



**STAFFORDSHIRE  
CRICKET**

# “KNOT-OUT”

**The Staffordshire Cricket Newsletter**  
[www.staffordshirecricket.co.uk](http://www.staffordshirecricket.co.uk)  
**November 2009**



**STAFFORDSHIRE  
CRICKET**

## Mike Gatting to Join Our Indoor Cricket Open Day At Wolverhampton

Former England captain Mike Gatting will be in Wolverhampton on Saturday 12th December as Staffordshire Cricket launch their new Junior Indoor Cricket league.

The league will be played at the Wolverhampton Sports Arena and further details are listed below this article.

The open day will be from 12 noon until 5pm and will include the following.

12 - 12.40 pm Welcome and Overview of Indoor Cricket

1.30 - 1.50pm Mike Gatting Talk

1.10 - 4.00 Practical opportunity for teams to take part and learn from England Players

4.00 - 4.30 Close and sign up for leagues

The day promises to offer a fantastic opportunity to learn a new game as well as meet a former England cricket captain. Staffordshire Cricket sees this form of the game as being totally accessible and potentially a ‘pay-and-play’ option for those wishing to play but who may not be ready to commit fully to the club environment. It has the potential to address wider agendas of social inclusion, diversionary activity, obesity and team working. For more information and to attend on the day please contact either Jason Britton [jason.britton@ecb.co.uk](mailto:jason.britton@ecb.co.uk) or Chris Guest [c.guest@staffordshirecricket.co.uk](mailto:c.guest@staffordshirecricket.co.uk).



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## Indoor Cricket Opportunity For Junior Teams



Staffordshire cricket is organising new junior indoor cricket leagues at Wolverhampton Sports Arenas beginning in January 2010. All junior teams across Staffordshire are being invited to enter a fun and exciting winter cricket opportunity.

Indoor cricket is an ideal way for players to improve their skills all year round for outdoor cricket as well as developing specific skills for indoor cricket

Indoor cricket offers players a fun environment in which to play and get involved in a fast paced and exciting game. It also presents players with the opportunity to have a genuine chance of gaining International recognition and test themselves against the worlds best.

Staffordshire cricket will be setting up 4 leagues at U11, U13, U16 and U19 age groups.

The leagues will run on alternate weekends with U11 and U13 beginning on 9<sup>th</sup> January and U16 and U19 on 16<sup>th</sup> January. Each team will play 2 games per day and play in an 8 team league. Every team will play 14 league games and finish with a finals competition for all teams (top 4 entering major finals and bottom 4 minor finals). The cost per game is £36 per team with no initial registration fee. U11 and U16 leagues will run between 12 -4 and U13 and U19 between 4-8. Wolverhampton Sports Arena has Sky Sports and an eating area to be used while not involved in the game.

At the end of the League season a select team will be picked to play against a touring South Africa international team at U11 and U13 level. From this team 1 player will be selected to represent England in a test match vs the South Africans. At U16 and U19 level in 2011 a World Cup is to be held in South Africa which will involve U16 and U19 England teams, with the correct practice and key skills potential England Internationals could be amongst the players.

For more information please contact Chris Guest on 07969 364241 or [c.guest@staffordshire.co.uk](mailto:c.guest@staffordshire.co.uk)

## Jack Manuel in Under 19 World Cup Squad

ECB have announced the squad for the ICC Under 19 World Cup taking place in New Zealand from 16<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> January 2010. The bi-annual tournament involves 16 teams with England facing Afghanistan, Hong Kong and India in the group stages.

Included in the squad is Tamworth and Staffordshire opening batsman Jack Manuel (pictured right) who has recently signed a two year contract with Worcestershire.

Jack a product of the successful Staffordshire Young Cricketers programme was recently involved at the organisations presentation night as special guest.

Everyone at Staffordshire Cricket wishes Jack good luck for the tournament. Keep up with his progress through the Staffordshire Cricket website.

The Full squad is as follows :

Michael Bates	Hampshire
Paul Best	Warwickshire
Danny Briggs	Hampshire
Nathan Buck	Leicestershire
Jos Buttler	Somerset
Chris Dent	Gloucestershire
Matthew Dunn	Surrey
Calum Haggett	Somerset
Ateeq Javid	Warwickshire
Jack Manuel	Staffordshire / Worcestershire
David Payne	Gloucestershire
Azeem Rafiq	Yorkshire
Joe Root	Yorkshire
Ben Stokes	Durham
James Vince	Hampshire



England U19 coach Mark Robinson (Professional Cricket Manager for Sussex) who has been seconded to the role for the duration of the tournament will be spending time with the squad over the next four weeks getting to know the players before selecting a captain.

