

Recreational Game

Summer 2023 saw the first year of the Women's WEPL – An exciting venture with three teams represented from Gloucestershire (Golden Hill, Frenchay and Dumbleton) then a further three from Somerset and two from Wilts. It was a success and goes some way to improving the standard of the Women's club game across our region. This is only the second official premier league of its kind behind East Anglia.

A busy summer with the following leagues:

- [Women's 35 Overs](#)
- [Women's League - North](#)
- [Women's League - Central](#)
- [Women's League - South](#)
- [U15 North](#)
- [U15 South](#)
- [Under 13 North](#)
- [Under 13 South](#)
- [Under 13 Softball North](#)
- [Under 13 Softball South](#)
- [Under 11 North](#)
- [Under 11 South](#)
- [Under 11 Softball North](#)
- [Under 11 Softball South](#)
- [Women's Soft Ball League - Bristol \(1\)](#)
- [Women's Soft Ball League - Bristol \(2\)](#)
- [Women's Soft Ball League - Cheltenham](#)
- [Women's Soft Ball League - GFoD](#)
- [Women's Soft Ball League - Stroud](#)
- [Women's Soft Ball League - Cotswolds](#)
- [Women's Soft Ball League - East](#)
- [Women's Soft Ball League - GFoD Friendly](#)
- [Girls Only National Programmes](#)

We held festivals for girls within national programmes increasing the volume of clubs with girls' sections across the county. Run by GCF and supported by clubs these were a huge success as demonstrated by the growth table below.

GIRLS	2021	2022	2023
COMPETITION			
U9			1 X LEAGUE 32 TEAMS
U11	2 X LEAGUES 14 TEAMS	2 X LEAGUES 12 TEAMS	4 X LEAGUES 22 TEAMS
U13	3 X LEAGUES 18 TEAMS	3 X LEAGUES 16 TEAMS	4 X LEAGUES 20 TEAMS
U15	1 X LEAGUE 9 TEAMS	2 X LEAGUES 9 TEAMS	2 X LEAGUES 13 TEAMS
TOTAL TEAMS	41	37	87

This summer we once again ran 100 ball cup both hardball and softball, which culminated in an exciting finals day at Stroud CC.

We held girls league finals days at chipping Sodbury for 13's and 15's with 11's hardball taking place at Cirencester and U11 softball taking place at Old Bristolians, again a great success and much appreciated by the clubs.

Wednesday November 22nd we held our recreational awards evening where we celebrated the fantastic work of all our Women and Girl club volunteers as well as the success for outstanding performances of individuals and teams.

Growth in Women's cricket detailed below:

WOMENS	YEAR	2021	2022	2023
COMPETITION				
WEPL				3 X GLOS 3 X SOMERSET 2 X WILTS
35 OVER (HB)			1 X LEAGUE 6 TEAMS	1 X LEAGUE 8 TEAMS
T20 (HB)		2 X LEAGUES 11 TEAMS	2 X LEAGUES 10 TEAMS	3 X LEAGUES 18 TEAMS
SOFTBALL		4 X LEAGUES 24 TEAMS	5 X LEAGUES 30 TEAMS	7 X LEAGUES 38 TEAMS
INDOOR		5 X LEAGUES 29 TEAMS	6 X LEAGUES 36 TEAMS	6 X LEAGUES 40 TEAMS
100 CUP SB & HB			22 TEAMS	28 TEAMS
TOTAL TEAM		35 TEAMS	68 TEAMS	135 TEAMS

Our former Women and Girls working group is now a formal committee, with structure. Allowing us to support the game in a more official manner. It has increased in capacity, and we have a broader voice in making decisions.

County Age Group Girls Cricket

Under 11 Girls

Teamwork and communication. These 2 skills best sum up this year's group of U11 girls. They have supported each other through every game, which has driven them to improve their skills and achieve some fantastic match winning performances. Every player in the squad has contributed with runs and wickets this year.

The season started with a flurry of fixtures through May half term, including a T15 festival at Teddies. A mixed bag of results came through this period as the girls tried to implement their learning from the winter programme. The highlight from this period came in our visit to Warwickshire where Elodie Seal hit a fantastic 52* in a 112-run partnership with Lottie Compton. Lottie also took a brilliant hat trick during the bowling innings of game 2 securing a 2-game win.

