



## **Ropley Cricket Club Development Plan (2019 update)**

### **BACKGROUND**

Ropley cricket club was established in the 1900s to provide cricketing opportunities in the village. It began with one team playing friendly matches. Over the past 12 years the club has grown from this modest start to its current position of three adult teams playing in the Hampshire League, one adult friendly side, and a midweek league and cup team. The club has a thriving junior section providing cricket for Under 7 through to Under 19 age groups.

The club has the support of the local parish council and also works in partnership with the other village sports clubs. This association and commitment from the cricket club enabled the village to fund and build a new sports pavilion opened in 2005.

The club shares the use of the Parish Council owned recreation ground.

In order to maintain cricket development the club re-laid the square in 2008 through fund raising and has been able to recruit an overseas player for the past 11 seasons. Over this period the club has not only seen the growth in the number of players both adult and junior but also in the number of players and parents willing to train as coaches, and assist in becoming helpers and sponsors who provide generous time and funds.

The most significant development over recent years has been the growth in the junior section. The club now has a membership of over 70 youngsters across the age groups Under 7 to Under 19. We attract players from the village and surrounding areas. In recent seasons the juniors have won a number of league trophies and we have representative players of the club in district teams. The club is keen to build on this success in the coming years.

### **CLUB MISSION STATEMENT**

Ropley Cricket Clubs mission is to provide cricketing opportunities for all members of the community. We seek to provide a club where all ages and abilities can develop their skills in a friendly & welcoming environment. We are an equal opportunities club and support all the ECB policies & guidelines. We have included a statement of inclusion and diversity in our club rules.

### **CLUB VISION**

The club vision is to build on the current foundation and to support the growth of the skill base where each of the teams has the goal and support to win their league, gain promotion, if possible and be successful in cup competitions.

### **RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN PURSUIT OF OUR OBJECTIVES**

- Hoping to play in the U19 20:20 league again in 2019.
- Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> X1 team competing in County Division 1.
- Overseas player part of set up for the club in the past 11 seasons.

- Our “One Game” pledge has resulted in more girls playing cricket. In 2017 we started an Under 11 female team and in 2018 an U13 female team.
- In 2013 our first girl was selected for both district and county teams.
- In 2016 the second set of sight screens were repaired.
- The club replaced the old heavy roller as part of an ongoing equipment maintenance plan.
- In 2014 the club purchased a set of covers paid for through grants and club funds.
- In 2018 the club are taking an active part on the ECB All Stars initiative to encourage involvement of U8s in cricket. Andrew Morris undertook Chance to Shine coaching in Ropley, Chawton and Sun Hill schools. Amongst the younger children this created a buzz around the sport and is the reason why 60 All Star children chose Ropley as their venue. Consequently, Ropley Junior cricket membership has increased this year with children coming from as far away as Preston Candover, Wield, Chawton and Alresford. As a result, there were two U11 teams and two girls’ teams in 2018
- 70+ women and girls attended at the Girls’ and Women’s event on 24 April 2018. The following week 30 girls attended girls’ training (realising a 100% increase in overall Ropley numbers). In support of the women’s aspirations the Women’s W10 training has been held on a Thursday evening for those just starting out in cricket, from which a team has been playing in the softball festivals.
- In 2018 we purchased an electronic scoreboard through ECB and member funding.
- In 2018 the U11A team reached the Oliver Cup Final,; the U15A team reached the Millard Cup Final and the U13B team were winners of the U13B league
- In 2018 the Women’s 1<sup>st</sup> XI team won their league and is in line for promotion.
- In 2018 two individuals were nominated for OSCAs and won the Hampshire stage before being proposed for the National awards.
- Shaun Udal, an ex-England International, joined the club as First Team Captain in 2018.
- Lottie Harrison won the East Hants Young Volunteer of the Year award in 2018.

## OBJECTIVES

1. Introduction to cricket for U7's through initiatives like All Stars & Chance to Shine
2. Continue provide coaching and match opportunities for junior age groups Under 9 to Under 19.
3. Continue to enter the teams into leagues, friendly matches and cups.
4. Continue supporting the senior teams in their leagues to help maintain and improve their positions.
5. Encourage and support the junior members to join the adult weekend teams in order to develop their skills after junior cricket.
6. Continue to run a minimum of three senior sides in the Hampshire Leagues.
7. Facilities
  - a) Maintain the wicket, pitch & nets to a good standard.
  - b) Repair and maintain two sets of sight screens.
  - c) Install the electronic scoreboard
  - d) Maintain SEPCL accreditation level to enable the club to play in a higher standard of cricket if promoted.
8. 5 year development aims:
  - a) Maintain the number of coaches so that we have at least 1 UKCC3 in the club and 1 UKCC2 for each age group.
  - b) Continue to encourage helpers to become coaches.
  - c) Continue to support the District and Hampshire teams through use of our ground and facilities.
  - d) Increase the number of juniors by reaching out to other villages in the area and developing the relationship with Ropley and other local Schools via Chance to Shine, quick cricket and any other relevant programmes.
  - e) Aim to have at least two district level players in each eligible age group.

