2023 REVIEW

TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH CRICKET

Since 1993

30
MCC Foundation’s (MCCF) mission is to transform lives through cricket. At the heart of all our programmes is a desire to harness the transformative power of cricket to empower young people to reach their full potential, to promote positive physical and mental wellbeing, and to unite and inspire communities.

We deliver across the UK and around the world.

Within the UK, our primary objective is to make cricket a game for all and to ensure better representation in the game by opening up access to the talent pathways through our nationwide cricket Hubs programme.

Overseas, we facilitate the playing of cricket in countries where there is interest in the game but limited infrastructure, and ensure the cricketing opportunities we provide also drive positive social change e.g. improving gender relations and mental wellbeing.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES OF THE CHARITY

Our nationwide Cricket Hubs aim to ensure equality of opportunity by providing free-to-access coaching and match play for state-educated young cricketers aged 11-16. The Hubs have a vital role to play in helping promising players who have been engaged in mass participation initiatives or non-traditional formats to develop their hard-ball skills and transition into clubs and the formal talent pathway.

‘Cricket+’ is the MCCF’s term for the holistic support offered to players on the Hub programme to supplement their development beyond cricket. In 2023, MCCF worked with partners to deliver content to Hub beneficiaries on mental wellbeing, physical wellbeing (including strength and conditioning) and basic personal finance.

Feedback from participants was very positive over 2023, with almost 90% of participants saying the Hubs made them a better cricketer; 82% making new friends and 80% saying participating in the Hub made them feel happier.

In September, MCCF launched a new programme to support the female coaching workforce. Nineteen female Hub graduates were chosen for a two-year coaching programme, where they will develop their coaching skills, support and gain experience in their local Hub and attain ECB support coach accreditation. There is also a drive to attract more young female players into the Hubs, with an U12 Hub pilot programme taking place in 10 venues across the country thanks to generous donors.

Our nationwide Cricket Hubs aim to make cricket a game for all and to open access to the talent pathways so that every young cricketer is empowered to reach their full potential in the game, regardless of race, gender or socio-economic circumstance.
Talent is everywhere but opportunity is not and it is hugely rewarding that our Hub programme is identifying and supporting individuals who may never have progressed in the game and is helping to diversify the talent pathway.

The highlight of our year, and a fitting achievement during the Foundation’s 30th anniversary, was the announcement in September that MCCF is now an ECB Charity Partner and will receive a game-changing investment of £1M over two years from ECB and MCC to expand the National Hub programme. The announcement came after the publication of the Independent Commission for Equity in Cricket. The report heavily criticised the lack of opportunities for access to cricket in state schools and for women and girls.

We are now expanding the Hub Programme, going from 77 in 2023 to 126 this year, aiming to rise again to 150 in 2025. This expansion, possible only through the support and commitment from the ECB and MCC, will provide free-to-access winter coaching and summer match play to more than 4,000 youngsters in 2024.

29% of participants in 2023 were female and through this new funding, our Hubs are aiming to achieve gender parity by 2025.

“...a fantastic opportunity for girls in the local area to learn and develop their cricket. It also offers a safe space from which to make new friends, try new things and improve both physical and mental wellbeing. It is an invaluable opportunity for state school girls and it would not be possible without the support of the MCC Foundation.”

Briony Brock, MCCF Shepherd’s Bush Hub Manager
2023 marked the third year of our National Hub Competition, our U16 state school competition with boys’ and girls’ finals at Lord’s, sponsored by Charles Stanley Wealth Managers. Bolton and Guildford Girls’ Hubs and Reading and Bradford Boys’ Hubs reached the Finals. The victors were Reading Boys and Guildford Girls.

Both finals took place in succession on the Main Ground in front of a packed-out Pavilion and Tavern Stand, with thousands tuning in to watch the livestream on MCCF’s YouTube channel. England Captain, Heather Knight, London Spirit’s Mason Crane and MCCF Patron, and MCC President, Stephen Fry, presented the medals.

Simultaneously, a competition for MCCF’s U14 London Hubs took place on the Nursery Ground and in the Indoor Cricket Centre as part of our London Action Plan, which aims to break down cultural, social, and financial barriers to accessing cricket.

