

Disability Cricket Report

County Disability Teams

In 2023 we had a S9 (Softball) county team which played in the National Disability Competitions S9 Southwest League against Dorset, Somerset and Wales.

The S9 performance team had mixed results during the season, highlights were Dave Smart, Brandon Burger and Paul Sealy scoring 50 and retiring in the match against Dorset in Blandford. And Sam Britton taking 11 wickets during the season

After coming 2nd in the league for the 2nd year running, we were in the league cup final against Somerset. But on the day, the match was abandoned due to rain.

Apart from the Performance team there are 2 other teams the Development team and Pairs team, both play friendly matches against other teams and counties. These teams had mixed results but gave players the opportunities to play competitive cricket and experience a longer game format.

In Autumn 2022 we held our first trials for the county teams, after which we formed a D40 (hardball) team that played a couple of friendly matches during the season. This was in preparation for this coming season where we have entered the National Disability D40 Pursuit South West League.

Following the performance of 3 of the players within the squad in 2023, we are delighted to announce that they have been selected for the Disability Premier League Womens squad for 2024

Super1s.

Super1s provides young people with additional needs the opportunity to play regular competitive cricket, make friends and develop personal skills. The Super1s is funded by The Lords Taverners. The hubs meet weekly throughout the year in 4 community hubs across the county. Last year 64 young people came to Super1s, from Forest of Dean, Stroud, Cheltenham and South Gloucestershire.

Last year we ran 6 festivals and competitions where the young people come together to play cricket in matches against each other and Super1s from neighbouring counties.

In the summer 5 young people went on a residential to the New Forest where they tested their resilience, confidence and independence whilst completing various activities over 3 days.

One of the main outcomes from Super1s is to enable the young people to have the skills and confidence to progress within cricket. It is great to see that 5 more Super1s have been selected to play in the County teams for 2024, joining the 5 already in the squad from previous years.

SEND Programme

The Disability SEND Programme is funded by The Lord Taverners and delivers Table Cricket and Softball Cricket to young people at Special Schools and within SEN units in mainstream schools. Table Cricket is a fully inclusive adapted form of cricket played around a table tennis table,

Last year 20 schools or colleges were involved reaching 453 young people. The Table Cricket delivery culminated in 2 county competitions in which 11 teams competed. Following the competitions Bradley Stoke Community School, Blaise High School and The Shrubberies School and Apperley Centre qualified for the regional competitions at Edgbaston and Exeter. The teams at the county competitions were supported by 14 young leaders from the schools, who officiated at the competitions. 4 Young Leaders were invited to Edgbaston and 2 went on to officiate at the National Finals at Lords.

During the summer school delivery turned to softball cricket. 64 young people took part in softball festivals across the county

Disability Champion Cricket Clubs

There were 6 Cricket clubs that were Disability Champion Cricket Clubs in 2023. Disability Champion Cricket Clubs is a scheme run by the ECB which encourages cricket clubs to provide inclusive sessions during the season. This can be independent cricket sessions, table cricket sessions or supporting the the Super1s or County teams.

Clubs involved last year were:-

- Golden Hill Cricket Club who run disability session throughout the year
- Frenchay Cricket Club who run sessions in conjunction with Super1s
- Stroud Cricket Club who run sessions in conjunction with Super1s
- Bradley Stoke Cricket Club who hold table cricket sessions
- Painswick Cricket Club who supports the county teams
- Hawkesbury Cricket club who supports the county teams

ECB supported clubs last year with Grant and in year 1 clubs receive a kit bag.

At GCF we ran a Disability Inclusion Course to encourage club coaches to get involved in Disability Cricket. The course is designed to help clubs understand how to apply a range of tools to make cricket activities more inclusive and increase coaches' confidence and competence to include disabled young people in cricket activities.