

# 2024 REVIEW



**MAKING CRICKET A GAME FOR ALL**





Welcome to our 2024 Annual Review. This has been MCC Foundation's best year ever for delivery and for fundraising. We have supported more than 100,000 young people globally, helping to break down barriers to cricket, to grow the game, to diversify the talent pathway and to create social change. We are delighted that Seren Smale became our first Hub graduate to become a full England International. Thanks to all our generous supporters, particularly MCC and ECB, we are becoming a significant force for good and bringing hope, joy and skills to young people at a challenging time.

## OBJECTIVES & ACTIVITIES OF THE CHARITY

The mission of Marylebone Cricket Club Foundation (MCCF) 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 National Hub Programme for state school players.

Overseas, MCCF supports the growth of the game in Associate nations, bridges the gap between the grassroots and professional game, trains coaches, and uses cricket to drive positive social change.



## NATIONAL HUB PROGRAMME



MCCF is working to make cricket a game for all and to open up 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.

The MCCF National Hub Programme offers free winter coaching and summer match play to young people aged 11-16 who attend state schools.

In collaboration with County Boards, the programme aims to have a transformational impact on strengthening and diversifying cricket in the UK. It is designed to reduce barriers to access, providing equity of opportunity; to broaden participation in the hardball game; and to diversify and strengthen the talent pathway.

**Cricket+**: In addition to improving their cricketing abilities, the programme supports participants' mental and physical wellbeing while enhancing their life skills.



## SEREN'S STORY - OUR FIRST ENGLAND PLAYER!

2024 marked the very first time that a Hub Graduate has gone on to represent a full England team. Lancashire and Birmingham Phoenix wicket-keeper Seren Smale, a graduate of the Wrexham Hub, says the Hub played an invaluable role in propelling her from local North Wales cricket to the full England set-up. "It was so helpful for my development," says Seren, who made her England Women IT20 debut against Ireland in September just seven years after first playing cricket. "Any time I had with a cricket ball was great. The more cricket I was playing, the better I was getting."

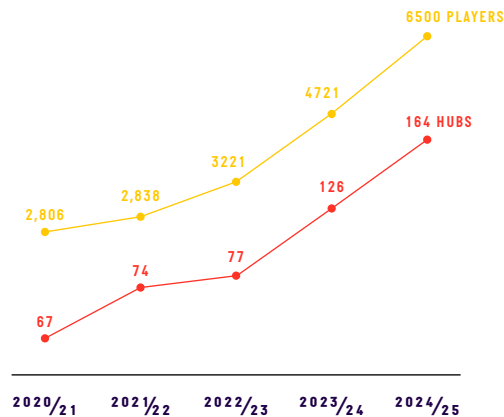




## IMPACT IN THE UK 2024

In 2024 MCCF delivered 126 Hubs for 4,700 young players across the UK, up from 77 Hubs for 3,200 participants in 2023. Participants from more than 1,700 state schools took part in the programme. Over 150 fixtures were played across the country.

In 2023, over 180 beneficiaries went on to join the County Pathway. MCCF will have the numbers for 2024 after all the county trials are complete in early 2025 but so far, the news is good, and 160 players are through to County programmes.



*"[My son] has been through the County trial process and has just found out he has been successful in gaining a place in his [County] Under 18 squad. The support and development he had through the [MCCF] Hub over the summer has certainly had an impact on this success, which again wouldn't have been possible without the financial support as well. [He] is really positive about the experiences he has had through the MCC Foundation."*

- 2024 Hub Parent

# 4,721 PARTICIPANTS 126 HUBS



**30%**  
of our participants  
in 2023 were female



**52%**  
increase in the number  
of girls compared  
to 2023



**38%**  
of our participants were  
from ethnically diverse  
communities



**94%**  
of participants said that  
being part of a Hub  
made them a  
better cricketer



**200**  
[AND COUNTING]  
UK Hub participants,  
150 boys and 85 girls,  
were selected to play  
representative cricket



**1,700**  
state schools represented  
by participants across  
our Hubs



**87%**  
of participants said that  
the Hubs helped them  
to make new friends



We are currently  
supporting **50** female  
Hub graduates to begin  
their journeys on the  
coaching pathway



**88%**  
of parents said that  
being part of the Hub  
improved their child's  
mental wellbeing



## NATIONAL HUB COMPETITION

2024 marked the fourth year of our National Hub Competition, our U16 state school competition with boys' and girls' finals at Lord's, which was generously supported in 2024 by the Menton Family and SIXES Social Cricket. The Girls' Hubs from Bradford and Guildford, and the Boys' Hubs from Bradford and Wembley, reached the Finals.