July brought another batch of wins vs Worcestershire & Warwickshire which took us into the festival at Rugby School feeling positive. The team arrived at Rugby eager to get going and started very strongly with a 49 run win vs Wales, key performances from Freya Wilson 35 and Willough Kojima 3-10. Game 2 saw a loss vs Northamptonshire but the girls played within the spirit of the game and didn't let this get them down. 3 more wins came including bowling out Oxfordshire and Warwickshire. Across the festival we had 12 different wicket takers as well as everyone scoring runs across the 5 games which shows the strength and depth of this group of players.

To close the season off the girls won 3 out of 4 games vs local rivals Somerset and finished with an extremely convincing win vs next door neighbours Wiltshire in a 2 innings game, hitting 120-4 and 122-5 keeping Wilts under 100 in each innings and taking 7 wickets in each game. Stand out performances were Charvi Jeganath 44, Freya Wilson & Lottie Compton 32 each and Frankie Halliday 4-14.

Performance of the Year

She has worked incredibly hard all year across all disciplines, but particularly on her bowling to gain consistency in her line and length as well as building some serious pace. This bowling spell in our last game of the season stood out for all the right reasons. Bowling quick, hitting a good length, putting batters under pressure and keeping her cool, she clean bowled 3 players and getting the other lbw and didn't allow any batters to settle at the crease. Taking 4 for 14 against Wiltshire, the U11s Girls Performance of the Year is **Frankie Halliday**.

Player of the Year

This player has regularly delivered with the bat this season and has a fantastic cricketing brain. She's led the team out as captain on multiple occasions and sets the tone in the field taking catches as well as having a fantastic arm. Across the U11 girls season she has been not out in 11 out of 15 innings proving she is extremely difficult to bowl against. She has been our top runs scorer with a total of 259 runs, regularly hitting 30+ runs a game. The U11s Girls Player of the year goes to **Freya Wilson**.

U13s Girls

The season got underway with a trip to Millfield School at the end of April for two warm up fixtures. Both games were evenly contested with both sides walking away with a win each. A great way to kick start the season, with runs and wickets being shared equally between the team.

A few weeks and training days went by before the girls played in their first 2 T20 CAG fixtures of the season against neighbours Somerset on 21st May. Highlights from the day were Tilly Chicken's innings of 26 in game 1 to steady and the opening stand of 62 between Isla Ray and Xanthe Bolam in game 2.

10 days later the girls faced off against Warwickshire in a 35 over game, where our opponents prevailed winning by 71 runs. The standout performer on the day with both bat and ball was Mia Joicey. Top scoring with 22 and bowling a very impressive spell of 3 overs for 6 runs.

It was a quick turnaround for the girls, as the very next day they faced off against Worcestershire and Northants in 2 T20s at Bromsgrove school. The girls narrowly lost the first game against Worcestershire by 1 wicket. Eva Ewers picked up 4 wickets and Ella Hobson had 1 run to defend in the final over, where Worcestershire scored the winning run off the penultimate ball of the game. After a quick chat to regroup, the girls were back out there again and put into bat. I don't know what they had for their lunch, but they came out all guns blazing in the second game. The innings saw a fantastic 51 run opening partnership between Eloise Maggs and Mia Joicey on 59 not out, a maiden half century. An amazing spell from Tilly Bending which was 3 overs for 8 stopped the opposition right in their tracks and handed the team their 3rd win of the year, winning by 66 runs.

After a couple of very successful training days, the girls had the privilege of playing in a fantastically poised fixture against the Aussie Wanderers touring side. The Glos girls restricted the visitors to 196/9 with Flo Miller being the pick of the bowlers bowling 3 overs 2 for 5. Even though there were strong partnerships throughout, particularly that of Flossie Parsons and Xanthe and Xanthe and Eva, the girls unfortunately lost by 34 runs. It was an amazing day for all involved, but a massive thank you must go to my assistant coach Ryan Walker, as if it wasn't for his work behind the scenes organising teas, the ground and everything in between, the day wouldn't have been as stellar as it was! So, thank you Ry!

