SUSSEX CRICKET
FOUNDATION

IMPACT REPORT 2025



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WELCOME



2025 WAS ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR FOR THE FOUNDATION, WITH THE HEALTH OF RECREATIONAL CRICKET IN A SOLID PLACE ACROSS THE COUNTY.

The Foundation continues to be held in highest regard by the ECB and by stakeholders both locally and nationally.

There were many highlights in 2025, but I would like to pay particular attention to our Sussex Disability Cricket teams who continue to excel. Our Sussex VI Sharks completed the 'Double' which included a thrilling victory over Northamptonshire in the BCEW Cup at The 1st Central County Ground, a day which made lifelong memories for both sets of players. Our D40 teams continue to produce players both for the Toyota Disability Premier League and for England. Liam O'Brien and Alfie Pyle both featured in the historic pan-disability series vs. India, with both playing a starring role in England's series victory. The year ended with Liam, Alfie and young spinner, Jake Vosloo being called up for the tour to India at the start of 2026. For me, this is what the Foundation is about, creating a passion for cricket, changing lives and helping to fulfil people's ambitions.

As we look ahead to 2026, our biggest priority is state school cricket where we will be launching our ground-breaking secondary school programme, Breaking Boundaries. Significant investment has been secured to create an ambitious programme that will revolutionise state school cricket in Sussex and link into our already successful 10-year partnership with the Brighton Aldridge Community Academy. Over the next 4 years, 8 state school hubs will be created with all schools receiving dedicated curriculum time coaching, extra-curricular activity and funding towards facilities, kit, equipment and training for teachers. The hubs will also link to local clubs, which will help strengthen, sustain and transform the recreational game.

As I sign off, I would like to thank my team for all their continued hard work and dedication to the Foundation. They are the ones who deserve enormous credit for all our successes, as they are the ones on the ground delivering our programmes, projects and initiatives to help continue growing the game and making it accessible to all across Sussex. I would also like to thank my Trustees, our Patrons, our Community Partners and to the Executive Team at Sussex Cricket for their continued support.

I look forward to seeing you during 2026, which is shaping up to be an exciting year on and off the pitch for Sussex Cricket.

Gary Wallis-Tayler
Head of Foundation

22,084
Unique participants

4,370+
Sessions delivered

6,710+
Engagement hours

**Chance to Shine Primary & Secondary School programmes, Lord's Taverners SEND School programme & regular community-based clubs.*



LESHIA HAWKINS

ECB MANAGING DIRECTOR, RECREATIONAL GAME

"The award of ECB 'Ready to Invest' status, and associated recognition, is significant and is hard-earned; It is also testament to the hard work and dedication of everyone involved at the Sussex Cricket Foundation, both executive and non-executive.

I have had the pleasure of witnessing the skill, care and ambition that colleagues in Sussex have for our game, and it is evident that cricket in the county is in very good hands with Gary and the team supporting him."



SHELAGH LEGRAVE CBE

CHAIR, SUSSEX CRICKET FOUNDATION

It is a privilege to be appointed as the new Chair of the Sussex Cricket Foundation. I am hugely grateful to Ish Jalal who has chaired the board for the last three years.

I am very passionate about the opportunity for people of all ages to participate in sport. Evidence is strong that by being active we will be healthier and have a stronger sense of wellbeing. As someone who has completed an enjoyable career across several sectors, I have been better able to deal with the stresses and strains by being fit and playing competitively.

Cricket offers so much to young people and adults. Tactics, hand/eye coordination and concentration are some of the skills required.

SCF enables the sport to be accessible to such a diversity of young and older people from all parts of Sussex. Thanks to the generosity of both individuals and the ECB, the new Breaking Boundaries programme will support some state secondary schools to access state of the art facilities, equipment and professional coaching.

We are enormously grateful to our patrons and many people who help us to fundraise. My thanks also go to my fellow trustees, all those who volunteer and also our amazing Foundation staff.

2026 will be another very exciting year and I look forward to meeting many of you involved in the Foundation.