The 15 players will undergo an intense period of training in the run up to the tournament including fitness and skill work at the National Cricket Performance Centre in Loughborough, fielding and team building in Cardiff, leadership challenges at the army base at Catterick, Yorkshire, and fitness and fielding at Manchester United's training ground at Carrington.

The squad will leave on 1<sup>st</sup> January for Wellington, New Zealand where they will spend a week acclimatising before reporting to Christchurch for the start of the World Cup. England will play two warm up matches against Papua New Guinea U19 on 11<sup>th</sup> January and New Zealand U19 on 12<sup>th</sup> January.

England's first match in the group stages will be against Hong Kong on 16<sup>th</sup> January followed by Afghanistan on 18<sup>th</sup> January and current U19 World Cup holders India on 20<sup>th</sup> January. The top two teams in each group will progress to the quarter finals.

Elite Player Development Manager John Abrahams said: "The U19 World Cup is a fantastic opportunity for the squad to test themselves against some of the most talented young cricketers in the world and we will be working hard over the next six weeks to ensure that we are able to produce our best cricket in New Zealand."

England's best result at the ICC U19 World Cup was in 1998 when they defeated New Zealand to win the tournament.

## ECB Announce Clubmark Survey For Clubs



Since it was first introduced in 2003, ECB's Clubmark accreditation scheme has been successful in developing a vibrant and healthy cricket club structure within England and Wales by creating a benchmark for high quality community club cricket.

As well as recognising that clubs are well run, sustainable, and appreciate the importance of junior cricket, Clubmark accreditation also acknowledges a club's hard work and commitment to coaching, the raising of standards and development of the game. Almost 1500 clubs are already Clubmark accredited, with around 1000 more currently working towards accreditation.

Looking to the future, ECB is conducting a review of the Clubmark scheme in an effort to update and improve it, making it as effective as possible, so that many more clubs will take the opportunity to achieve Clubmark accreditation.

As part of this process it is essential that everyone involved in ECB Clubmark, including County Development Managers and Officers, and Nominated Officers who administer Clubmark to the clubs, have the chance to feed in their views on which elements of the scheme are currently working well and any changes they would like to see made.

There is a short survey specifically aimed at clubs, including those not currently involved in ECB Clubmark, which we would like you to promote to your affiliated clubs as much as possible. There is a further short survey for County Board staff including all nominated officers.

The Club Survey can be found here:

<http://www.ecb.co.uk/news/non-first-class/clubmark-survey.308294.EN.html>

## Staffordshire Clubs Achieve Clubmark



Staffordshire Clubs are celebrating throughout the county after achieving Clubmark status from ECB.

**Barlaston** Cricket club achieved Clubmark only a month after being promoted to the North Staffordshire and South Cheshire ECB Premier League. Barlaston who were runaway winners of the first division in 2009, can thank some crucial people in putting together a very good evidence file and site visit. Sterling work was done by Peter Taylor and Neil Davies amongst others and now the club can look forward to promotion for the 2010 season.



**Smethwick** have also gained a promotion to the Birmingham and District ECB premier league and also gained ECB

Clubmark. Mohammed Zubair must be congratulated for his efforts on behalf of the club.

**Endon** Cricket club from the Staffordshire Moorlands achieved ECB Clubmark last month as the club start making great strides forward.. Endon have gone without a pro in 2009 preferring to save their money towards the purchase of a second ground next to their headquarters. Phil Shemilt, Phil Rowley and Neil Sellers were the big drivers of the award and also the grants that have aided the club.



**Aldridge** Cricket Club have achieved ECB Clubmark and big thanks need to go to Neil Steadman for all his work in gaining the award. Neil, balancing his role as junior coordinator and Clubmark contact gave up many hours to achieve the status for the club. Jon Rowley also needs a mention as he has bought in over £65,000 in grants to the club to improve the area for cricket and also to make much needed renovations inside the clubhouse. **News of more clubs next month.**



## North Staffs And South Cheshire League Goes Open Allan Smith Reports On A Marginal Decision

In addition to the ground breaking decision at the North Staffs & South Cheshire League's Annual General Meeting to allow payments to players other than the professional, a number of other key issues were voted upon. The vote to go "open" was approved by 26 votes to 22, following a Special General Meeting at which clubs voted in favour of rule changes being approved by a straight majority vote instead of the previously required two thirds majority.