3 weeks later, the girls travelled to King's College for a 5-day festival, alongside the development side at the end of July, playing fixtures against, Somerset, Kent, Hampshire, California and Cheshire respectively. Highlights of the week included Tilly Bending taking 3 wickets in one over against Hampshire. Flo Miller taking 3 wickets for 4 runs against California. And Mia Joicey taking 5 for 12 runs. Lucy Bull also contributed with her maiden 50 at the end of the week. A massive thank you to Rob, Sam, Lily and Gaby for your constant support across the week both on and off the pitch throughout the week.

After a week off, we had a return fixture against Warwickshire where the opposition remained victorious winning the game by 8 wickets. The very next day we travel to Harrow, London to play against the MCC. With the opposition choosing to bat first and with the girls taking regular wickets the MCC were bowled out for 127 within the allocated 35 overs. The total was chased down the total within 25 overs with Flossie to scoring with 36 off 28.

The girls finished their season with 2 very convincing victories against Oxfordshire, bowling the opposition out for sub 60 in both games. Top performers from the games include Mia scoring 36 off 37 with 5 4s and 1 6, and all the girls contributed with the ball but stand out figures from Iris Edwards, Lucy and Ella.

Performance of the Year

For her maiden half century at the Kings College Taunton Festival. The U13s Girls Performance of the Year goes to **Lucy Bull**.

Player of the Year

A superb all-rounder in the making, this player has proved herself in the batting and bowling department with key performances consistently throughout the season. The U13s Girls Player of the Year goes to **Mia Joicey**

U15s Girls

The teams first fixtures started at the beginning of June, two days against Kent, the first day T20s! Kent winning the toss elected to bat first, scoring 165/4 off 20 overs, Glos responded with an excellent opening partnership between Imogen (34) and Taylor of 47. The 3rd wicket partnership of 67 between Taylor (46) and Bella (21). Others contributed to our final score 17 runs short of the target 148-5. For the second T20, Kent again won the toss and elected to bat. Kent scored well putting our bowling attack under pressure, with Kent finishing their innings at 164-3. In response there were reasonable contributions to the required target by several players Emily 27 off 22, Imogen 26 off 21, Jen 22 off 25. But falling 27 runs short at 137-8.

Day 2, and to the ECB 40 over Group 7 league fixture. Winning the toss we elected to bat, with the opening partnership, between Prarthana (50) and Taylor (22) putting on 41. Prarthana holding the innings together making partnerships with the majority of team falling LBW for the 8th wicket. The team putting on 194-9 off 40 overs. Kent lost a couple of wickets at the start of their innings, with their opening bat, Geneviève Jeer (50) battling well, but once her wicket fell there was a steady stream with 7 wickets falling for 50 runs! Emily taking 4-30, reducing the visitors to 147 all out (37 overs), winning by 47 runs!

Then away to Surrey, we lost the toss and were put into bat. Opening partnership of 60 between Prarthana (53) and Ellie (20), with the team scoring a total of 178 all out (33.5 overs). Our bowling attack was too strong for Surrey, with Sophie SG taking the openers, Prarthana then getting into the act, followed by Emily! Sophie taking the loin share of the wickets with 5-7, Prarthana taking 3-25, and Emily 2-31. Surrey all out for 105 (27.5 overs), winning by 73 runs!

The team then took part in the Teddies tournament which was a great experience for the team trying a new format and adjusting their play styles accordingly to fit.

Into August, and a T20 day v Hants. For the first game we won the toss and put Hants into bat. An excellent all-round performance from the team, good catching, a runout and Jiya taking 3-13. Containing Hants to 75-9. We struggled to start with, being 24 for 3, but Megan (39*) and Jen (12*) recovered the

situation with an unbroken partnership of 52 to win the game by 7 wickets. The second game, another tight game! We batted first, putting on 112-6 (20). In response Hants just squeezing over the line 113-8 off 19.2 overs the final few wickets going 110-6, 111-7 and 112-8!! Winning by 2 wickets, it seemed closer than that at the time!

