BSCC NEW THREE LANE NETS - PROJECT SUMMARY

Founded in 1990 Bradley Stoke Cricket Club was chosen to be a founder user of the Baileys Court Activity Centre in the 'new town' of Bradley Stoke in the northern suburbs of Bristol. Under good management the club has thrived in the past 10 years and now has four senior teams playing in the Bristol & District Cricket League on a Saturday, two senior teams playing in the South Glos. & Wiltshire Village Cricket League and five youth teams competing in the Bristol Cricket Youth Leagues (U9, U11, U13, U15 & U17). We also have plans about potentially forming a girl's team in the near future.

The youth section continues to be a clear priority and a guiding principle behind the strategic growth of the club and its facilities. We see the job of introducing the game of cricket to the next generation as our duty to our community and to the game we love. Cricket can not only introduce children to the excitement of activity and encourage a healthy lifestyle but it can instil in its young participants the importance of teamwork and fair play.

We are now proud to have a thriving youth section, providing cricketing opportunities for 67 juniors in 2013, the majority of whom are residents of Bradley Stoke. The club still sees the provision of ECB Accredited Coaches to assist the development of its youth team players as essential. This winter we are offering 6 coaches the opportunity to take a course with the hope that by the start of the 2014 season we will have an extra 5 qualified coaching assistants and 1 ECB Coach.

As well as the quality of coaching the club also recognise the importance of facilities and we have recently built and funded a new score board, sight screen and also funded the installation of new grass wickets at significant cost (>£13k).

Our playing facilities have a good reputation in the district. The practice nets and surrounding area are essential to the provision of safe, high quality coaching to junior and senior players. However, the nets and the artificial surface are in very poor condition, creating safety issues. This means that players cannot practice properly. In addition the current location points directly into the sun and impact on the visibility for the bowlers, causing a health & safety issue at certain times of the evening.

We have targeted delivery during 2015 to provide the new practice facility, as it is key to the success of our ambitious future.

Impact On Our Club

The club has youth players from the age of 4, and league team from U9-U17. This involves over 70 young people regularly playing cricket. Each age group is run by qualified coaches, which requires high quality facilities in order that the coaching can be provided in a safe and enjoyable environment with the players skills being developed in order to maximise their potential. Although our reputation is primarily that of a friendly and inclusive town club, we are also highly regarded for the quality of our playing facilities, and in the last couple of years three of our youth players have been selected for the senior Bristol & District representative side. Our playing facilities are very heavily used, although on training nights both the square and the outfield are used for practice sessions. An additional practice net would effectively give us 50% more capacity for conventional net practice.

This would be key to providing a safe environment for participants. The extended net facilities will be a major boost in giving us the additional capacity to develop girls cricket at the club. Our developing facilities will be of real and sustainable benefit to the local community and local schools, offering a route for young people into a well organised and family oriented cricket club. We pride ourselves on the accessibility of the club: we do not charge for training sessions at our ground, although all participants must be members of the club in order to be covered by our insurance policy. All our junior teams and kwik cricket players have access to playing equipment provided by the club so that young people are not constrained from participating due to financial constraints.

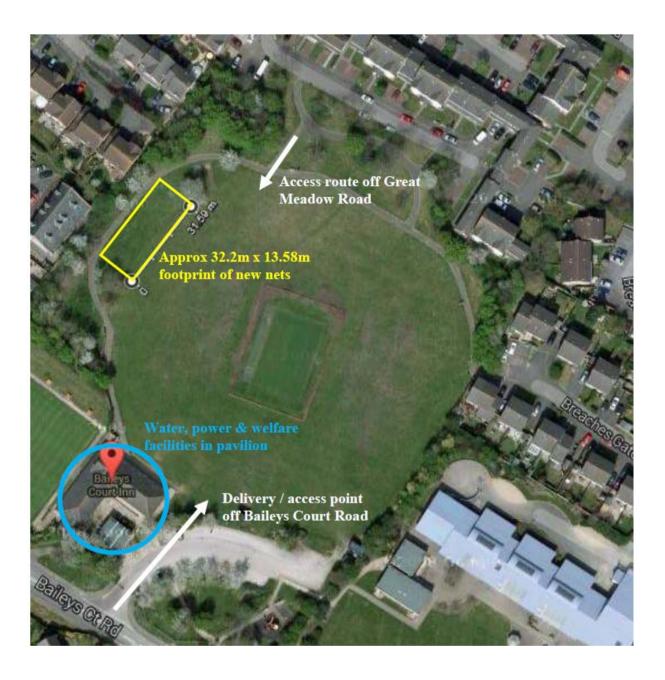
Community Involvement

We are confident that we are providing demonstrable evidence of the strength of our club organisation, the quality of our coaching and the positive environment in which participants, especially young people and their families, engage in playing cricket and participating in the wider activities of the club. We have close links with local schools and have a track record in engaging young people in cricket. We are proud of our record of providing opportunities for youngsters of all abilities. Most of our senior team players came through our youth system. Our track record has given us a strong reputation within the cricket community as well as the wider communities in the nearby town and villages. Having new practice nets will allow for a wider variety of coaching methods.

Sustainability

Although Bradley Stoke Cricket Club has only existed since 1991 it has always been run on a sound financial footing. We have a bar which generates annual surpluses as well as fundraising events and we provide and staff a drinks tent at the annual Bradley Stoke Festival. Our membership fees are intentionally set at a level to make the club as accessible as possible to everyone. We do not charge for training at the club therefore the new nets will be available to all. As a club we have completed a ten year plan to develop a high quality coaching programme built upon having qualified coaches. Some of our Level 1 coaches are products of our own youth system. We will continue to provide financial support to maintain and further develop our coaching programme. We have Level 2 and even a Level 3 coach to oversee our coaching activity. New and extended practice nets are a crucial support to this activity. All our youth coaches are volunteers, and all are parents of current youth players or former youth players. We have a great deal of practical support from the parents of junior players. Our senior teams are primarily made up of players who have grown up within our club, and a number of these are involved in coaching sessions, with junior and senior players. We run our financial affairs very tightly and are always looking for best value. In relation to the proposed new practice nets, we have obtained a quote from Total Play, but if we are successful with our bid we will seek additional competitive quotes in order to identify if we can find a more cost effective or better value for money solution to providing these important facilities.

Site Plan



Proposed New Three Lane Net Structure