**2023 HUB FINALS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Boys Final:</th>
<th>Girls Final:</th>
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<tr>
<td>1st innings: Reading 128 all out in 19.5 overs</td>
<td>1st innings: Bolton 102-3 from 20 overs</td>
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<tr>
<td>2nd innings: Bradford 116/5 from 20 overs</td>
<td>2nd innings: Guildford 103-6 from 16.5 overs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reading victors by 12 runs</td>
<td>Guildford victors by 4 wickets</td>
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**Player of the Match:**
- Abdullah Hussain (Bradford) Took 5 wickets for 11 runs of 2.5 overs
- Megan Russell (Bolton) 51 runs not out

“The whole experience has been great. Turning up, going into the Players’ Dressing Room, walking through the Long Room, taking the team photos, warming up. It has just been a fantastic day. All my family are here, my mum and dad, my little sister, my gran and grandad, aunt and uncle. It was so special to get my fifty in front of them. I’ve definitely made friends for life at the MCCF Hub and we’re going to go on and play lots of cricket together in the future.”

Hudson Rowan, Bradford Boys’ Captain
London Hubs
As part of our work to increase the number of players from ethnically diverse communities, we supported 13 cricket Hubs in key locations across London, including: Hammersmith, Hounslow, Leyton, Lewisham and Tower Hamlets.

Player Support Fund
We worked with cricket charity, Bat for a Chance, to provide cricket kit for Hub participants in need of assistance. Where this could not be accommodated, new kit was supplied (particularly helmets) through our Player Support Fund. We also supported some of our participants with club membership fees and travel costs.

Mentors
We employed two Mentors who visited nine Hubs in the first three weeks of the Hub programme to introduce themselves, administer the Player Support Fund and offer additional support and advice to Hub participants and their parents.

2023 was the third year of our Action Plan for London which aims to further break down cultural, social, and financial barriers to accessing and progressing in cricket, and to ensure that cricket can be a game for all.

Springboard at Lord’s
Two “Springboards” were held this year: one at Headingley and one at Lord’s. These offered the most talented Hub participants the chance of extra coaching over a week from top Yorkshire, Lancashire and Middlesex County Age Group coaches and other inspirational role models in the game. Talent scouts were also present. Coaches this year included Yorkshire County pathway coaches, Kelly Castle from the Sunrisers, former Afghanistan captain and assistant Afghanistan national team coach, Raees Ahmadzai, Shachi Pai from Lancashire Lightning and legendary West Indies player, Courtney Walsh.

Celebrating non-Club cricketers at Lord’s
We held an U14s competition on the Nursery Ground and in the Indoor Cricket Centre in July, with 5 girls’ teams and 7 boys’ teams taking part from across London. Congratulations to Leyton Boys’ Hub and Leyton Girls’ Hub who were crowned champions in their respective competitions!
In Lebanon, MCCF supports the NGO, Alsama Project, funding four of its Cricket Hubs for 311 Syrian refugees from encampments in and around Beirut.

The children receive year-round coaching and match play which provides them with welcome relief from the hardships they face and much needed joy. They are becoming excellent cricketers with great potential and 64 young people were trained and qualified as ICC accredited coaches last year.

Overseas, we facilitate the playing of cricket in countries where there is interest in the game but limited infrastructure, and ensure the cricketing opportunities we provide also drive positive social change e.g. improving gender relations and mental wellbeing.

**LEBANON**

**TRANSFORMING LIVES OVERSEAS**

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**311 BENEFICIARIES**

**4 HUBS**

**1,200+ HOURS OF CRICKET**

9/10 players said that being part of the Hub made them happier

92% feel that playing cricket connects them to the world

We supported 64 young people to become ICC Level 1 coaches
MCCF's Director and Head of Operations visited Pokhara to see the projects and attended the opening of a new ground supported by the Foundation in Biratnagar, alongside some celebratory girls’ competitions, with attendance from the National Team.

MCC Women’s Team went on a playing tour to Nepal, visiting the projects and coaching some beneficiaries.

Since 2019, MCCF has been nurturing and empowering the next generation of young cricketers in Nepal to build a sustainable legacy for cricket in the country.

Last year, through delivery partners Kidasha and Cricket Without Boundaries, 8,200 beneficiaries took part in MCCF programmes over the year and 80 young players trained and qualified as ICC accredited coaches through its funding.

In South Africa, 80 female beneficiaries from four Townships received a year of coaching in a female empowerment programme.

The programme centres around tackling the challenges they face in their daily lives. This project has been a great success and the Foundation is seeking funding to support another year with 120 more beneficiaries.

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In Sri Lanka, 15 girls were provided with cricket scholarships, with three progressing to the Under 19 National Team.

In Serbia, 600 Afghan refugees were provided with coaching and weekly matches as part of a programme backed by the ICC and Serbia Cricket Federation to support young migrants.