Back to the remaining One day 40 over league fixtures, and away to Hampshire. Winning the toss Hants put us into bat. A good team batting performance, producing a total of 167 all out off 39.2 overs. Another good team performance in the field, two runouts, 3 catches and Abigail taking 3-29, bowling Hampshire out for 109 (26 overs), a win by 58 runs.

We travelled to play Sussex and Kent, staying over in Orpington after the Sussex fixture. So, Sussex away in Brighton (BACA). Winning the toss we elected to field, bowling Sussex out for 74 off 26.3 overs: Olivia Mackenzie 3-22. In response, we won by 9 wickets (75/1 off 15.5 overs) with a not out partnership of 42 between Taylor 28* and Prarthana 25*.

Following the overnight stay, (where the girls popped across the precinct to watch Barbie!), we took on Kent for the return ECB 40 over fixture, losing the toss put us into bat, scoring 171 all out off 32.5 overs. All was going fine until drinks at 20 overs, then we had a few mini collapses! Jennifer opened the attack and with the second ball dismissed the Kent captain. Kent all out for 92, off 27.2 overs, the team winning by 79 runs.

The final fixture of the season was against Sussex. We lost the toss and were put into bat. We lost wickets quickly at first, being 39-3! We then had an excellent 4th wicket partnership between Prarthana (65) and Jen (67) of 129. This assisted the team to make a total of 216-6 off the allocated 40 overs. Sussex responded well, but the fall of their second wicket at 61, started the steady loss of wickets, with the visitors all out for 131 (35.3 overs). Emily taking 4-19!

Before we get into the awards we would like to highlight the skills, professionalism and leadership of this year's Team Captain Jennifer Rivers, well done Jen, an excellent year! And now to the awards.

Performance of the Year

We have had some notable personal performances again this year. But for her 5-7 v Surrey, the U15 girls performance player of the year is **Sophie Smith Graham!**

Player of the Year

This player has supported the team in all aspects of the game, fielding, batting and bowling, these include scores of 65, 53 and 50, a 3-25 haul and 3 fantastic catches behind the stumps v Kent. Our **U15 Girls player of the year is Prarthana Reddy!**

U18s Girls

It was a season of great performances and near misses for the Gloucestershire Under 18 Squad.

Five dominant wins and two defeats saw the girls finish second in their 40 over group.

And it was a similar story in the T20s where the team recorded emphatic victories in all their games bar the day when a fixture clash with Western Storm Academy deprived the side of its most experienced players.

Highlights of the 40 over season included wins over Wales by 141 runs and 6 wickets respectively and a 79-run success against Somerset. Cornwall were also soundly beaten twice. These results were underpinned by several excellent individual performances. Run machine Prarthana Reddy set the tone for a superbly consistent season with 86 from 87 balls v Wales and followed it up with half centuries against Somerset and Cornwall. Captain Izzy Patel also showed her fight and class with knocks of 57 v Wales and two useful scores in the forties.

With the ball wickets were often shared around. Jen Rivers led the attack with relentless accuracy taking 4-21 v Cornwall and Izzy Richards took 4-17 v Wales. Jemima Smith's 5-6 v Cornwall was every bit as impressive as it sounds.

The high spot of the T20 campaign was a nerve shredding 7 run win over Devon. The side also underlined their class in its final match, ending Wiltshire's hopes of clinching top spot in the group with a 10-wicket win led by an unbeaten 100 partnership from Bea Ellis and Bea Willis.

As much as the team performances, the progress of this age group can also be measured by the achievement of its individuals. In 2023 both Katie Jones and Izzy Patel made their professional debuts for Western Storm while several others represented the Storm Academy. We are hugely proud of them and know there will be any more to come.

Performance of the Year

7.3 overs, 4 maidens, 5 wickets for 6 runs. Sometimes the numbers tell the story better than the words. For her ruthlessly consistent bowling across two spells v Cornwall, the performance of the year goes to Jemima Smith.

Player of the Year

It is one thing to score runs but to make them when the team really needs them is another thing all together. Despite being one of the youngest in the team, this player repeatedly took responsibility, holding the innings together on a number of occasions. For her 219 runs at an average of 54 in the 40 over competition, the Under 18 player of the year is Prarthana Reddy.