

SPORT

Community cricket in Sussex at its strongest

Cricket
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sussexworld.co.uk/sport

Cricket participation in Sussex has grown across all ages, genders and abilities in the past year, according to the county's cricket foundation.

Sussex Cricket Foundation has released an impact report which shows uptake in community cricket in the county throughout the past 12 months.

Notably, women's cricket saw a rise in participation, with 61 clubs running women's and girls' programmes.

Sussex Cricket Community Director Gary Wallis-Taylor said: "I am proud of all our achievements this year. It has been an incredible 12 months.

"Recreational cricket in Sussex has never been stronger. It has been amazing to see participation growth across the game despite the ongoing challenges everyone has faced.

"As we look ahead to 2022, we must continue the momentum to inspire the next generation of cricketers and continue to connect with our communities, both of which are key priorities for Sussex Cricket."

The report showed that over 12,000 children took part in Chance to Shine programmes delivered by Foundation coaches.

There were record numbers signed up to national programmes such as All Stars and Dynamos.

Women's softball cricket festivals saw record participa-



The women's cricket squad at Three Bridges - the female game has grown quickly across Sussex

tion following the increased exposure women's cricket has had.

Sussex Cricket chief executive Rob Andrew added: "It has been an extraordinary year for Sussex Cricket Foundation and all who work so hard to promote cricket across all our communities in the county.

"Following the outstanding work in 2020 to keep cricket on as the pandemic hit, 2021 has seen the community department go from strength to strength with all areas of the game thriving in Sussex.

"There are so many areas

covered in this report highlighting the amazing work of our Foundation team and I would ask you to take a few minutes to take in the breadth of our work and support us where you can to help grow our programmes.

"It feels unfair to pick out any areas over another but we have focused hard on our work in disability cricket, girls' and women's cricket, and our two urban plans in Brighton and Crawley. We are also very proud of our work with Sporting Memories, 'In the bag' with the Brighton Food Partnership, and our

Sussex Cricket Mental Health and Wellbeing Hub.

"Thank you to everyone for hard work on our programmes and the support you have continued to give us through the pandemic.

"We are looking forward to building on this in 2022."

In disability cricket, four community clubs have become Sussex's first-ever 'disability champion clubs' - Ansty, Polegate and Stone Cross, Buxted Park and Middleton.

DIScoverABILITY Day returned to the County Ground in September after being can-

celled in 2020 in the coronavirus pandemic. The event involved 300 participants and 60 volunteers.

The Foundation also launched the Urban Cricket Plan in Brighton and Crawley. Working with the ECB, they supported the refurbishment of existing indoor facilities in the county.

Initiatives were also aimed at older community members, with Walking Cricket and Sporting Memories making their return.

The full report can be read via a link from this story on our Sussex World website.

Trio are in frame for World Cup bid

Southern Vipers and Sussex players have been called up for England Women's ODI World Cup campaign in New Zealand.

Southern Vipers' Charlie Dean and Danni Wyatt are part of the 15-strong squad, while Freya Davies, who is Sussex-based but plays for South East Stars, is also in.

Vipers' Lauren Bell is one of the two travelling reserves.

England Women head into the tournament, which starts March 4, as defending champions.

Jonathan Finch, Director of England Women's Cricket, said: "The ICC Women's World Cup is a special event in the international women's cricket calendar. We are excited by the squad.

The England Women's A series enabled a wider group of players to compete for a place in the squad. This has made for some tough calls on selection.

"Success at World Cups is often the pinnacle of a player's career.

"We wish all those selected all the best in their quest to win on the world stage."

Wyatt has hit more than 4,000 runs for England in white-ball cricket and was part of the squad that won the title at Lord's in 2017.

Dean has capped off a fantastic year with another much-deserved call-up.

The off-spinner made her debut aged 20, and she took ten wickets in a tour of New Zealand.

She had previously starred for the Southern Vipers as they won the Rachael Heyhoe Flint Trophy in 2020.

Fast bowler Bell, yet to make her debut, is one of the travelling reserves.

JACK BUTLER

Nine Tests – but Robinson is a 'senior' for England

Sussex paceman Ollie Robinson is in the squad for England's three-match Test tour of the West Indies next month.

In James Anderson and Stuart Broad's absence, Robinson, 28, will be one of the most experienced bowlers, despite having played only nine Tests.

A selection panel - including interim managing director Andrew Strauss, interim

head coach Paul Collingwood, and head scout James Taylor - named the squad for a tour, which begins on March 8 in Antigua.

Strauss said: "With the start of a new cycle, it has allowed the selection panel to refresh the Test squad with a particular focus on competing away from home.

"We felt it was time to draw a line after the Ashes defeat,

look forward and give some impetus with an influx of new players.

"This selection is the start of a process and a journey to get England Test cricket back to where it needs to be.

"The hard work starts now."

Robinson is one of the players to remain in a new-look squad following England's 4-0 defeat in Australia.

Eight players who played down under - James Anderson, Dom Bess, Sam Billings, Stuart Broad, Rory Burns, Jos Buttler, Haseeb Hameed, and Dawid Malan - have missed out on selection.

Robinson made his England debut in June and in Australia, he took 11 wickets, with a best of 3-58 coming in the first Test in Brisbane.

Robinson took his first international wicket against New Zealand at Lords last June. His best international figures of 5-65 came as England beat India at Headingley.

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Ollie Robinson burst into the Test side in last summer's New Zealand series