STORY OF OUR YEAR



JANUARY

Our year began with **Dean Wilson Solictors LLP** named as the new Sussex Cricket League sponsors & valued community partners of the Foundation. Our community coaching team also **resumed schools coaching across the county**, through the Chance to Shine and Lord's Taveners funded programmes.



FEBRUARY

In February, we delivered an engaging mix of community activities, including the county **Lord's Taverners Table Cricket Festivals**, Chichester & Worthing Sporting Memories clubs met for a special new-age kurling event, and we hosted a **Chance to Shine Street Cricket qualifier** competition.



MARCH

March saw various Primary & Secondary School Indoor Finals take place. We also marked **International Women's Day** with our first ever **female-only Walking Cricket event**, in the Indoor School at The 1st Central County Ground. In an effort to grow female participation within Sussex based Walking Cricket clubs.



APRIL

Following the qualifiers, the annual **SCF Street Cricket county competition** took place at Southwick Leisure Centre. We delivered a series of Primary School Skills Festivals, with the help of Sports Leaders from Secondary Schools. The Sussex Seniors also won the Malta Seniors Cricket Festival. Finally, our incredible **Brighton Marathon team raised close to £5,000** for their efforts on Marathon weekend!



MAY

May was jam-packed, with the **SCF Charity Golf Day** held at East Brighton Golf Club, our flagship event **DIScoverABILITY Day** once again saw 750+ participants decend on Hove for a day of inclusive multi-sports activity and we held the inaugural **Disability T10 Cup** welcoming teams from Hampshire, Surrey & Essex down to Hove.



JUNE

With the summer in full-swing, Hove played host to the **Lacuna Sports Women's Soft Ball Festival** and our annual **Schools' Day**, welcoming over 2200 school children to the ground to watch the England Men's U19s in action versus India. We also made the trip down to West Wittering Beach for another Primary School **Beach Cricket Festival** in the sun!



JULY

A busy July saw our Primary & Secondary School County Finals take place. Sporting Memories clubs and grounds volunteers from local Cricket clubs were invited to Hove for a day at the Cricket. We launched a series of **LGBTQ+ tasters sessions** at Sixes Social Cricket Bar and an SCF team took on the Lord March's XI in the **Alan Lee Memorial Match, part of the Goodwood Festival**.



AUGUST

August saw another first, as we hosted the **Disability Hundred competition at Arundel Castle Cricket Ground**, during the Rathbones Arundel Festival Week. We also reached the culmination of the various Women's & Girls' Leagues and Cups. The annual Workplace B'Ashes fundraiser took place and the **Dean Wilson Sussex Cricket League T20 Finals Day** was held at Hove.



SEPTEMBER

The **Sussex Sharks VI** team continued their dominance by winning the **BCEW Heindrich Swanepoel Primary Club Cup** to add to their National League title. The final weekend of League Cricket played out confirming a Premier Division double for Horsham CC who won the Dean Wilson Sussex Cricket League and Sussex Women's Cricket League titles.



OCTOBER

October was a month of celebration as **The Cricket Collective Awards winners were announced**. The Disability teams picked up various awards at the Sussex Cricket Awards and the Dean Wilson Sussex Cricket League Awards were celebrated by over 400 guests at The Grand Brighton. We also held a wonderful Diwali celebration.



NOVEMBER

In November, a number of the Sussex Cricket Men's squad paid a visit to Sporting Memories clubs across the county, with members thrilled to rub shoulders with the players. The Foundation's flagship State Secondary School programme, **Breaking Boundaries**, began with coaching delivered in the initial four partner schools, in partnership with the Focus Foundation.



DECEMBER

December saw a number of festive celebration events including the annual **SCF Christmas Carol Evening** which had a record attendance! The ever popular **Sporting Memories Christmas Lunch** and **Walking Cricket Christmas event** also provided plenty of festive cheer for members of our Ageing Well programmes.



Photo credit: Martin Denyer 2025

SUPPORTING *THE GAME*

"WE EXIST TO SUPPORT THE HEALTH OF RECREATIONAL CRICKET AND TO GROW THE GAME ACROSS THE COUNTY."

