

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 2026 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.

2025 SEASON REVIEW (taken from L Clift's Juniors' End-of-Season Presentation Speech 2025)

The 2025 season has been our biggest yet — and I mean *biggest*. We've had 180 juniors involved across 16 teams in the Weald of Kent Junior Cricket League and Cup competitions.

We started back in the winter at Benenden School for training, before moving in April to our superb home facilities — with our great artificial nets and pitches prepared by our brilliant grounds team. This summer we've played over 60 junior fixtures — more than half right here at home. We've expanded again, with an Under 7 team, two additional girls' teams, a second Under 13 squad, and a full Under 15 side. In total, 11 squads training regularly, nine playing weekly matches, all supported by 24 enthusiastic coaches.

On-field highlights?

- Our U11 boys won the incrediball league.

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- Our U11 girls are in the League Final Play-off next Sunday (finished as runners up)
- Our U13 boys are in the Cup Final next Sunday (finished as runners up).
- And our U13 girls are representing the Weald of Kent League in the Kent Finals the week after that.

We've also seen a large number of SCC juniors playing representative cricket this year — a clear sign of the great work happening each season. Well done to those who progressed into the regional pathway group — we can't wait to see what you achieve next.

Now for the thank-yous...

First, to our amazing coaching team, which has grown to 24 regular coaches this summer. Your commitment, knowledge, and enthusiasm make all of this possible. Please come up and collect a bottle of fizz as a thank you...

Jon Agar, Tim Pett, Oliver Morris, Argie Taylor, Brough Cooper, David Carr, Tim Grierson-Rickford, Mike Godfrey, Pedro Stewart, Viv Stewart, Toby Vallance, Alex Simcox, Adam Brownlee, Chris Innerd, Emma Bullen, Nick Snoek, Matt McKinnon, Matt Lucas, Ed Brennan, Joe Lewis, Jordan Heard, Tim Moore and Rob Forshaw.

Special thanks to our Head of Girls Cricket, Ben Stinton, for championing the girls' game here at the club. He's been a fantastic support to me and his fellow coaches.

The two Giles' — Robinson and Kennedy — have not only worked tirelessly with their teams but also helped coordinate a very successful mid-season evening here at the club, and offered their advice and expertise to keep the club progressing socially and on the field.

An extra thank you to Giles Kennedy for helping the ground staff with pitch prep — I've got a little gift for you after this from Graham and the team.

A coach who can't be here but deserves a big mention is our Membership Secretary, Daryl Lloyd. He's worked tirelessly behind the scenes creating Spond membership forms, chasing renewals (and seniors for subs!), and producing spreadsheets that have made my life much easier. He's on holiday, but I want to publicly thank him.

We've also had brilliant parent and supporter help this year — whether at car boot sales, registering teams, or behind the bar. Huge thanks to Helen, Julia, Laura, Gemma, Karen, the Fitzpatrick, Gask, Goodman, and Groom families.

In particular, thank you to Robin Green, our chief registrar, refreshment organiser, cake baker, and occasional co-opting specialist for other parents!

Two ladies deserve special mention — Hazel Kennedy and Charlotte Clift. They're ever-present at events, often running the bar while their families are out playing cricket. They're also my trusted confidants and advisers. Charlotte is away enjoying a well-earned weekend with friends, but I'm sure she'll enjoy her fizz later.

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Thank you also to Jackie Winner — our events secretary, clubhouse cleaner, and all-round do-everything volunteer. She sorted all the barbecue food for today, works behind the bar, and generally keeps the place ticking. I gave her flowers yesterday as she couldn't be here today, but she still deserves a round of applause.

One more person I want to mention — and I can't do justice to how much she does for this club — is Amanda Agar. She handles all our safeguarding, inducts new coaches, attends committee meetings, shares key information, and is always first to volunteer when we need help. Amanda, you are a club legend. Please come and collect some flowers as a small thank you.

Finally, our grounds team — the heart of everything we do here. These men have been part of the club for over 60 years, give their time freely, and produce the pitches our juniors play on. They support everything we do, whether it's setting up Sunday training or preparing three or four junior pitches a week.

Jonathan Gurr can't be here today, but I'd like to ask Mike Burgess and Graham White to come up and receive a small gift. Graham and Jonathan get SCC bobble hats for those cold 4 a.m. car boot mornings, and Mike gets an SCC cap for protection during his many sunny hours marking pitches. Gentlemen, thank you.

That's it from me — thank you all for making 2025 our best season yet. Here's to an even bigger and better 2026!