In the Boys' final, Bradford came out on top against the Wembley Hub by seven wickets. Ayan Zafar won Player of the Match for his spectacular 55 not out. In the Girls' final, Guildford beat Bradford by four wickets. Player of the Match was won by Sienna Austin for her impressive bowling spell of 4 wickets for 8 runs.

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, and London Spirit's Adam Rossington 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 in the capital.



## REGIONAL PROGRAMME

Over the summer, MCCF delivered a regional programme for the most talented players from the Hubs. Squads were selected to attend six 'Springboards' at venues including Lord's, Queen Elizabeth Grammar School, Wakefield, and the ECB-funded Abraham Moss Centre in Manchester. Following intensive training with teams of performance coaches, the players entered a regional fixture programme. Whilst the finals succumbed to September rain, there were many notable performances along the way, including a 180-run partnership between Lola Hubbard and Harneet Baniwal for the South-East Girls team, both of whom have subsequently been selected for their respective counties.



## LOLA'S STORY

"Lola has enjoyed a fabulous two years as part of the MCC Foundation Guildford Hub - both years with the team winning the national competition at Lord's. Her progression, particularly over the past year, is really evident, all thanks to Darren, John and the wonderful MCCF Guildford Hub coaches. Being part of the programme has awarded her with numerous opportunities, as well as Lord's, training and selection for the South-East MCCF team as part of the Springboard Programme. Lola has absolutely loved her time with MCCF Guildford Hub under the guidance of her fabulous coaches. The environment created for training and matches is supportive and nurturing, yet huge fun. Lola has made some wonderful friends, and her cricket has hugely benefitted being part of such a wonderful foundation. Thanks for everything MCCF!"

- Father of Lola



## GIRLS COACHING SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME FUNDED BY THE NEVILLE ABRAHAM FOUNDATION



WATCH OUR FILM

We recruited 50 girls across two cohorts onto the MCCF's new Coaching Scholarship Programme. The programme is dedicated to supporting girls aged 16-18, who have graduated from our Hub programme, into coaching roles. This support is provided through formal qualifications, practical experience (Hub and club volunteering), access to a coaching mentor, individual support, and professional development opportunities. These aspiring coaches delivered more than 200 hours of coaching at MCCF Hubs over 2024 and will be supporting delivery at 28 girls' Hubs in 2025.



## TRANSFORMING LIVES OVERSEAS

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.





Over 250,000 attendances at MCCF funded projects around the world in 2024



684 young people playing cricket every day through MCC Foundation support



Over 1,500 competitive matches from softball tournaments to pathway matches



100s of teachers and coaches upskilled to deliver cricket in the community



## EAST AFRICA



WATCH OUR FILM

In Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda, there were over 210,000 attendances at sessions funded by MCCF, that's 578 children benefitting from cricket every day in 2024. These sessions were delivered by our partners, Cricket Without Boundaries, and the National Cricket Boards - a spectacular result making a massive impact on their lives, on grassroots cricket, and on talent pathways in East Africa.

In February 2024, we set off to Rwanda and Uganda to visit our cricket projects. The MCC Men's touring team joined us for the Rwanda leg of the trip to play the National Team sides and coach some of MCCF's beneficiaries. Working in partnership with MCC enabled the Foundation to provide high quality match play and coaching for some of the most talented players in the country.





## NEPAL

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, Cricket Without Boundaries, the Nepal Cricket Foundation, and Sabal Nepal over 8,000 beneficiaries took part in MCCF programmes and over 50 girls have since gone on to play representative cricket at district, province, and national level.

Using cricket as a powerful tool for change, the Foundation's work is helping to challenge harmful gender norms and promote cricket not only as a game for girls but an opportunity for their own empowerment.



## RACHANA'S STORY

In 2020, while in grade 8, Rachana joined the **Breaking Boundaries** cricket programme, an initiative developed by Kidasha with funding from the MCC Foundation. Before this, Rachana had never played cricket. With both parents working long hours, they had little insight into Rachana's school activities. It wasn't until she asked for permission to travel outside Pokhara for a cricket match that they learned about her newfound interest in the sport. During coaching sessions, her school coach noticed her potential and arranged for specialised training at the district stadium. Through the efforts of the **Breaking Boundaries** team, Rachana and a few other girls received free training at an academy run by the District Cricket Association.