CRICKET IN SUSSEX



184
Affiliated Clubs
–3%

76
Clubmark Clubs
+1%

LEAGUE CRICKET

147
Clubs
–1%

362
Teams
–2%

7,793
Players
+1%

2,893
Matches Played
+6%

WOMEN'S CRICKET

49
Clubs
+4%

94
Teams*
+17.5%

412
SWCL Players
+8%

185
Matches Played*

JUNIOR CRICKET

96
Clubs with Junior section

5,012
Players
+3%

42
Girls' sections
+17%

450
Female players
–4%

92
Competitions
+12%

2,252
Matches scheduled
+1%

396
SJCF Matches
–18%

SUSSEX SLAM

MIXED

124 Teams =
422 Matches +1%
2,778 Players +11%

WOMEN'S

26 Teams +30%
88 Matches +40%
338 Players +13

* includes Hard Ball & Soft Ball League data
+ or – denotes change on 2024

FUNDING & FACILITIES

Throughout the year we provide support, guidance & funding to deliver capital facility projects that will enhance club environments.

£135,293
County Grants Fund benefitting 18 clubs

£73,124
Grass Pitch Improvement Fund benefitting 4 clubs



TOM ALSOP OPENS TILGATE CC NET FACILITY IN CRAWLEY



NATIONAL YOUTH PROGRAMMES

2025 saw a significant rise in All Stars & Dynamos Cricket participation, going past the 3000 mark for the first time, helped largely by a marked rise in girls' participation.

3,006
Participants
+6%

934
Female participants
+28%

31%
of all participants were **Female**

MEET EMILY, PARTICIPANT NUMBER 3000!

Emily took part in a Dynamos Cricket For Girls after-school club, delivered by Pagham Cricket Club, a collaboration between the club and her school, to grow cricket in the area and start a new girls' team.

"I REALLY ENJOYED CRICKET, I HADN'T TAKEN PART BEFORE. I WOULD DEFINITELY DO IT AGAIN. EVERYONE SHOULD TRY IT, YOU MIGHT FIND THE ONE SPORT YOU REALLY LOVE."



LACUNA SPORTS FESTIVAL

A CELEBRATION OF GROWTH & INCLUSION IN WOMEN'S CRICKET

On Sunday 22nd June 2025, the Sussex Cricket Foundation hosted a vibrant Women's Soft Ball Cricket Festival at The 1st Central County Ground in Hove.

Run by dedicated staff from the Sussex Cricket Foundation alongside volunteer club umpires, the festival took place in the morning, creating an exciting lead-in to the Sussex Sharks Women's Vitality Blast League 2 match that afternoon.

The event drew 12 clubs and brought together over 100 women and girls. Participants enjoyed friendly, competitive matches on the iconic outfield, showcasing the fun and accessible nature of Soft Ball Cricket.

The day culminated in a thrilling final where Three Bridges CC emerged victorious, lifting the trophy after defeating Lewes Priory CC. The matches highlighted skill, teamwork, and enthusiasm across all teams, with players of varying experience levels competing in a supportive environment.



Many players and supporters chose to stay on after the festival to cheer on the Sussex Women's team in their Vitality Blast fixture, bridging grassroots participation with elite-level Cricket and fostering a sense of belonging within the wider Sussex Cricket community.

The festival was proudly sponsored by Lacuna Sports, a female-specific sportswear brand dedicated to empowering women in sport. Their support highlighted the event's focus on female participation and offered clubs and players high-quality, tailored kit.

The event reflects the rising popularity of Women's Soft Ball Cricket in Sussex. The county-wide league now includes roughly 40 clubs across 10 local divisions each year, providing a welcoming, structured entry point into the game.

Soft Ball Cricket offers an inclusive, low-pressure environment that prioritises fun, skill-building and social connection, while creating clear pathways to hard ball formats via the Sussex Slam or Division 2 of the Sussex Women's Cricket League.

Adding a personal and heartwarming dimension, one of the standout stories from the day came from a mother and daughter who played together in the same team. Their shared experience captured the inclusive spirit of the festival:

"I'M STILL BUZZING, THE MOST AMAZING DAY. HAVING THE OPPORTUNITY TO STEP ON TO THE TURF AT THE COUNTY GROUND WITH MY THREE BRIDGES CRICKET FAMILY AS WELL AS BAT WITH MY DAIGHTER. FANTASTIC.

