



# Gloucestershire Cricket Foundation

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## **Chair's Report for Annual General Meeting – 28<sup>TH</sup> March 2024**

My report this year will emphasise some the key points from our 'Report of the Trustees' which is a full and detailed account of what we've achieved in the past year. It highlights our performance against our key objectives.

Once again, the people within the GCF have performed to a high level, with a wide range of cricket activities across Gloucestershire.

The bedrock of any organisation is its people and our people are our greatest asset. The GCF is fortunate to have a motivated and committed team who regularly make that extra 'stretch for the crease' to deliver the organisation's responsibilities. We have said farewell this year to some great people but we have also been able to create new opportunities for new and old faces. Our staff work hard and they are always here to help you.

Our key areas of success:

- Over indexing on the priorities required by the ECB
- A lead and a model for others within the game in Equity Diversity and Inclusion – which is now more embedded in the game's culture within the county than ever before. There is much more do and we are determined to drive forward EDI within GCF.
- We created 'Get into Cricket', an initiative where the focus was on young people and inspiring them to become volunteers within their own club space, therefore alleviating pressure on existing volunteers and creating long term stalwarts of the game.
- National programmes such as All-Stars and Dynamos received a high number of sign ups and outperformed the national average.
- Women & Girls – Again an area of significant growth with what amounted to a 100% increase in the number of clubs with a Women & Girls' section. The value these participants add to the club environment is of critical benefit.
- The schools programmes are a key element of the responsibility of GCF, delivering cricket activities to 187 schools and circa 19,000 youngsters for more than 4,000 hours in the past year, all significant increases on previous years. This is a great piece of work especially with the ICEC reporting negative comments on the availability in state schools.
- Making cricket accessible to all has seen exceptional levels of activities particularly in the area of ACE (Afro-Caribbean Engagement), Wicketz, Disability and Cricket Cricket. Participation in this area of the game has plans for growth and expansion.

The GCF finances are in good shape and well managed by the Finance, Risk and Governance people. The reserve held at the year-end of 30<sup>th</sup> September is robust. However, the deduction of the value held in reserve (sum of monies to cover the unlikely closure of GCF Limited) indicates a negative surplus for the year. This is due to the finance operating criteria as a charity where cash 'in and out' transactions must be reported at the time rather than when they would be utilised. The finance section of the Annual General Meeting will provide clarity on this point.

Moving forward, the GCF will continue to support and grow the game within the cricketing county of Gloucestershire providing there is a need, a resource to deliver and we have the funding, or can secure the funding, to sustain or grow cricket-based activities and make a difference to people's lives through the power of cricket. That has always been the ethos driving the organisation forward. Funding is a key priority and critical for the GCF moving forwards.

I also wanted to take this opportunity to declare a 'call to action'. GCF is always here to support you in every element of the game of cricket in Gloucestershire, Bristol and South Gloucestershire. Funding and help are available from us – particularly to improve facilities and chances to play in the growing and dynamic women's and girls' game. Please talk to us. We welcome applications from all clubs wherever you sit in the county structure.

On a personal note, my term as Chair reaches its end. I have been grateful for the support received during this time from a vast number of people. However, with the full support of fellow Trustees/Directors I hope to continue to perform the role of chair for another term, supporting, challenging, and growing the GCF within the strong team ethos that exists.

Finally, I'd like to acknowledge the support of many people. In no particular order because everyone has an equal value in making Gloucestershire a great place to engage in the game of cricket.

- Employees of GCF
- The Clubs
- Officials
- Leagues
- Sponsors
- Players
- Funding Organisations/Charities
- Gloucestershire CCC
- ECB
- Trustees/Directors

A massive thank you to everyone who contributes to cricket in our county. Your work is highly valued and much appreciated. As the 2024 season approaches, I would like to wish everyone a sunny, dry, enjoyable, safe and respectful season.