

## Annual General Meeting – March 2026

It is my privilege to present the Chair's Report on behalf of the Gloucestershire Cricket Foundation (GCF).

The Foundation continues to develop strongly and is held in high regard across the national cricket landscape. Since its establishment as a charity in 2021, GCF has been required to produce a detailed Trustees' Report as part of its annual financial reporting. This report provides comprehensive coverage of our activities; however, the key highlights from the past year include:

- Recognition by the ECB as a leading organisation within the recreational game
- Achievement of County Governance Gold Accreditation
- Attainment of Ready to Invest status
- Securing Game Changer, Cricket Cities and EDI Strategic funding
- Approval of the Foundation's strategic plan and four-year budget

These achievements have enabled the Foundation to diversify its income streams, extend participation to more ethnically diverse communities in Bristol, and further develop the women's and girls' game. As a result, GCF has expanded its programme delivery across Gloucestershire and increased staff capacity, with employee numbers rising from 16 to 22.

Delivery of national programmes, including All Stars, Dynamos, Wicketz, Walking Cricket, ACE and Super 1s, has continued at a consistently high level. In addition, with Bristol selected as a host city for the forthcoming Women's International T20 competition, GCF is supporting a targeted initiative to grow female participation locally, contributing to the ECB's ambition to increase participation from 340,000 to 500,000 participants.

The Foundation benefits from a highly committed and skilled staff team, led by a strong management group. The Board of Trustees also plays a vital role in providing effective oversight, challenge and support to ensure the organisation continues to perform well.

As with all high-performing organisations, GCF faces ongoing challenges. Revenue generation remains a key focus, particularly in the context of rising costs. The Foundation recognises the importance of securing additional unrestricted income to ensure long-term sustainability and avoid any reduction in programme delivery. Encouragingly, there is confidence that the current focus in this area will yield positive results. We are also grateful for the continued support of our partners, benefactors and sponsors.

Raising the profile of the Foundation has become an increasing priority. Recent investment in the right skills and capacity has allowed us to better articulate the impact of our work, with initiatives such as *Cricket Is a Game for Me* playing an important role in improving awareness and engagement.

Strengthening the relationship with Gloucestershire County Cricket Club has been a personal priority during my tenure as Chair. I am pleased to report that this relationship is now the strongest it has been for many years. While recognising the differing needs of the recreational and professional games, a collaborative and constructive partnership has developed, supported by regular liaison meetings and ongoing operational dialogue.

As I enter my final year as Chair, I am keen to leave a lasting legacy of strong collaboration between clubs, the Foundation and the professional game. Subject to AGM approval, I am also pleased to welcome two new Trustees to the Board, Lisa Pagett and Rebecca Davies, whose experience in the

women's and girls' game and the recreational club environment will further strengthen the Board's expertise.

Succession planning will be an important focus over the coming year, as my term concludes in March 2027. A formal process will be established to appoint a successor who can lead the Foundation forward and build a strong working relationship with the Chief Executive.

I conclude by returning to our message that *Cricket Is a Game for Me*. For me personally, cricket has always been more than a game. It has provided support, perspective and community during challenging times, and I remain deeply grateful for the friendships and opportunities it has given me. Thank you.

If you'd like, I can:

- Make this even tighter (executive-summary style)
- Align it precisely with AGM timing or spoken delivery
- Adjust tone further (more strategic or more personal)

Apply UK charity-reporting best-practice wording from colleagues and friends made through the wonderful game of cricket. Thank you.

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