After multiple selection camps, she secured a place in Nepal's National Under-19 squad, and competed in the Asia Cup in December 2024 and will play in the ICC Under-19 World Cup in 2025.



"Before the Breaking Boundaries project I hadn't participated in regular sports - only annual school sports days where I would run. I started to play cricket just for fun - it was only after lockdown when the coaches encouraged me that I could have a future in cricket that I started to take it much more seriously. It's because of this support that I made it to the national U19 team and will be representing Nepal in the Women's U19 World Cup in Malaysia in 2025."

- Rachana Chaudhary

## LEBANON



In Lebanon, MCCF supports Alsama, a charity which delivers education and cricket to Syrian refugees in camps across the country. MCCF supports more than 200 of their students each year to play cricket. With the bombardment of Lebanon, hundreds of families fled back to Syria. Alsama established schooling online and in satellite centres across Beirut. The cricket continued, where and when possible, in Lebanon - in fact the programme in Bekaa Valley never stopped.

And in Syria, many of the pupils who had returned started to coach local children, leading to the emergence of a new territory for cricket. Many students have since returned to Beirut to complete their education with Alsama. The cricket is needed more than ever and there was great joy when the Alsama girls beat a Sri Lankan women's Team on their return - a moment which helped them to forget the trials and anxieties of the past months.



## SOUTH AFRICA



In South Africa, over 100 female beneficiaries from Khayelitsha Townships received a year of coaching in a female empowerment programme.

The programme centres around tackling the challenges they face in their daily lives. The initial cohort of girls in the programme have completed their second year and our partnership with CATCH Trust will be supported through a visit by MCC Members in 2025.



## AWARENESS



The growth of the Foundation's public profile continued to accelerate over 2024.

England's **Maia Bouchier** and Essex's **Adam Rossington** joined our coaches and players for a special Media event at our Leyton Hub to celebrate the expansion of our National Hub Programme through funding from ECB and MCC.

The National Hub Finals were covered across various platforms including BBC and other regional media. The finals at Lord's were attended by more than 1,000 spectators - a record crowd for a Hub Finals Day - with some 8,000 viewers following ball-by-ball action on our YouTube livestream.

ECB's match day programme for the England Men's Test series against Sri Lanka included a double-page spread featuring an interview with MCCF Director, Dr Sarah Fane, accompanied by uplifting stories from the Foundation's projects in the UK and overseas.

The England v Australia Men's ODI at Lord's was dedicated to the MCC Foundation. Players from our UK Hubs formed a Guard of Honour in front of the Pavilion. A short film focusing on MCCF's work across the UK was broadcast on Sky Sports, followed by a live pitch-side interview with MCCF's Operations Director, Angus Berry. ECB's CEO, Richard Gould, was interviewed about their partnership with MCCF on BBC's Test Match Special. Four new MCCF Patrons were announced on the day: Isa Guha, Mel Jones, Alison Mitchell and Lisa Sthalekar, who announced their appointments to their combined 300k followers on social media.

MCCF was declared the WINNER of the Children & Welfare category at the Big Syn International Film Festival - the world's biggest sustainability film festival - for its short film 'One, Two, Off We Go!' The film was one of 800 entries submitted from 120 countries and was subsequently shown on London's iconic Picadilly Lights.

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  @MCCFOUNDATION





## FUNDRAISING

This year marked one of our most successful fundraising years to date. We welcomed a host of new donors into our community of supporters, including 21 new Hub Sponsors, many of whom are MCC Members. We hosted three exclusive dinners in the Writing Room at Lord's, with guest speakers including former MCC President Mark Nicholas and current President, The Lord King of Lothbury.

This year's National Hub Competition was sponsored by the Menton Family and supported by SIXES Social Cricket.

We were honoured to be a chosen charity of The Right Worshipful, The Lord Mayor of Westminster, Councillor Robert Rigby. To date he has raised over £4,000 during his mayoral year.

In September, the England v Australia Men's ODI was dedicated to MCCF's mission to make cricket a game for all, raising over £30,000 for our UK programmes. Additionally, the Big Give Christmas Challenge, a matched giving campaign, raised more than £90,000 for both UK and overseas projects.

