

## GCF Chair's Report 2022

The final year of the Gloucestershire Cricket Board has been extremely busy and our hard-working team at Gloucestershire Cricket Foundation has done a great job with drive and enthusiasm to establish the GCF while continuing with all our cricket and community work.

At last year's Annual General Meeting, two retiring directors were thanked for their service and we acknowledged the long-standing commitment and dedication of the County Welfare Officer. Two new members who will monitor safeguarding, were welcomed to the team.

We also welcomed six new non executive directors to the board. The board has worked with the Chief Executive to ensure a smooth transition to the Gloucestershire Cricket Foundation. This objective was successfully achieved in November 2021, with an official roll-out on our website in January 2022.

Moving to charitable status as a Foundation will bring new funding opportunities, greater engagement with community organisations and closer links with the business world. The focus moving forward will be to understand the best direction of the organisation in order to achieve the best results in every area of our activity - on and off the cricket field.

The Gloucestershire Cricket Foundation will have two core objectives - 'Good For Cricket' and 'Cricket For Good'.

The first key area will concentrate on core cricket - clubs, schools, safeguarding, county grant schemes and coach development.

The second will target community activity with the aim of putting bats and balls into the hands of as many people as possible through cricket-based activities.

Our work in the community is already inspirational and making a big difference to people's lives through programmes that go beyond a game of cricket.

The Gloucestershire Cricket Foundation community activity is helping to promote cricket as a force for good in challenging times for the game.

In future, we hope to share more of our 'good news' story and the GCF team is currently assessing whether we might employ a media and marketing professional within our team to strengthen what we can do in the community and for club cricket.

Running in parallel to the creation of the Foundation, was the essential need to attain the gold standard accreditation required for the County Partnership Agreement (CPA).

This is, in essence, GCF's contract with the ECB and drives the level of funding received. The ECB is the principal funder of the foundation.

I'm pleased to report that a recent evaluation of our progress shows that the GCF is well on track. In fact, because of the dedicated work of our team, we are able to receive additional funding over and above the baseline funding available.

Moving to GCF means our executive directors are now Foundation trustees and the team has created sub-groups, with the involvement of our staff, to monitor performance. The groups focus on the key areas of Safeguarding, Governance, Finance & Risk, Charity and Equality, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI).

You may have seen the news that cricket has an important task ahead to ensure that our game is more inclusive. Our EDI sub-group is putting in extra work to strengthen our position and reputation as an organisation that welcomes everyone. At Gloucestershire Cricket Foundation, cricket is 'a game for all'.

Working with the ECB, we will be sharing information about the attitudes and behaviour we expect from everyone involved in cricket in Gloucestershire. We all have a responsibility to ensure the game is open to everyone and people are respected, welcomed and celebrated for their differences. 'A game for all' will always be our goal at the Gloucestershire Cricket Foundation

The financial standing of the GCF is robust after prudent financial management of incomes and expenditure and greater detail of the financial performance will be presented in a separate paper.

On a more general note, GCF is well respected within the game of cricket because of our exceptional level of performance and our ability to exceed pre-set targets in every area of our work. Gloucestershire Cricket Foundation is setting the benchmark for others to follow.

We are not complacent. Our team is determined to maintain our high standards and our ambition is always to be better at what we're already good at!

The reputation and performance of the GCF is highly dependent on its people, the most important asset in any organisation.

We have a high performing team with professional skills and tremendous motivation - both in our employed staff and our volunteers.

Recreational cricket in Gloucestershire has one of the best squads in the country with our staff supporting and working alongside a terrific team of volunteers who devote thousands of hours to grassroots cricket.

On a personal note, I have been reflecting on the milestones I've seen and I have had the privilege to be involved with and have led several teams. The GCF is among the best of the best and I'm thankful for all the support I have received in my first year as chair - especially in such a busy time of change and transition.

Finally, we have all had to deal with the huge challenges that the pandemic placed upon us all and hopefully - because of the great work of our NHS - we can look forward with optimism.

Looking ahead, I hope we can work together to ensure that cricket is a welcoming environment for everyone.

I would like us all to respect people for their differences.

I hope we can take care of people who are vulnerable and I hope we can keep people safe whenever they are with us at Gloucestershire Cricket Foundation,

We would like everyone to have a positive experience with us.

Thank you for all you do - in whatever role, whether it's as staff, volunteers, players, club officials, sponsors or supporters . Thank you for being part of the success of the Gloucestershire Cricket Foundation.

Andy Shield

Chair

March 2022