Eight beneficiaries received ICC coaching accreditation in collaboration with UNHCR's Sport for Protection toolkit.

"Throughout the years, MCC Foundation has consistently shown its trust and faith in our organisation. MCCF’s contribution has made a significant impact in advancing the lives of those marginalised and we are honoured to have the Foundation as our cherished donor. We look forward to continuing our partnership with MCCF and working together towards a brighter future for all!"

Kushil Gunasekera, Founder & Trustee of Foundation of Goodness
In Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda, 100,000 young people benefitted from MCCF coaching and social impact programmes. These were delivered by Cricket Without Boundaries and the National cricket boards—spectacular results making a massive impact on their lives and grassroots cricket and talent pathways in East Africa. 264 young players were trained and qualified as ICC accredited coaches. MCC Men’s Team toured to Kenya and visited MCCF projects.

EAST AFRICA

We supported 100,000 young people coached in East Africa in 2023

We supported 264 young people to become ICC Level 1 coaches

Fundraising

In the Summer, MCCF held its annual garden party for supporters in the Harris Garden, with an awards ceremony for its most outstanding coaches and players. There were two dinners held during the year in the Writing Room at Lord’s, for current and potential Benefactors and supporters, hosted by Stephen Fry and Sir Tim Rice. The 30th Anniversary Dinner in the Long Room raised £85,000 and this year’s Big Give Christmas Challenge — a matched giving campaign — raised more than £100,000 for UK and overseas projects. 75% of donors to the Big Give were MCC Members.
The public profile of the Foundation was enhanced across a wide range of media from social platforms to mainstream television, radio and press over the year.

Three MCCF films were broadcast on Sky Sports throughout the Men’s and Women’s Ashes series whilst MCCF’s Director, Dr Sarah Fane, was interviewed on BBC’s Test Match Special during the Women’s Ashes. The National Hub Finals were covered in two Guardian articles and footage was viewed 60,000 times on Instagram. Our short film announcing the game-changing funding from ECB and MCC - featuring interviews with MCC’s CEO, Guy Lavender, and Dr Sarah Fane, was viewed more than 100,000 times on social media.

A BBC film (produced by MCCF’s Special Media Advisor, Archie Kalyana, in collaboration with MCCF) was broadcast during a Manchester Originals Hundred fixture in August. MCCF launched a TikTok account in May and reached an audience of more than 113,000.

Our 30th Anniversary Celebration short film about MCCF projects won a Grand Jury Special Mention Award at the 2023 Big Syn International Film Festival, the world’s biggest sustainability film festival. Another short film, called ‘A Game For Everyone’, was made about MCCF’s February trip to South Africa with Gary Kirsten’s CATCH Trust. It was selected in the shortform category at the 2024 Smiley Charity Film Awards. As the world’s largest campaign promoting cause-based films, the awards shares video campaigns with millions of viewers, spotlighting charities tackling the most pressing issues of our time.

LOOKING FORWARD TO 2024

MCCF, with the help of the extra funding from MCC and ECB and fundraising of its own, aims to increase the number of Hubs to 150 and participant numbers from 3,200 to 5,000 over the next two years. It will aim to give all Hub participants access to mentors to provide players with support and access to kit and travel bursaries; increase the percentage of female Hub participants to 50% and provide six regional Springboard Programmes with additional coaching and access to talent pathways, helping the most talented players to attain their dreams of playing cricket at the highest level. All participants will access Cricket+ and specific modules on girls’ health will be delivered to our female players. MCCF will strengthen its partnership with Take Her Lead, a cricket charity founded by broadcaster and former England cricketer, Isa Guha, to support and inspire our female Hub players.

Overseas MCCF will continue to support Nepal, East Africa, South Africa, Lebanon and Sri Lanka, with an additional focus on sustainability through coach development. It will be developing a strategy alongside MCC to maximise the impact of our activities overseas and to plan the next five years of delivery.
Our work is made possible by the generosity of cricket enthusiasts around the world, whose support allows us to bring joy, opportunity, and the chance of a better future to thousands of young people. We wish to say a heartfelt thank you to everyone who supported us last year.