MCCF Patron, Stephen Fry and Fane Productions put on an event in aid of MCCF to celebrate the publication of the final instalment in Fry's Greek myth series, *Odyssey*. The evening, held at the Royal Albert Hall, raised £50,000 for the Foundation.

We were delighted to receive a transformational grant from Garfield Weston Foundation, which will play a pivotal role in expanding our National Hub Programme and ensure greater access to cricket across the UK.

## IN THE UK

- Our Hub Programme: this will continue to grow, with 164 Hubs active around the country, reaching new counties and locations for the very first time.
- Our National Hub Competition will expand to include an exciting U14s competition alongside the U16 one, with the finals taking place on the Nursery Ground during Hub Finals Day in September 2025.
- National state school competition: we are working to develop an annual cricket tournament designed to promote grassroots cricket among state school students across the UK. The aim is to encourage participation, foster talent and provide a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for young players to compete at Lord's Cricket Ground in the grand finale. The competition will be delivered by MCCF in partnership with MCC and the wider cricket network, and will serve as a talent I.D opportunity for MCCF's National Hub Programme participants, creating a pathway from schools to Hubs to County Age Group cricket. We look to hold the inaugural competition in 2026.

## OVERSEAS

- **Brazil:** we are launching a new project in partnership with Cricket Brazil and Cricket Without Boundaries to support the exceptional growth of the game in Brazil and to drive meaningful social change through the game. With a focus on growing the game, positive youth development and capacity building, we look forward to helping cricket in Brazil to thrive and are delighted that November's MCC Men's and Women's tours will enhance our new partnership.
- **Italy:** we are proud to be working with the Italian Cricket Federation and ICC Europe to support inclusion through cricket. Together with our delivery partner, Cricket Without Boundaries, we will be providing coach education and support with a dedicated cricket curriculum to promote social inclusion, particularly amongst Italy's migrant communities.
- **Afghanistan Women:** we will be supporting the launch of Pitch Our Future, which will provide development opportunities for players from the former Afghanistan Women's National Team who are now based in Australia. Led by our Patron, Mel Jones, this project is designed to help those players previously contracted to Afghanistan and now based in Australia, to play cricket as an Afghan Refugee Team and to build up their skills. The programme will also provide support for leadership skills, employability and mental well-being.

## SPECIAL THANKS

Our work is made possible by the generosity of donors and 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.

The Neville Abraham Foundation  
 Mark Aedy  
 The Aldridge Foundation  
 Jan Wulf van Alkemade  
 Angus Lawson Memorial Trust  
 Charlotte Appleyard  
 Geoff Ball  
 Philip Bassett  
 The Batchworth Trust  
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 Bruce and Jane Carnegie-Brown  
 Varun Chandra  
 Charles Skey Charitable Trust  
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 Brian and Kathryn Colvin  
 MCC Community Team  
 Jon & Ann Conibear  
 Clare Connor CBE  
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 The Derek Raphael Charitable Trust  
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 The Worshipful Company of Glovers  
 Stuart & Jieun Wrigley  
 Eric M Young and Family

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 Brighton Aldridge Community Academy  
 Dulwich College  
 Eastbourne College  
 Framlingham College

George Watson's College  
 Harrow School  
 King Edward VI School - Southampton  
 Nottingham High School  
 Norwich School

Scarborough College  
 The Oratory - Woodcote  
 Whitgift School

## UK PARTNERS

### STRATEGIC



### DELIVERY



### OVERSEAS DELIVERY PARTNERS



## THE MCCF TEAM

DR SARAH FANE OBE  
Director

SUSE HARRISON  
Finance Director

POPPY REINDORP  
Development Director

ANGUS BERRY  
Operations Director

REECE BIRD  
Regional Programme Manager  
(North)

ADAM DAVIDSON  
Regional Programme Manager (South)

ANDY HIBBERD  
Regional Programme Manager  
(Midlands)

IZZY GURNEY  
National Programmes Officer &  
Safeguarding Lead

JAMES BAILEY  
Head of Communications

## PATRONS

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MIKE BREARLEY OBE  
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MATTHEW KIRKBY - TREASURER  
CHARLOTTE APPELYARD  
CLARE CONNOR CBE  
MEHMOODA DUKE MBE

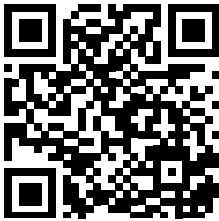
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JAMES GEFFEN  
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DR SAMIR PATHAK  
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