

SISSINGHURST CRICKET CLUB

King George V Field
Sissinghurst Road
Sissinghurst
Cranbrook
Kent TN17 2JA

01580 714845

juniorssissinghurstcc@gmail.com



SCC JUNIOR SECTION MISSION, VALUES and INFORMATION SHEET FOR 2024 SEASON

At Sissinghurst CC we have a clear mission in terms of what we want to achieve within our Junior Section. That mission is based on the following:

- *Adhering to an inclusive 'One-Club' culture, serving young players, both male and female, and their families, whilst working in partnership with the Clubs Senior players, Committees, the local community, and schools.*
- *Providing top quality coaching and playing opportunities for young players of all abilities, furnishing, and nurturing a junior and then senior involvement in the game.*
- *Producing both male and female cricketers that achieve Area and County recognition, as well as developing all levels of league and social cricketers for the junior and senior sections.*
- *Fostering the development of young players in a safe and secure environment in accordance with the highest sporting values. Player safety will always be put above participation.*
- *Creating and promoting a year-group parental programme that actively encourages the involvement of parents in the development of the junior section.*
- *Strengthening the Junior Section's culture to ensure an environment that is supportive and inspiring for its young cricketers.*

To achieve this mission, there are several core values and behaviours that we expect all players and parents to adhere to should they want to be members of Sissinghurst Cricket Club. These are as follows:

- *All players must practice and play within the laws and in the spirit of the game.*
- *All players must encourage their respective teammates irrespective of the level of individual involvement.*
- *All players must respect their opponents irrespective of the competitive nature of the fixtures.*
- *All players must be polite to umpires and respect their decisions. Do not show dissent by either word or deed.*
- *Listen to your coaches – respect them and work hard to gain their respect.*
- *Know when and where you have a match or training session - being late is disrespectful to both your teammates and coaches.*
- *Invest in and wear the right Club kit, take pride in your appearance and your Club.*
- *At Under 11 level and above all players will be expected to have their own equipment including a protective box, thigh pads and helmet which must be worn for all hard-ball sessions.*
- *Junior members are not allowed to smoke or consume alcohol on club premises or whilst representing the club.*
- *Parents are expected to adhere to the same level of etiquette and behavior as is expected of their children, unsporting behaviour will not be tolerated.*
- *If there is a problem speak to your coach, the Head of the Junior Section or the Welfare Officer.*

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How Do We Measure Success?

There are some key fundamentals to measuring our success that, if achieved, contribute to making SCC a "SPECIAL" Club. These are:

- *Success in all age-group League and Cup competitions.*
- *Production of excellent cricketers that fulfil their full potential as Junior members.*
- *Enjoyment of the game for all, irrespective of ability or gender.*
- *Continuity and quality in the coaching across all age groups.*
- *Involvement of parents both willingly and productively in support of the age group Lead and Support Coaches and the Junior Section generally.*
- *An active social programme that involves both parents and children in support of the Club and its stakeholders.*
- *Legacy of junior members who go on to represent the Club's senior sides.*

It is important for players and parents alike to understand that from Under 13 and above the Club is playing cricket in a League within which the standard, generally, improves year on year.

It is a competitive League, and the Club makes no bones of the fact that it aspires to win in both League and Cup formats. This can sometimes mean that not all team members get to bat or bowl in certain fixtures. On pitch decisions are left to the Captain and their leadership team (usually three senior players) as part of their strategic development as cricketers, which is actively encouraged by the League, but does not always lead to equal participation.

The Club fully recognises that it can be a real challenge to effectively manage the balance between cricket for all and the participation of Area and/or County level players in competitive League fixtures. We will always attempt to organise intra-Club games or friendlies against other Clubs that allows wider participation, but we may not get it right all the time. As such, in a desire to be **open and transparent**, we would ask that parents, who maybe concerned by this, discuss their child's involvement with the Head of the Junior Section before committing to the payment of the Annual Subs.

2023 SEASON REVIEW

Well, what a season of very strange weather! Having started with record breaking rainfall in March and April which not only made it impossible to complete any pre-season pitch preparation but also led to the delay of the season start, we ended it with seven consecutive days in September with temperatures of more than 30 degrees centigrade. Try planning for all of that!

As for the season itself, we once again raised the bar in all aspects of our Junior Section. From the administration and welfare to the coaching and the cricket played across all our boys and girls age groups, we have surpassed even my expectations.

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We started with the pre-season indoor nets which this year, through our partnership with Benenden School and with the continued support of our friends at Cranbrook School, we were able to split between our boys and girls. This allowed us far better use of the space available, which in turn allowed the players more focused training. Once we finally got outside the new net cages really came into their own. The numerous group and individual sessions that took place throughout the season, played an important part in improving player participation and batting and bowling techniques. We are the envy of many!