- f) Increase the number of juniors going on to play senior cricket, for example by supporting the U19 league.
  - g) Increase the number of females participating in cricket.
  - h) Continue to field female teams for friendly & league cricket.
  - i) Gain promotion for senior teams and enter SEPCL.
9. Development aims for 2019:

**Play**

- a. Run two male and two female weekend league teams.
- b. Continue with roll out of Junior Development Plan 2014 – 2019.
- c. Develop a plan for transitioning juniors into senior cricket.
- d. Recruit new players; specifically getting experienced players to strengthen the playing and coaching side of the senior club.
- e. Review roles and responsibilities in Ropley Cricket Club with a view to more fully integrating the membership in the running of the club by appointing a Head of Senior Men's cricket who reports into the committee (we currently have this role for the Junior and Women's cricket) who oversees the recruitment and coaching of the senior men 'open' teams, including the U17's and U19's.
- f. Support the Hampshire Cricket Board (HCB) Girl's Club Programme (GCP).
- g. Develop Women's 2018/19 Winter Coaching Strategy.
- h. Preserve the Sunday friendly team thereby supporting the promotion of juniors into senior cricket and to continue benefit to local community.
- i. Celebrate the One Day World Cup through organised events to help encourage more children and adults to take up the sport.
- j. Obtain extension of ClubMark accreditation

**Grounds**

- j. Appoint a new grounds' person.
- k. Replace wicket mower.
- l. Install new electronic scoreboard.
- m. Consider the purchase of a roll up wicket for the U9 'academy pitch' to avoid another wicket having to be prepared each weekend.

**Funding**

- n. Bring in expertise to develop and deliver a marketing strategy to generate more sponsorship.
- o. Develop funding / support from the Cricket Club around junior training, coaches, equipment, under 9 pitch and winter nets.

**CLUB STRUCTURE**

**Committee**

The club has an overall management committee that has officers of Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, along with the men's' and ladies' 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> X1, open Sunday & midweek captains, the Head of Junior Cricket, Social Secretary, Sponsorship Manager and club members fulfilling roles, such as cricket club representative in the Ropley sport club and ClubMark officer. The Club Welfare Officer is also invited to attend meetings.

**Juniors**

The junior section is managed by the Head of Junior Cricket and via a committee that is a sub committee of the club management committee.

The juniors are organised into 6 age groups Under 9s (AllStars), 11s, 13, 15s, 17s & 19s.

The Under 9 to 15 age groups all play in the Winchester Warrior leagues and cups. There are U11, U13, U15 & U16 girl teams as well as an open age team.

The 17s and 19s play in the County and National competitions.

In 2018 the club is taking an active part on the ECB All Stars initiative to encourage involvement of U8s in cricket.

Specific details for the Juniors are detailed in [1].

### Seniors

There are two senior men's' and two senior ladies' weekend League teams, a midweek league team, a midweek cup team and a Sunday friendly team.

### Coaches

The club will support any member wishing to train as a coach.

There are currently seventeen coaches.

All coaches are encouraged to be members of the ECB Coaches Association.

## MATCH SCHEDULES

Matches for the seniors are played to the Hampshire league schedule, weekly from May to end of August.

A Sunday senior team also play fixtures between April and September.

Junior fixtures are scheduled by Winchester warriors, from May to the end of July. Sunday fixtures from May to September and the club travels to many Hampshire villages.

Midweek league fixtures are from May to July usually played on Wednesday. Various other mid week cup fixtures also take place during the season.

In addition indoor matches are played by teams through the rest of the year.

## MEMBERSHIPS

Ropley is a member of the Hampshire Cricket Board and the Winchester Warriors.

## CLUB FACILITIES

The club shares a pavilion with other village sports clubs. The pavilion includes changing and shower facilities, catering and a bar area.

The club in 2011 installed two practice net facilities with an all-weather surface.

Playing equipment can be provided as well as protective clothing for junior level players.

The pitch is on the Parish council owned recreation ground.

The club has a grounds person, who is assisted by volunteers.

## LOCAL SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY LINKS

The club has a good working relationship with the Parish council and Ropley, Chawton & Sun Hill schools fostering an environment in which cricket can be played and enjoyed by all. Club contacts are Sarah Vittle for Ropley Primary school and **Giles Plover** for Perins, Alresford.

## GEOGRAPHIC DETAILS

The Club is located in the centre of Ropley on the recreation ground (SO24 0DU).

## References

**[1] JUNIOR SECTION COACHING PLAN.**