WE FELT LIKE STARS AFTERWARDS AND HAD TEAMS WANTING TO ARRANGE FRIENDLIES WITH US."

The Lacuna Sports Festival shows just how far Women's Cricket in Sussex has come. With an elite venue, great sponsorship and some lovely real stories from players, it proves Soft Ball Cricket is thriving, pulling in players new and old and opening doors for the next generation.

As more women and girls get involved every year, events like this are right at the heart of Sussex Cricket's push to grow the Women's game.







CASE STUDY

BETHANY TAGG, METRO BANK CHAMPION OF GIRLS' CRICKET

Bethany Tagg has been the driving force behind the rise of girls' cricket at Buxted Park Cricket Club, a club steeped in history since its establishment in 1867.

As the golden thread connecting every aspect of this initiative, Beth has made history by leading the first three girls' cricket matches ever played at the club.

"HER UNWAVERING LEADERSHIP AND PASSION HAVE BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN INSPIRING A NEW GENERATION OF PLAYERS."

From attending winter planning meetings as the Women's & Girls' Lead to speaking enthusiastically at a pizza and cricket introduction evening, Beth's commitment has never faltered. She has been a constant presence throughout the weekly sessions she has led since April, creating a welcoming and empowering environment for all.

Her efforts have led to an incredible transformation at the club, with 20 girls now actively participating in the sport many of whom had never played cricket before. Beth's ability to engage, motivate, and foster a sense of belonging has made her a true role model, and her dedication to growing girls' cricket deserves recognition.

So much so that Beth won the 2025 Metro Bank Champion of Girls' Cricket award. Her work has not only championed participation but has also ensured the sustainability and growth of girls' cricket at Buxted Park Cricket Club for years to come.

Beth was also part of the first-ever cohort of Sussex Cricket Coaching badge holders, a landmark moment for Coach Development in the county. Becoming the first female coach to achieve the qualification in the process.

The programme, designed and led by Paul Farbrace (Sussex CCC Head Coach) and Chris Fox from the Sussex Cricket Foundation's Coach Development team, brought together 12 established and experienced coaches.

The aim was to enhance their technical insight, coaching skills, and knowledge, supporting their continued development and raising the overall quality of Cricket coaching across Sussex.

THE CRICKET COLLECTIVE

Each weekend, across the county thousands of dedicated volunteers make recreational Cricket tick. Without them it simply wouldn't happen!

We aim to support clubs by training new generations of volunteers, providing development opportunities and rewarding & recognising the incredible efforts and stories.



COACH DEVELOPMENT

- **80** Coaches Trained
- **30** Female Coaches
- **141** Activators Trained
- **12** Sussex Coaching Badge holders

OFFICIALS, GROUNDS & VOLUNTEERS

- **56** Umpires Trained
- **98** First Aiders Trained
- **35** Grounds Workshop attendees
- **35** Young Volunteers Trained

LOCAL CRICKET HERO HONOURED

RAJ CHERODIAN MADE AN ECB HONORARY LIFE VICE-PRESIDENT.

Ifield Cricket Club's Raj Cherodian has been named as one of six cricketing champions by the England & Wales Cricket Board.

The award is part of a new initiative to celebrate individuals who have made exceptional contributions to breaking down barriers or demonstrated extraordinary long-term service to the game.

READ FULL STORY



MAKING *A DIFFERENCE*

"ACROSS OUR COMMUNITIES WE STRIVE TO IMPROVE PEOPLE'S LIVES BY BOOSTING THEIR MENTAL HEALTH & PHYSICAL WELLBEING."

REACHING OUR COMMUNITIES

THROUGH FIVE COMMUNITY BASED PROGRAMMES WE REACH HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE RIGHT ACROSS SUSSEX, EVERY WEEK.

With free-to-access programmes such as Chance to Shine Street Cricket, Lord's Taverners Super 1s & Wicketz we are able to take Cricket into a range of urban communities and to a diverse audience of young people who might not otherwise have any exposure to the sport.