Clubs voted in favour of restricting the side batting first in first team matches of 110 overs to a maximum of 55 overs (currently 60) by just one vote, with 24 in favour and 23 voting against. In drawn games it was passed that the points for a winning draw would be increased from the current two points to five by 31 votes to 17. However a proposal to amend the current batting points system was defeated by 39 votes to 9.

A proposal to commence first team matches at the earlier time of 12.30pm, to try and cure the current problem of losing seven overs immediately the weather interrupts a match, was defeated by 25 votes to 22.

A proposal to limit bowlers to a maximum of 17 overs in any innings was rejected by 29 votes to 18. Carried by 25 votes to 23 was a rule change requiring a new ball to be used at the commencement of each innings in first team matches. The financial penalty for the non fulfillment of a fixture was increased from £50 to £100, with a further £50 added in cases where the side calling off the game was the away side to be awarded to the home club as compensation for lost revenue, the vote being 42 to 5 in favour.

Clubs will also be permitted to sign a substitute professional if he has played for another club in the league, but not for a team in the same division; the vote being 30 to 17 in favour. Previously once a player had appeared for a club as a substitute professional he could only play for that club in the league during the season. A professional can only play for one club in any of the cup competitions.

Penalty points for slow over rates will now come into operation after two thirds of the overs available have been completed, as against currently when 40 overs have been bowled.

After next season there will also be separate promotion and relegation for club's second XI's, the vote in favour being 28 to 20. However a proposal to replicate the approved first team proposal to equalise the number of maximum overs for the side batting first, to 50 overs in second XI matches of 100 overs duration, failed as the votes were level at 24 each.

There being no other nominations League Officers were re-elected for the year 2009/2010;

- |                            |                           |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| • Chairman                 | Chris Hopkin              |
| • Vice Chairman            | Stuart Williamson         |
| • Hon Treasurer            | Jess Hall                 |
| • Hon Secretary            | Derek Bloor               |
| • Hon Umpires' Secretaries | Ken Griffin & Steve Gould |
| • Hon Solicitor            | Steve Marsden             |



Allan Smith (above) reporting from the North Staffs and South Cheshire League



### You're the Umpire

A fielder throws the ball trying for a quick run-out, but his aim is off-line. The ball hits the running batsman's shoulder and deflects onto the wicket removing both bails before he has made his ground. The fielder appeals. What is your decision.? Answer on page 9.



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## Danielle and Georgia off to MCC Young Cricketers MCC Coach Alan Duncan Writes for ‘Knot Out’

We're delighted to welcome Danielle Wyatt and Georgia Elwiss onto the MCC Young Cricketers programme for the 2010 season. Danielle and Georgia have been selected from a number of candidates who have performed consistently over a sustained period at county and representative levels. They have also been identified as possible future England cricketers .

The MCC Young Cricketers is a unique environment and is the only programme in the country to offer women the opportunity to live the life of a professional cricketer.

The girls will get the opportunity to train day on a daily basis at Lord's. They will get coaching support in areas such as technical, tactical and physical training which will hopefully continue their development to reach their goals of playing for England.

We have increased the number of girls on the programme to nine for 2010 with six full time contracted players and three junior scholarships for 16 - 17 year old girls during their summer holidays. We are looking to have a number of fixtures next summer against England Academy, Ireland and the MCC at Lord's to name but a few

The history of the MCC Young Cricketers is that it has been established for over 100 years and is well known around the world for producing a number of young successful cricketers into the county and international game. MCC YC graduates include Ian Botham and Phil Tufnell. In 2003, due to increase and the development of the women's game in England the MCC decided to offer two girls the opportunity to join the Young Cricketers; the first cohort were Nicky Shaw and Gill Richards. Over the six year period it has been running the girls have been given the opportunity of a two year contract to train at Lord's to hopefully enhance and develop their skills to make the step up to international cricket. Over the six year period we are proud to have had four girls represent England in Nicky Shaw, Caroline Atkins and Beth Morgan.