Our coaching group was 14 strong this year with all the coaches having completed the ECB Foundation Coaching Course. In addition, we were incredibly lucky to have the input of Liam Cook the new Head of Cricket at Benenden School. We very much look forward to continuing to work with Liam and the new Director of Sport at Benenden School, Ryan Garnsworthy next season. Thank you to all our coaches for your dedication across a season that looked, at times, like it would never end.

As with every season there is much done by those who are not necessarily seen as much as our coaches but without whom there would be no Junior Section. My thanks go to Amanda Agar for her brilliant management of our Welfare and Health and Safety, to Christina Dyas for her tireless work on our administration and Spond App management and of course to Graham "Digger" White and Mike Burgess and the team who provide us with such brilliant facilities – even Boris Johnson was impressed! Special mention must also go to Jon Agar for his magnificent efforts to further integrate our Junior members into Senior cricket.

Our new website has been much applauded from both within the Club and the wider cricket community. It is a huge improvement on its rather dated predecessor and now provides an excellent platform for both Club news and external marketing. On that front thanks must also go to Antonia Wood for the regular Posts we have all enjoyed, across the season, on the media platforms and to all our wonderful Sponsors for their fantastic financial and administrative support, long may it last.

On the field of play, we have once again punched well above our weight. We have been successful across all our age groups with some outstanding cricket being played by both the boys and the girls. The Under 13's once again won the League title making it four titles in the last five seasons. By losing just once, in the League, the total matches lost in the last six seasons now stands at five. Truly remarkable.

However, the outstanding team title must go to our Under 11 Girls Incrediball team. Unbeaten in the League they secured their second consecutive title backing that up with not only a Cup Final win but by being crowned the KCC Under 11 Countdown Champions in the county finals played at Marden in September.

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LOOKING FORWARD TO THE 2024 SEASON

There is much to be excited about as we look forward to the forthcoming season.

First and foremost, the Head of the Junior Section, Simon Latham, has agreed to succeed Pete Smith as Chairman of SCC. This will bring with it a large number of additional pressures particularly in relation to the necessary improvements to our Senior Section. In order to ensure that the Junior Section remains as progressive as ever we are delighted that Lewis Clift has agreed to become Head of Junior Boys and Ben Stinton, Head of Junior Girls. Their roles will be to continue the development of the playing and coaching programmes across the sections whilst Simon Latham maintains an involvement in the management and administration.

We are delighted that our kit sponsorship deal with JM FINN & Co, TN17 and will continue for the new season. We will review the Junior playing shirts for the beginning of the 2025 season. As with past seasons all our Juniors, both boys and girls, will be expected to purchase the SCC Junior section shirts with all players required to purchase one when registering with the club. Details of the Club Shop can be found on the Website

The Weald of Kent Junior League will once again be running competitions at U9 (Kwik cricket), U11 hardball and softball, U13 and U15 levels with additional U18 friendlies for the boys. In order to increase the amount of match time across our U13 boys we will be entering both a Year 7 and Year 8 side to the Under 13 League and Cup Competitions this year. This is very much an exploratory season, but we feel that this best offers as many of our Under 13 players competitive cricket during the season.

For our ever-growing girl's section there will be Weald of Kent softball and hardball Leagues sitting alongside the KCC Hardball 80 Competition and the Kent Countdown Softball Competition. Ben Stinton will also be reviewing other opportunities to both add technical coaching to our training programme and additional hardball matches.

Most of the League fixtures will be during the weeks of the Schools Summer Term except Cup Finals which will be at the end of August for all except the Under 9's. Once the Fixtures have been agreed we will circulate to all those signed up members across the Age Groups so that dates get in your diary early. **It is hugely important to team planning that if you know there are dates your child will NOT be available you let your Team Managers know at the earliest opportunity.**

All our fixtures will, once again, be coordinated through the Spond App so please make sure you have signed up.

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REGISTRATION

I am delighted that Christina Dyas has agreed to continue with the Junior Administration duties for this coming season.

There is one very important change to our Membership Policy this Year.

Due to the high level of interest in becoming Junior Members of Sissinghurst Cricket Club, we must ask that all Junior Members are available for team selection other commitments, outside of cricket, allowing. This means that Sissinghurst Cricket Club Junior Members should avoid also being members of other cricket clubs that participate in the Weald of Kent Junior Cricket League fixtures and/or clubs that participate in the Cricket Festivals organised by KCC where dual membership would preclude selection for Sissinghurst Cricket Club.

This will ensure that membership is allocated to players that want to both train with and play for Sissinghurst Cricket Club. It is incumbent on new/existing members to inform the Club of any dual membership at the time of joining the Club or renewing an annual membership.

Last year we requested everyone to complete new registration documents to ensure that our records are up to date.

If you registered last season and there are no major changes of detail e.g., Change of address / contact numbers etc then there is no need to complete forms again this year.

BUT.....

If you wish to re-join then please just let Christina know by email and confirm that your details have not changed. If your children have schoolfriends who may be interested in joining please give us a mention and pass this note on.