To compliment this, our popular Ageing Well programmes, Walking Cricket and Sporting Memories bring physical activity and sport more generally to the older generations. Tackling wider societal issues such as loneliness, dementia and improving people's physical and mental health.



STREET CRICKET

9 Clubs

283 Participants +67

125 Female participants



WICKETZ

6 Clubs

210 Participants +78

32 Female participants

FIND YOUR *LOCAL* CLUB



SPORTING MEMORIES

7 Clubs

135+ Participants & Volunteers



WALKING CRICKET

13 Clubs

130+ Participants



SUPER 1s

10 Clubs

113 Participants

CRAWLEY
CROWBOROUGH
HAYWARDS HEATH
CHICHESTER
BRIGHTON & HOVE
HASTINGS
WORTHING
BOGNOR REGIS
EASTBOURNE



MY SON ABSOLUTELY LOVES THESE SESSIONS. HE HAS MADE LOTS OF FRIENDS AND HAS A GREAT RELATIONSHIP WITH THE COACHES.

Parent
Southwick Street Cricket Club



WICKETZ IS A REALLY GOOD PLACE FOR GIRLS TO LEARN AND PLAY. MY DAUGHTER LOOKS FORWARD TO ATTENDING EACH WEEK!

Parent
Wicketz in Crawley



SPORTING MEMORIES IS MORE LIKE A FAMILY THAN A CLUB.

RAY'S STORY

FINDING FRIENDSHIP THROUGH SPORTING MEMORIES

After losing his wife, Ray felt the silence of his home grow heavy. Then the local Chichester Observer featured a new Sporting Memories group run by the Sussex Cricket Foundation.

A photo showed a dozen people chatting around a table. Ray, a lifelong sports fan, thought it looked welcoming. He decided to go.

The club had only just started, three members that first day, but they greeted him warmly. That small beginning changed everything.

Now the Chichester Sporting Memories club has fifteen lively members, guided by volunteers Bob & David. Meetings officially run every Monday 10am to 11:30am, but everyone arrives early and stays past noon, full of banter and laughter. You have to give it and take it and Ray gives as good as he gets.

The group has become a close-knit community. They check on each other, share phone numbers, and meet up outside of meetings for golf, horse racing, and more. They've enjoyed friendly competitions: a nine-hole golf day at Hunston with coffee and a trophy, a curling match against Worthing (Chichester won), and plans for ten-pin bowling and darts next.

Sport is the glue – football, rugby, motor racing, Scottish football, golf; there's always something to debate from the weekend. The banter is relentless (Bob's unlucky England trips abroad are favourite targets), complete with yellow and red cards for when it gets too cheeky.

"FOR RAY, MONDAY MORNINGS ARE NOW SOMETHING TO LOOK FORWARD TO."

What began as a way to get out of the house has become a lifeline: sport, friendship, and endless light-hearted fun. The club feels like family and Ray is glad he walked through the door.


DIScoverABILITY Day


Diwali Celebration

"

THE EVENT WAS SUCH A SPECTACULAR EVENING, BRINGING TOGETHER PEOPLE FROM ACROSS COMMUNITIES, SPORT AND CULTURE, ALL OF WHICH RESONATE DEEPLY WITH THE SPIRIT OF SUSSEX CRICKET.

Anju Chauhan
Foundation Trustee


Malta Seniors Cricket Festival

SUSSEX SENIORS

9	139	143	4x
Teams	Matches played	Players	Trophies

"

THANK YOU AGAIN FOR EVERYONES' SUPPORT THROUGHOUT 2025 - THE LGBTQ+ CRICKET COMMUNITY WE'VE STARTED TO BUILD IS SOMETHING WE'RE EXCITED TO KEEP DEVELOPING.

Ayscha Woods
Women & Girls and Diverse Communities Manager



LGBTQ+ Project


Workplace B'Ashes


Littlehampton Walking Cricket Club


Chichester Sporting Memories



A GAME FOR *EVERYONE*

WE BREAK DOWN BARRIERS TO PARTICIPATION AND STRIVE TO PUT A BAT AND BALL IN THE HANDS OF ANYONE WHO WANTS TO BE INVOLVED IN CRICKET.