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## New Regional W&G Manager : Lady Taverners : Staffs Trials

**Laura Newton** has taken over as the Regional womens and girls manager for the Midlands. Laura will take a big part in the development of the game in the region working with all ten counties in their different needs. The new manager will be available at regional meetings as well the regional surgeries open to the development team on a monthly basis.

Laura replaces **Sue Redfern** the former Staffordshire player in the role. Sue has now gone on to a national role within ECB and we wish both ladies best wishes in their respective new roles.

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**Staffordshire Girls' trials** have now taken place in the under 11, 13, 15 and 17 age groups.

29 girls attended the trial aimed at the under 15 and under 17 age groups

36 girls attended the trials aimed at the under 11 and under 13 age groups.

The coaches feel that the standard of the girls game is increasing year on year with a record number of trialists this year,

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**The Lady Taverners** North indoor girls competitions have now taken place at Fenton Manor Leisure Centre.

The Under 13 Competition was won by Blythe High School. Other schools competing were Brownhills, Blurton, Endon, Painsley catholic college, James Brindley and Sandon.

The Under 15 competition was won by Sandon High School. Other schools competing were Biddulph, James Brindley, Blythe and Brownhills.

Blythe High School and Sandon High School now go through to the county finals at Walsall University campus on December 7th

The standard this year in both competitions was especially high comparative to previous years.

## Staffordshire Under 13 Squad For 2010 Selected

The Staffordshire under 13 squad for the 2010 season has now been selected. The players will be put through a rigorous winter training programme starting in December with games against four school sides following in the early part of the season. The team coached by Regional Coach of the Year Graham Warner (pictured with Sir Ian Botham) will then go forward to some friendlies against other counties before an eight game ECB cup programme.

The season finishes with a visit to the Taunton festival.

Manager Martin Williams is optimistic that the team can play to a high standard this year and follow on some good successes at this level in previous years. In the last five years the Staffordshire under 13's have had a good run with 2006 seeing the county as national champions a year after being national runners up. 2007 and 2008 saw the county as regional runners up and in 2009 Staffordshire lost out to Yorkshire in the national quarter finals.

The squad of 15 in full is as follows :

Previously capped players Ben Burrows (Milford Hall), Austen Crump (Meir Heath), Craig Ferns (Moddershall), Jack Hassall (Oakamoor), Rory Jackson (Meir Heath), Shoab Malik (Wolverhampton), Mikesh Patel (Wolverhampton), Adam Pursell (Aston), George Scrimshaw (Barton), Matty Thomas (Meir Heath), Alex Urwin (Milford Hall),

The four new caps are : Daniel Betty (Walsall), Adam Keates (Oakamoor), William Roobottom (Dunstall), Joe Samuels (Cannock and Rugeley).

We wish the boys, manager and coaches all the best for the season ahead.



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## Has your Club Registered For NatWest CricketForce 2010 ?

Has your club registered for NatWest CricketForce 2010 yet ?

Do you know there are special offers around that can help your club develop a great project ?

Do you know that CricketForce brings in around £40m of in kind help into the country's cricket clubs ?

How do you get registered

You need to register through your clubs play-cricket site. The administrator of that site needs to give one person access rights for CricketForce so you can get registered.

Once registered get a project together and ask anyone for help from businesses for in kind help in goods or manpower to your clubs members or their friends.

It's amazing what community spirit can do for your club.

There are several supporters of NatWest CricketForce and these can be all found at the link provided below.

Amongst these supporters offering discounts to clubs are Stuart Canvas (sponsors of the £1800 flat sheet that was donated to Cheadle C.C after their superb showcase project in 2009. The company offer all types of sheeting needed for cricket clubs.

Durant Cricket have also got some superb deals on through CricketForce. Cristian Durant has also stated to us that if clubs buy more than one product from the company he will increase the discount. There is also a chance for clubs in the same development group area to buy together and thus reduce prices. There are several other companies offering generous discounts. Please follow the link below.

<http://www.ecb.co.uk/development/natwest-cricketforce/>







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## Two Vacancies Within Sport and Coaching

### ECB look to appoint Womens and Girls high performance manager

The womens game in England and Wales is in it's healthiest ever state with more females playing the sport than ever before at the grassroots level and with the England team having won the ICC World Cup, the ICC World Twenty20 and retained the ashes all in 2009.