LOOKING FORWARD TO THE 2026 SEASON

As we look ahead to another fantastic summer of cricket, we are delighted to welcome all junior players and families to the new season at Sissinghurst Cricket Club. Our junior training programme begins on Sunday 26th April, with sessions running throughout the morning for our various age groups. With 11 junior squads this year—from our youngest Under 7s right through to our Under 17 Boys—we continue to offer high-quality cricketing opportunities for children of all ages and abilities.

We are proud that 10 of our 11 age groups will once again compete in local league competitions, offering players regular match experience as they develop their skills and confidence. (Our Under 7s do not currently have a competition, but we are very much on the lookout.) A particular highlight for 2026 is the continued growth of girls' cricket at SCC, with our U13 and U15 Girls teams entering the Invicta League for the first time to access more competitive fixtures and broaden their playing opportunities.

Our junior section continues to thrive thanks to the commitment of our exceptional coaching team. This season, we are supported by nearly 30 volunteer coaches, including more than 20 ECB-qualified coaches, of whom nine are Level 2 Core Coaches. Their dedication ensures every child receives high-quality, enjoyable, and age-appropriate coaching in a safe and welcoming environment. We look forward to an exciting season ahead and can't wait to see our young players back out on the field.

Most of the League fixtures will be during the weeks of school summer term except for Cup Finals which will be at the end of August (excluding U9 Kwik Cricket tournament). Once the Fixtures have been agreed we will circulate to all those signed up members across the Age Groups so that dates get

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in your diary early. **It is hugely important to team planning that you let your Team Manager know dates your child will NOT be available at the earliest opportunity.**

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

REGISTRATION

Lewis Clift, Daryl Lloyd and Robin Campbell will be coordinating the Junior Administration duties for this coming season.

We wanted to highlight a key point regarding our Membership Policy which we made two years ago.

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.

This year we request that everyone completes the registration documents through Spond to ensure that our records are up to date. More information will follow as to how to do this.

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

Agreed coaching times for Summer 2026:

Under 7 and 9's: SUNDAY mornings 09:30am-10:45am.

Under 11 Boys and Girls: SUNDAY mornings 09:30am-11:00am

Under 13 Boys and Girls: SUNDAY mornings 11:00am-12:30pm.

Under 15 Boys and Girls: SUNDAY mornings 11:00am-12:30pm

Sunday Coaching will commence on **Sunday 26th April** and run every Sunday morning until **Sunday 5th July inclusive**. Sunday 5th July will be our Junior Club Day, with a softball tournament for U7 to 11 in the morning and a hardball t10 competition in the afternoon.

Any juniors from U13 upwards are welcome to join Senior club night at SCC on a Tuesday from 6pm, from Tuesday 21st April.

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ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES & PAYMENT

The annual membership fees for juniors are listed below:

U7 - £60

U9 - £80

U11 - £100

U13 - £100

U15 to U21 - £60

Similar to last year, there will be a charge of £60 for our Junior Members from Years 9 to 13. This will provide players an opportunity to represent the Club in Senior Saturday and Sunday sides during the season without any additional charge. **The costs include all coaching sessions, League and Festival participations.**

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

In order for the Club to be compliant with the Club's insurance policy all those representing the Club must be Registered Members which requires the completion of the Membership Form and the payment of the annual Membership Fee in line with the Club's protocols. Failure to do so is technically a breach of the conditions of the Club's insurance policy and as such prevents non-compliant members from representing the Club.

TEAM COACHES

The coaching team will be over 25 strong this year with the vast majority of coaches being ECB Level qualified and all, without exception, DBS compliant.

U7/U9 – Jordan Heard, Angus Knowler, Adam Brownlee, Nick Snoek, Ed Brennan, Matt Lucas and Tim Moore

U11 Development/Softball – Brough Cooper and Andy Green

U11 Hardball – Michael Godfrey, Toby Vallance and Tim Grierson-Rickford

U13 Year 7 – Matt McKinnon and Tom Cripps

U13 Year 8 – Giles Robinson and Alex Hunn

U15 – Lewis Clift and Giles Kennedy

U17 – Lewis Clift and Daryl Lloyd

Girls U11 – Lead Coach: Chris Innerd

Girls U13 – Lead Coach: Argy Taylor and Alex Simcox

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Girls U15 – Stu Collier and Ben Stinton

We are always looking for more coaches so if any parents would like to assist with the teams as 'team managers', coaches 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/FUND RAISING

A key element of our progression is raising funds to allow for such things as the All-Weather Nets 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 Team