

## **Women & Girls' Club Cricket**

COVID once again impacted the front end of 2021, meaning clubs had no winter training prospect or an opportunity to recruit new players with no face-to-face school delivery.

The Women and Girls development group met several times over the course of that period to decide on the best possible playing offer across the county. U9's festivals had been added to this offer.

Across the County the number of entries as follows:

U9's Festivals – 8 (between 5+8 teams attending each)

U11's North and South League

North – 7 teams

South – 7 teams

U13's North, South and Mid

North – 6

South – 6

Mid – 6

U15's Blast – 9 teams

Regionalising the competitions meant, less travel and higher volumes of participation across the county. The introduction of the U9's festivals proved a huge success – off the back of the inaugural year of Dynamo's and the Hundred, both the format and the link with the high profile matches throughout the summer, meant that the volume of young girls accessing cricket for the first time was at an all-time high.

To complete the playing season for the Girls across Gloucestershire – Our wonderful Lady Taverners festival took place at Golden Hill CC, U9's U11's and U13's fixtures took place throughout the day, with no less than 22 teams entered. Winners of the U13's Winterbourne CC, then a tie in the final between Cheltenham CC and Golden Hill, topped off what was a fantastic day.

In the Women's game the growth in softball continued, with the absence of winter leagues owing to COVID, Clubs wanted to be sure to hit the ground running in preparation for the summer ahead. Without the presence of the winter training option, it was again difficult for clubs to recruit female members – despite this the 2021 recreational season was a huge success.

Across the County the number of entries as follows:

14 Softball festivals (varying entries between 6-10 at each)

T20 Hardball North and South – 10 Club entries

CDCA Hardball League – 8 Entries

Softball Leagues – Gloucester/Forest of Dean, Bristol, Cheltenham/Cotswolds, Stroud – 24 teams entered.

Across the course of last summer we carried out some extremely important community work with the South Asian Girls across Bristol. Holding a fully funded summer of cricket (Dynamo's) in partnership with Funds4Runs and Sky supercharged, during this period over 140 Girls of South Asian heritage had access to free cricket – we look to build on this in 2022 with a wider reach.

Laura Charles-Price, March 2022