Please use the email below: juniorssissinghurstcc@gmail.com

If anyone needs 2024 registration forms, they are available on the club website or Christina can email out to you. The website is at: www.sissinghurstcricketclub.org.uk

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COACHING DATES/TIMES

Under 9's: SUNDAY mornings 09.45am-10.45am.

Under 11's: SUNDAY mornings 09.30am-11.00am

Under 13's: SUNDAY mornings 11am-12.30pm.

Under 16's: SUNDAY mornings 11am-12.30pm

Girls Section: SUNDAY mornings 11am-12.30pm

Sunday Coaching will commence on **Sunday 28th April** and run every Sunday morning until **Sunday 7th July inclusive**.

Any youngsters too old for the junior teams can join Senior club night on a Wednesday from 6pm once the season commences.

PRE-SEASON INDOOR NETS

We are delighted to confirm that the SCC Junior Pre-Season Nets will be hosted at Benenden School this year and will commence on Sunday 28th January. These sessions will run through to Sunday 21st April, with the only exception being for the 3 Sundays in the Easter break from 24th March to 7th April.

The hall is booked from 3pm to 5pm for the boys and 5pm to 7pm for the girls. We are very lucky to be able to use such a fantastic facility and will also be benefitting from the coaching of Head of Cricket, Liam Cook for the sessions.

3pm to 4pm – Under 11 and 15 boys Hardball. For the boys this will predominantly be Years 5 and 6 for those already playing hardball and those moving up from last year's Incrediball group. A new development for our Under 15 boys is that we have entered into the Weald of Kent League for this year, with 10 fixtures booked. We look forward to welcoming more Under 15s at the net sessions.

4pm to 5pm - Under 13 Boys. This is our largest group with two teams entered in the Weald of Kent League and Cup competitions. Therefore, they will need the full use of the nets for the hour.

5pm to 7pm – All Girls Y5 and up. We will be joined by Benenden girls. The time and space we have will allow sessions to be a mix of nets and training games.

Please can all players bring their own cricket ball and cricket equipment for hardball nets.

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For our older Juniors (Years 11, 12 and 13 plus those who played regularly for the Seniors last season) we are delighted to be able to offer Club funded Senior Nets at Sutton Valence School from 7.30pm to 9pm starting on Sunday 28th January and running through to Sunday 2nd April. This offers a fantastic opportunity get to know the Senior Members a little better as well as demonstrating just what you can do. The nets will be held in conjunction with Linton CC so a good turnout is pretty much guaranteed on a weekly basis. Please do take advantage of this free pre-season opportunity.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES & PAYMENT

The annual Membership Fee for children at years 2-4 is £87.50 and years 5-8 is £97.50 per child. There will be a charge of £30 for our Junior Members from Years 9 to 13. There may also be a match fee of £5 for all Junior Members representing the Club in Senior Saturday and Sunday sides during the season.

We are asking this year, in an attempt to reduce the administrative burden, that **All Payments** are by BACs Transfer to; Lloyds: Account Number: 00286889 Sort Code: 30-92-36 Reference: (Surname) Junior Subs

The costs include all coaching sessions, League and Festival participations.

TEAM MANAGERS and ASSISTANT COACHES

The coaching team will be 14 strong this year with all of the coaches being ECB Level 1 and DBS compliant.

U9 – Brough Cooper and Nick Snoek with Tim Grierson-Rickford in support.

U11 Softball - Daryl Lloyd and Mike Godfrey

U11 Hardball – Giles Robinson, Toby Vallance and Tom Cripps

U13 Hardball Year 8 - Tim Grierson-Rickford and David Carr

U13 Hardball Year 7 - Lewis Clift, Tim Pett, Jon Agar, Giles Kennedy and Oliver Morris (to be shared as decided by squad selection).

U15 – Jon Agar, Lewis Clift and Daryl Lloyd

U18 – Phil Browning (1st XI Senior Capt) and Tom Elliott

Girls U11 Softball - Ben Stinton and Viv Stewart

Girls U13 Hardball – Daryl Lloyd and Pedro Stewart

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Simon Latham will provide support across both the boys and girls sections as required.

We are always looking for more Coaches so if any parents would like to assist with the teams as 'team managers' or coaching assistants then please let me know.

If you are interested and would like to attend any ECB coaching courses, Level 1 and 2, the club will cover the costs.

SOCIAL PROGRAMME

An important element of what makes SCC a Special Cricket Club is the social element that sits alongside the cricket. We are keen to organise and maintain an active programme of social events that not only promote the Club but also raise the valuable funds required to improve the facilities we all enjoy.

If you would like to be involved in the organisation of this programme or have ideas on certain types of events, please can you let us know.

SPONSORSHIP and FUND RAISING

A key element of our progression is raising funds to allow for such things as the All Weather Net Cages or further improvements to the playing surface which are not possible without greater levels of sponsorship. If you are interested in sponsoring the club personally or via your business, please let us know.

We look forward to seeing you all soon.

The SCC Junior Section Team