding Regulations

The ECB Fielding Regulations are as follows:

No young player in the Under 15 age group or younger shall be allowed to field closer than 8 yards (7.3 metres) from the middle stump, except behind the wicket on the off side, until the batsman has played at the ball.

- For players in the Under 13 age group and below the distance is 11 yards (10 metres).
- These minimum distances apply even if the player is wearing a helmet.
- Should a young player in these age groups come within the restricted distance the umpire must stop the game immediately and instruct the fielder to move back.
- In addition any young player in the Under 16 to Under 18 age groups, who has not reached the age of 18, must wear a helmet and, for boys, an abdominal protector (box) when fielding within 6 yards (5.5 metres) of the bat, except behind the wicket on the off side. Players should wear appropriate protective equipment whenever they are fielding in a position where they feel at risk.
- These fielding regulations are applicable to all cricket in England and Wales.

Appendix 2 Club Policies

Safeguarding Policy Statement

Grayshott Cricket Club (The Club) is committed to ensuring that all Children (*) participating in cricket have a safe and positive experience. (*The word "Children" should be taken to mean all persons under the age of 18.) We will do this by:

- Recognising that all Children participating in cricket (regardless of age, gender, race, religion, sexual orientation, ability or disability) have a right to have fun and be protected from harm in a safe environment.
- Ensuring that individuals working within cricket at or for our club provide a safe, positive and fun cricketing experience for children.
- Adopting and implementing the England & Wales Cricket Board (ECB) "Safe Hands - Cricket's Policy for Safeguarding Children" and any future versions of the policy.
- Appointing a Club Welfare Officer and ensuring that they attend all current and future training modules required by the ECB & the NSPCC, so that they have the necessary skills to be able to undertake their role effectively.
- Ensuring that all people who work in cricket at or for our club, (such as Staff, Officials, Volunteers, Team Managers, Coaches etc.) understand that the Safe Hands Policy applies to them according to their level of contact with children in Cricket.
- Ensuring that all individuals working within cricket at or for the club are recruited and appointed in accordance with ECB guidelines.

- Ensuring that all individuals working within cricket at or for the club are provided with support through education and training so that they are aware of and can adhere to good practice and code of conduct guidelines defined by both the ECB, and by the club.
- Ensuring that the name & contact details for the Club Welfare Officer is available - as the first point of contact for parents, children & volunteers / staff within the club,
 1. as a local source of procedural advice for the club, its committee & its members,
 2. as the main point of contact within the club for the ECB County Welfare Officer and the ECB Child Protection Team, and
 3. as the main point of contact within the club for relevant external agencies in connection with child welfare.
- Ensuring that correct and comprehensive reporting procedures exist for raising and managing safeguarding and child protection concerns. Such procedures recognising the responsibility of the statutory agencies and in accordance with pre defined safeguarding and child protection procedures as defined by the ECB, Statutory agencies and Local Safeguarding Children Board LSCB guidelines and policies.
- Providing everyone connected with the club (including parents, children and volunteers) with the opportunity to voice any concerns which they have (about possible suspected child abuse, and/or about poor practice) to the Club Welfare Officer.
- Ensuring that all suspicions, concerns and allegations are taken seriously and dealt with swiftly and appropriately.
- Ensuring that access to confidential information relating to child welfare matters is restricted to the Club Welfare Officer and the appropriate external authorities as specified within ECB Safeguarding and child protection procedures.

A. Policy on Bullying

Statement of Intent

Grayshott Cricket Club is committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for all of our children so they can train and play in a relaxed and secure atmosphere. Bullying of any kind is unacceptable at our club.

If bullying does occur, all children should be able to tell and know that incidents will be dealt with promptly and effectively. We are a TELLING club. This means that anyone who knows that bullying is happening is expected to tell the coaches and officials.

What Is Bullying?

Bullying is the use of aggression with the intention of hurting another person. Bullying results in pain and distress to the victim. Bullying can be:

- Emotional: being unfriendly, excluding, tormenting (e.g. hiding kit, threatening gestures)
- Physical: pushing, kicking, hitting, punching or any use of violence
- Racist: racial taunts, graffiti, gestures
- Sexual: unwanted physical contact or sexually abusive comments
- Homophobic: because of, or focusing on the issue of sexuality
- Verbal: name-calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, teasing
- Cyber: All areas of internet, such as email and internet chat room misuse. Mobile threats by text messaging and calls.
- Misuse of associated technology, i.e. camera and video facilities

Club Procedures

1. Any bullying incidents should be reported to the Club Welfare Officer. The Club Welfare Officer's telephone number is shown on the Club notice board and on the Club's website.

2. In cases of serious bullying, the incidents will be reported to the ECB Child Protection Team for advice via the County Welfare Officer.
3. Parents will be informed and will be asked to come in to a meeting to discuss the problem.
4. If necessary and appropriate, police will be consulted.
5. The bullying behaviour or threats of bullying will be investigated and the bullying stopped quickly.
6. An attempt will be made to help the bully (bullies) change their behaviour. In cases of adults reported to be bullying cricketers under 18, the ECB will be informed and will advise on action to be taken.