In order to capitalise on the success and to achieve the ambitious goal of staying number one in the world the ECB is seeking to appoint a Womens & Girls High Performance Manager to play a key role in developing the most talented female cricketers in England and Wales throughout the pathway up to the international arena.

For more details about this role and a full job description please go to [www.ecb.co.uk/vacancies/](http://www.ecb.co.uk/vacancies/) closing date is 3/12/09.

### Black Country Partnership Advertise Coaching Vacancy

The Black Country Consortium Limited is seeking to appoint a Coaching Officer who will be responsible for managing the development of a local Coaching Support Network to support coaches at community level in response to identified need. Working closely with the Governing Bodies of Sport and key regional and local partners the Coaching Officer will support the development of an effective and sustainable coaching system, at a local level that will be seen as part of a world leading coaching system and will be part of the 49 CSP Coaching Development Managers network. To reflect the role, the postholder will be expected to have a coaching qualification and experience of coaching and/or supporting coach education and development.

If you have a passion for coaching and believe you can make a significant contribution to coaching in the Black Country please contact [anne\\_chilton@blackcountryconsortium.co.uk](mailto:anne_chilton@blackcountryconsortium.co.uk) or call 01383471101 for a job pack including application form.

Any other information or an informal chat about the role can be sought from Simon Fisher 01384 471138

## Sport England Launch 'Active Women' Theme Round

### **MP Gerry Sutcliffe last week launched the Sport England 'Active women Themed Round.**

If you wish to apply to the Active Women Themed Round, you must ensure that your project has a strong focus on one or both of our two highlighted groups. We will only fund those projects which directly address our objectives for this round. If your project is not appropriate to this theme it may be better suited for a subsequent theme or one of our other funding programmes, such as the small grants fund.

To be eligible for funding under this theme, applications must demonstrate that projects will address the specific barriers to participation in sport faced by either:

Women in disadvantaged communities ([the 20% most deprived lower super output areas in the country](#))

Women caring for children under 16.

Projects need to demonstrate how they will increase the number of women playing sport from either one or both of these groups. Sport England has a target of getting one million people playing more sport. Your project will contribute to the delivery of this target

Not only do applications have to demonstrate how they will remove existing barriers in order that more women from the two target groups can take part in sport, they must also look at how they can allow those women to take part in sport more often

To find out more please go to the Active Women part of the Sport England website

[http://www.sportengland.org/funding/active\\_women.aspx](http://www.sportengland.org/funding/active_women.aspx)



## Team Contacts

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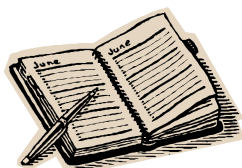
Bob Askey—Cricket Development Officer, Clubs & Performance 07939 716884 [bob.askey@ecb.co.uk](mailto:bob.askey@ecb.co.uk)

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Alan Hill—Head Coach, Emerging Player Programme 07816 966939 [a.hill@staffordshirecricket.co.uk](mailto:a.hill@staffordshirecricket.co.uk)

## October Diary Dates



If you have any dates of interest in the upcoming months—e.g. fund raising events, beer festivals, club anniversaries, charity games etc. please contact any member of the team and we'll try to include them in the newsletter. For details of any of the events listed checkout the calendar section of the website or contact any member of the team.

1st December	Recreational Assembly, Lord's Cricket Ground
3rd December	South Staffordshire Cricket Development Group Meeting 7.15pm
8th December	Staffordshire Cricket Board Executive Meeting at Himley C.C. 10.00am
12th December	Indoor Cricket Open Day With Mike Gatting. Wolverhampton Sports Arena 12noon to 5pm
19th December	Under 10 District Trials North, South, East
20th December	Under 10 District Trial Central

Please Go to [www.staffordshirecricket.co.uk](http://www.staffordshirecricket.co.uk) and choose the calendar tab for a full update on all events during the month and onward.

**You're the Umpire Answer : OUT!** Run out on appeal, if he hasn't reached his ground. The batsman is part of play: the same would apply if it deflected off either umpire – you're also part of play.

Staffordshire Cricket is striving to provide all of the county's cricket playing public with as much relevant and up-to-date cricket related information as possible. We rely on you to help to provide that information. If you think your particular area of interest in the game or even your area of the county is under-represented, then why not submit an article? We'll be more than happy to try and include it.