SCHOOLS CRICKET

122
Primary Schools
+29

15,826
Participants
+3,589

100%
of Teachers said sessions were **inclusive**

23%
of schools delivered in were above the national **Free School Meal Average**

89%
of Teachers said that the programme increased their pupils' **interest in Cricket**

SCHOOL COMPETITIONS

74
Competitions
+4
PRIMARY

5,640
Participants
+1,130

71
Schools
SECONDARY

182
Teams entered Girls' & Boys' competitions



Bexhill Academy
Chance to Compete U15 Winners

BACA
State Secondary School U14 Winners



GIRLS SECONDARY

15
Schools with Leadership Programme

4,049
Participants
+941

SCHOOLS' DAY

2,200
Students from 57 schools

+ or – denotes change on 2024

CASE STUDY

TRANSFORMING CRICKET AT BARNHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL

Cricket at Barnham Primary was once restricted to a six-week pre-Term 6 programme for a small group of Year 6 pupils, focused only on the county Primary School competitions, with low overall participation.

Since Kate Geraets took charge, she has launched a free, year-round before-school club for Years 3/4 and 5/6. Sessions run regardless of weather, with safe adaptations on frosty or slippery days (e.g. walking-only or non-running skills).

She has introduced creative, inclusive activities: Dice Cricket to teach rules and scoring indoors, Snowball Indoor Cricket before Christmas, and the children's own Rugby-Tennis-Cricket catching game. Sessions are fluid and child-led, driven by what the pupils want to improve.

Children receive a Dice Cricket pack (rules and dice) to take home for the summer holidays. In summer, two dedicated pitches are available at breaktimes, managed entirely by the children.

The school maintains strong links with Eastergate CC and promotes local clubs for continued play outside school. The highlight is the Barnham Ashes: a whole-school daytime event where Year 6 play the staff, watched by everyone, with Year 5s leading crowd support using mini-whiteboard scorecards.

Cricket is now extremely popular, with a waiting list to join. From September 2025, the club expands from 20 to 30 children per age group.

"BARNHAM PRIMARY IS NOW AN EXEMPLARY MODEL OF INCLUSIVE, YEAR-ROUND, CHILD-CENTRED CRICKET THAT MAXIMISES FUN, SKILLS, AND COMMUNITY TIES."



















I WAS BOWLING & WHACKING THE STUMPS LOADS, I LITERALLY FEEL FAMOUS NOW!

Layla, Year 4
Barton's Primary School

WE'VE THOROUGHLY ENJOYED BEING PART OF A COLLECTION OF WELL ORGANISED & COMPETITIVE SPORT EVENTS.

PE Teacher
West Park Primary School

I HAVE 6 VERY TIRED, ECSTATICALLY HAPPY CHILDREN WHO WILL REMEMBER THIS EVENT FOR THE REST OF THEIR LIVES.

Teacher
Barnham Primary School

DISABILITY CRICKET

SEND SCHOOLS

43
Schools
+3

1,278
Participants

4
Table Cricket Festivals

6
Soft Ball Festivals

592
Festival Participants

SUPER 1s CLUBS

10
Clubs
=

113
Participants
−7

280
Sessions delivered

6
Intra-club Festivals

5
Enrichment Workshops

COUNTY PATHWAY

85
Players
+12

64
Mixed Disability
+10

21
Visually Impaired
−2

5
Female
+1

7
DPL & England Players
+3

DIScoverABILITY Day

750
Participants
=

120
Volunteers
+20%

CRICKET CLUBS

11
Disability Champion Clubs
+3



+ or − denotes change on 2024

> "TABLE CRICKET IS A WONDERFULLY INCLUSIVE ACTIVITY FOR STUDENTS WHO MAY NOT BE ABLE TO ACCESS MORE TRADITIONAL FORMS OF THE GAME IN PE & OUTSIDE THE CURRICULUM."
>
> **PE Lead**
> Manor Green College



> "I WOULD WHOLEHEARTEDLY RECOMMEND SUSSEX'S SEND PROGRAMME TO ANY SCHOOL!