B. Policy on Changing Rooms and Showering

- If children are uncomfortable changing or showering with at the Club, no pressure will be placed on them to do so. Children should be encouraged to this at home in these circumstances.
- Adults will not change or shower at the same time using the same facility as children.
- Adults will try to change at separate times to children during matches i.e. when padding up
- If Adults and children need to share a changing facility, the Club must have consent from the Parents that their child(ren) can share a changing room with Adults in the club
- If children play for Adult Teams, they and their Parents must be informed of the Club's policy on changing arrangements
- Mixed gender teams must have access to separate male and female changing rooms
- Mobile phones must not be used in changing rooms

C. Policy on Transport to/from matches (including adult matches) & training

- Details of all Coaching Sessions both Winter and Summer are available from the Club's website in order that Parents/Carers have an opportunity to make appropriate arrangements.
- Details of all Fixtures are published on the Club's website and in a Fixture booklet at the beginning of the season in order that Parents/Carers have an opportunity to make appropriate arrangements.
- Parents/Carers should be aware that youth fixtures are sometimes re-arranged at short notice for a variety of reasons. The Club website is updated on a daily basis so parents/carers are encouraged to view the website regularly during the season.
- Coaches and Club Staff will be responsible for the Children in their care at Coaching sessions organised by the Club or on arrival at the ground for both home and away fixtures.
- It is not the responsibility of the Coach or Team Manager to transport, or arrange to transport, the children to and from the Club for matches or training.
- By completing the Junior Membership form, Parents/Carers have agreed that their child can participate in away fixtures if selected. In the event of circumstances changing the parent/carer must notify the club in writing.
- The official pick up/drop off point for the Club is at the Pavilion at the Sportsfield in Grayshott off the Headley Road.
- In the event of an emergency issue at an away game the point of contact at the club is either the Club Welfare Officer or if not contactable the Youth Manager. Their contact numbers are available in the Club's fixture booklet and on the Club's website

D. Policy on Use of Cameras/Video Equipment during matches & training

By signing and completing the Club's Junior Membership form parents/carers agree to the club's policy on use of cameras/video equipment during matches and at training.

- Representatives from the Club will only take photographs at matches/training sessions for the purpose of promoting the game and the club in the local press or on the Club's website.
- Any photographs shown on the Club's website or released to the press will not show the names of children unless prior agreement has been obtained from the parents/carers.
- In the event that a member of the press is present to take photographs the children and parents/carers will be informed in advance of the activity and their agreement sought.
- The children should be informed that if they have concerns they can report these to the coach or team manager.
- As the Sportsfield at Grayshott is a Public Recreation Ground and is used by other sports clubs and members of the public, it is not possible for the club to police the use of cameras and video equipment. If however, any child or parent has concerns regarding inappropriate or intrusive photography, they should inform the Coach/Team Manager in the first instance or at a later date to the Club Welfare Officer.
- Cameras or other photographic equipment (including video recorders/camera phones) are not permitted in toilets or areas where children are getting changed for activities.
- The club uses video equipment for the purpose of coaching. In such instances the club will seek agreement from the parent/carer that they agree to the use of this equipment for this purpose for their child.

Appendix 3 Codes of Conduct

Code of Conduct for Junior Members

GRAYSHOTT CRICKET CLUB is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the well being of all its members. The club believes that it is important that members, coaches, administrators and parents associated with the club should, at all times, show respect encouraged to be open at all times and to share any concerns or complaints that they may have about any aspect of the club with: PAUL ROBERTS, CLUB CHAIRMAN.

As a member of Grayshott Cricket Club you are expected to abide by the following junior club rules:

- All members must play within the rules and respect officials and their decisions.
- All members must respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants regardless of gender, ability, cultural background or religion.
- Members should keep to agreed timings for training and competitions or inform their coach or team manager if they are going to be late.
- Members must wear suitable kit - for training sessions and in matches are expected to wear both club caps and shirts.
- Members must pay any fees for training or events promptly.
- Junior members are not allowed to smoke on club premises or whilst representing the club at competitions.
- Junior members are not allowed to consume alcohol or drugs of any kind on the club premises or whilst representing the club.

Code of Conduct for Cricket Club Members and Guests

All Members and Guests of Grayshott Cricket Club will:

- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every person within the context of Cricket
- Treat everyone equally and not discriminate on the grounds of age, gender, disability, race, ethnic origin, nationality, colour, parental or marital status, religious belief, class or social background, sexual preference or political belief
- Not condone, or allow to go unchallenged, any form of discrimination if witnessed
- Display high standards of behaviour and promote the positive aspects of Cricket e.g. fair play
- Encourage all participants to learn the Laws and rules and play within them, respecting the decisions of match officials
- Actively discourage unfair play, rule violations and arguing with match officials
- Recognise good performance not just match results
- Place the well-being and safety of Young People above the development of performance
- Ensure that activities are appropriate for the age, maturity, experience and ability of the individual
- Respect Young People's opinions when making decisions about their participation in Cricket
- Not smoke, drink or use banned substances whilst actively working with Young People in the Club.

- Not provide Young People with alcohol when they are under the care of the Club
- Follow ECB guidelines set out in the 'Safe Hands - Cricket's Policy for Safeguarding Children' and any other relevant guidelines issued
- Report any concerns in relation to a Young Person, following reporting procedures laid down by the ECB
- In addition to the above, all Club Officers and Appointed Volunteers will:
- Hold relevant qualifications and be covered by appropriate insurance
- Always work in an open environment (i.e. avoid private or unobserved situations and encourage an open environment)
- Inform Players and Parents of the requirements of Cricket
- Know and understand the ECB's 'Safe Hands - Cricket's Policy for Safeguarding Children'

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