Special thanks to:

Richard Evans
The Fairstead Trust
Fairy Water Trust
Matthew Fleming
Captain WFE Forbes
Stephen Fry
Garfield Weston Foundation
Andrew Grant
Alan and Irene Halsall
Richard Hobbs
Hodson Estate Agents
Philip and Sally-Anne Hodson
The Holbeck Trust
Andy Holmes
Andrew Homer
David Hufton
David and Krystyna Ireland
Geoff rey de J ager
Rick and Melissa Johnson
Jim and Cyndy Johnston
J John Swire 1989 Charitable Trust
Michael Joseph
Miles Jupp
The Kamini and Vindi Banga Family Trust
Rohan Kapadia
Dr Alan King
Matthew Kirkby
Roger Raymond Charitable Trust
Paul Knox
Kusuma Trust
Candy Lawson
Letbus Trust
The Loveday Charitable Trust
IRK Maclaren
David Mallinson
A. Philip Marsden
Marylebone Cricket Club
Andrew Moncrieff
The Murray Lawrence Trust
Clive Myrie
Hugh Oliver-Bellasis
Jonathan Orders
Charles and Rachel Palmer
Dr Samir Pathak
The Petzl Trust
Daniel Pettz
Dominic Pemberton
The Philip Marsden CT
Fiona and Gary Phillips
Parents and players of Primrose Hill Cricket Club
Richard Reynolds
The Roden Family
Roger Raymond Charitable Trust
Chris Rogers
Rick Saunders
Kiran and Raksha Shah
Robert Sowler
Oliver Stocken CBE
A. Philip Marsden
The Neville Abraham Foundation
Mark Aedy
The Aldridge Foundation
Jan Wulf van Alkemade
Angus Lawson Memorial Trust
Charlotte Appleyard
Geof Ball
The Kamini and Vindi Banga Family Trust
Philip Basset
Adrian Beecroft
Peter Bennett Joines
Sophia Bergvist
Peter Blanc
The TBH Brunner Charitable Trust
Roy Calvoresi Esq OBE
Zarir Cama
Bruce and Jane Carnegie-Brown
Varun Chandra
Charles Stkey Charitable Trust
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Charles Wolfson Charitable Trust
J John and Doone Chatfeild-Roberts
Brian Colvin
Clare Connor CBE
Gerald Corbett
The Cricket Society Trust
Cullum Family Trust
His Honour Philip Curl
Simon Dangor
Neil Davidson CBE
The Derek Raphael Charitable Trust
J John Doble
The Dowley Charitable Trust
Mehmooda Duke MBE DL
Simon Dyson
EBM Charitable Trust
Tony Elgood

Thank you to everyone who supported us last year.
Thank you to the following for their support through free facility hire:

- Bradford Grammar
- Brighton Aldridge Community Academy
- Cranleigh School
- Dulwich College
- Darwen Aldridge Community Academy
- Framingham College
- Eastbourne College
- George Watson's College
- Hampton School
- Harrow School
- Hymers College
- King Edward VI School - Southampton
- Leyton Urban Cricket Centre
- Nottingham High School
- Norwich School
- Norwich High School for Girls
- St. Edward's School - Oxford
- Scarborough College
- Whitgift School

PATRONS
- Mike Atherton OBE
- Mike Brearley OBE
- Stephen Fry
- Mike Gatting OBE
- A. Philip Marsden MBE, Chair
- Phillip Hodson, Chair (end November 2023)
- Matthew Kirkby, Treasurer
- Charlotte Appleyard
- Varun Chandra
- Clare Connor CBE
- Mehmooda Duke MBE
- Michael Holding
- Roger Knight OBE
- Claire Taylor MBE

TRUSTEES
- Tony Elgood (end November 2023)
- Matthew Fleming
- Rick Johnson (end November 2023)
- Rohan Kapadia
- Dr Samir Pathak
- Daniel Peltz
- Chris Rogers (start November 2023)

AMBASSADORS
- Heather Knight OBE
- Roberta Avery
- Maia Bouchier
- Sophia Dunkley
- Saqib Mahmood
- Mohammad Nabi
- Louay Al-Kadro
- Maram Al-Khodir
- Georgie Heath
- Lucy Jayne Rees
- Melissa Story

THE MCCF TEAM

EXECUTIVE
- Dr Sarah Fane OBE (Director)
- Angus Berry (Head of Operations)
- Reece Bird (National Hub Manager)
- Izzy Gurney (Operations Coordinator)
- Suse Harrison (Finance Director)
- Poppy Reindorp (Development Director)
- James Bailey (Head of Communications)
FROM EVERYONE AT THE MCC FOUNDATION, **THANK YOU FOR HELPING US TO TRANSFORM LIVES THROUGH CRICKET.**

To learn more about MCC Foundation and to find out how to support us please scan the QR code

[QR Code]

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