BUILDING FUTURES

SUPER 1s JOIN WEBTRENDS OPTIMIZE FOR WORK EXPERIENCE

The Super 1s programme, funded by the Lord's Taverners and delivered locally by the Sussex Cricket Foundation uses inclusive Soft Ball Cricket to empower young people with disabilities, building confidence, life skills, and pathways to opportunities beyond sport.

Webtrends Optimize, a sponsor of Sussex Cricket's Disability Pathway, hosted participants from the Super 1s programme for a tailored work experience placement at their office. The day included personal development workshops, employability sessions, and real-world exposure to a professional workplace environment.

Gabriel, one of the Super 1s participants, joined the work experience day and immersed himself in the office activities. He engaged enthusiastically with the team, took part in hands-on sessions exploring workplace tools and routines, and gained practical insights into professional life. This experience boosted his confidence and gave him a clearer vision of future career possibilities, highlighting how such inclusive opportunities can transform aspirations for young people with disabilities.

"THE YOUNG PEOPLE GAINED VALUABLE INSIGHT INTO DAILY WORKING LIFE, INTERACTED WITH EMPLOYEES, AND DEVELOPED SKILLS TO PREPARE FOR FUTURE EMPLOYMENT."

The partnership demonstrates how sport-based programmes, combined with corporate support, can create meaningful access to work experience and help participants with disabilities fulfil their potential.



JAKE'S STORY

A BREAKTHROUGH SEASON FOR SUSSEX'S RISING DISABILITY CRICKET STAR

At just 16, Sussex left-arm wrist spinner Jake Vosloo has enjoyed a breakthrough year across the national Disability Cricket pathway.

Playing recreationally for Mayfield 1st XI, Vosloo impressed in the ECB Inter-County National Disability Premier Competition, taking 11 wickets and showcasing remarkable control for his age.

His performances earned him a late call-up to the Hawks for his first Toyota Disability Premier League season, where he immediately looked at home. England Mixed Disability captain Callum Flynn praised the young spinner's maturity, noting:

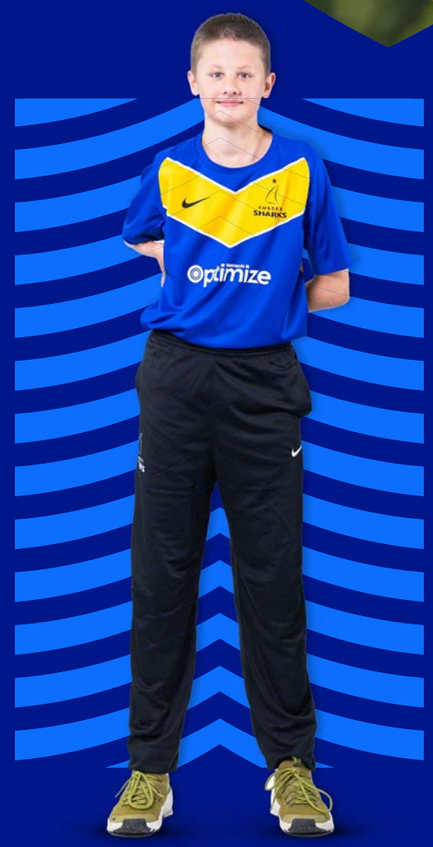
"I'M SO EXCITED TO SEE A PLAYER LIKE HIM COMING THROUGH THE RANKS, HIS GOOGLY AT THAT AGE, THE CONTROL – SO IMPRESSIVE."

Vosloo's rise continued with selection for the England Lions, followed by his England Mixed Disability debut in a friendly against the University of Worcester alongside Sussex teammate Alfie Pyle.

He has now been named in the England Men's Mixed Disability squad for their 2026 tour of India. If he features, Vosloo will become the youngest player ever to represent England Mixed Disability Cricket at international level.

A rare talent with huge potential, Jake Vosloo's 2025 season marks him as one of the brightest emerging players in Disability Cricket.





SUSSEX CRICKET FOUNDATION

LEADING THE WAY IN PARTNERSHIP-DRIVEN DISABILITY CRICKET

Shortlisted for the ECB Impact of Cricket Awards 2026 in the Partnerships Category – the Sussex Cricket Foundation led the way in Disability Cricket delivery. The citation below explains our work:

In 2025, Sussex Cricket Foundation delivered one of the most ambitious and impactful disability cricket programmes in county cricket history. Anchored by its flagship **DIScoverABILITY Day** and two pioneering competitions, the **Disability T10 Cup** and the inaugural **Disability Hundred,** Sussex has redefined what Disability Cricket can look and feel like.

The **Disability T10 Cup**, staged at the 1st Central County Ground, brought together four D40 squads (Sussex, Surrey, Hampshire, Essex) for a professional-standard tournament featuring elite performance, live broadcast, commentary, and media coverage.

Players described the experience as "life-changing" and "historic," reflecting the event's athlete-centred approach.

Later on in the summer, the **Disability Hundred at Arundel Castle** extended innovation with a fresh format during the Rathbones Arundel Festival of Cricket.

These achievements were powered by deep partnerships with the ECB, Lord's Taverners, sponsors, schools, charities, and over 150 volunteers. DIScoverABILITY Day welcomed 750 participants with SEND, supported by ParalympicsGB, Sight Support Worthing, GB Wheelchair Cricket, and more, creating an inclusive & inspiring environment.

WITH OVER 5,000 ONLINE VIEWERS, PROFESSIONAL FACILITIES, AND GROWING PARTICIPATION, SUSSEX HAS ELEVATED DISABILITY CRICKET FROM AN ADD-ON TO A CELEBRATED, VISIBLE PART OF ITS IDENTITY.

This programme exemplifies vision, collaboration, and innovation, setting a national benchmark for inclusive sport.





SHARKS VI EDGE THRILLER TO WIN THE CUP!

READ FULL STORY







FUTURE FOCUS

1 REVOLUTIONISE STATE SECONDARY SCHOOL CRICKET

Change the landscape of State School Cricket across Sussex, through the implimentation of our State School Strategy & Breaking Boundaries programme. Our ambition is to expose every child and young person in Sussex to Cricket whether that be through playing, spectating or volunteering; regardless of their education, background and where they come from in Sussex.

2 CONTINUE TO GROW WOMEN'S & GIRLS' CRICKET

Continue to grow the Women's & Girls' game across our club network, schools and the local leagues. Grow the female volunteering base by training new Coaches, Activators & Officials and helping to create a fan-base and community connection with the Sussex Women, who continue to compete in the ECB Tier 2 competitions in 2026.

3 SUPPORT INCLUSION THROUGH DISABILITY CRICKET

Maintain our leading position within the Disability Cricket space nationally and champion the growth of Disability Cricket within the wider community and our expanding Sussex Cricket County Pathway.
Ultimately, providing more opportunities for children and young people with disabilities & additional needs to access the sport in a variety of inclusive ways.

4 GROW OUR FUNDRAISING STREAMS & BRAND AWARENESS

Continuing to grow and raise the profile of the Sussex Cricket Foundation brand by attracting more supporters, fundraisers and volunteers to help support the game and deliver our strategic priorities.

5 CREATE OPPORTUNITIES ACROSS OUR COMMUNITIES

Increase accessibility, engagement and participation for ethnically diverse communities, lower social-economic groups, our LGBTQ+ community and the wider community as a whole, to inspire the next generation of cricketers and supporters.

6 SUPPORT THE CLUB GAME & INVEST IN FACILITIES

With Recreational Cricket continuing to grow, we must support this growth by ensuring that there are enough adequate facilities for clubs to play & train, whilst also being welcoming and inclusive places for their wider local communities.



OUR SUPPORTERS

Each year the Foundation relies upon the support of many generous fundraisers, donors, patrons, partners, sponsors, volunteers, trustees and staff to enable what we do.

Without their vital support, our work would not be possible. We say thank you to all of those people who help make a difference in Cricket across Sussex.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

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SUSSEX CRICKET FOUNDATION

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