



DERBYSHIRE Cricket
Foundation

Impact Report 2025

#AGameForEveryone

 @derbyshirecricketfoundation
 Derbyshire Cricket Foundation Ltd
 @CricketDerbys



CONTENTS

Managing Directors Introduction	03
Who We Are	04
Transform the Women's & Girls' Game	05-07
Engage Children & Young People	08-09
Cricket in the Playground	10
Grow and Nurture Clubs and Leagues	11
Derbyshire Junior Cricket League	12
Welcoming & Inclusive Clubs	13
Workforce & Volunteers	14-16
Improving opportunity and access in urban areas	17-22
Making Cricket Accessible	23-24
Removing Barriers to Access	25-26
Empowering Communities & Improving Lives	27-29
Fundraising & Events	30
Religious & Cultural Events	31

INTRODUCTION



Richard Wood – Managing Director

At the Derbyshire Cricket Foundation (DCF), our purpose is to **empower communities and improve lives through cricket**. I am proud to share our 2025 Impact Report, which demonstrates the significant progress we have made towards our ambition of making cricket a game for everyone across Derbyshire.

Over the past year, we have delivered activity at unprecedented scale — engaging thousands of participants of all ages, across schools, clubs and communities, with record levels of participation in our children and young people's programmes, continued growth in the **women's and girls'** game, and expanded opportunities in **urban areas** and **under-represented communities**. Crucially, this growth has been accompanied by increased female participation, strong ethnic diversity, and targeted support for those facing financial, social or physical barriers to accessing cricket.

Our work continues to **improve health and wellbeing**, providing fun, welcoming environments that support physical activity, mental health and wellbeing. We are also **connecting communities** — helping to reduce loneliness by creating new social networks, friendships and support systems through cricket. Alongside this, we remain committed to **personal development**, equipping people with transferable skills, confidence and aspirations that extend well beyond the game, while providing clear development pathways for those with talent and ambition to reach their full potential.

None of this impact would be possible without the dedication of our workforce, volunteers, clubs and partners. **Investment in facilities, safeguarding, coach education and inclusive environments** has strengthened the foundations of the game and ensured cricket in Derbyshire is safer, more welcoming and more sustainable than ever before.

I am extremely proud of the progress we have made during 2025. As we embark on the delivery of our new strategy during 2026, the DCF team remains committed to working collaboratively with partners and stakeholders across the county to increase our impact, **widen our reach**, and continue our journey towards ensuring that **cricket truly is a game for everyone**.

WHO ARE WE?



The Derbyshire Cricket Foundation is a dedicated charity that uses the power of cricket to engage and inspire people in Derbyshire to have a lasting connection with the game.



Our Purpose is to...
“Empower Communities and Improve Lives through Cricket.”



Our Vision is to...
“Provide every person in Derbyshire with the opportunity to have a positive experience through cricket.”



Our Mission is to...
“Inspire a generation to say that ‘Cricket is a Game for me’.”



TRANSFORM THE WOMEN'S & GIRLS' GAME

In 2025, we reinforced our position as a national leader in the development of the women's game. Building on the momentum of 2024, the county saw continued expansion in club participation, with **over 60 clubs now running women's teams and a 30% increase in clubs with girls' sections**



Women's Softball

29 Softball Festivals in 2025

63 Clubs **93** Women's Teams

7% Increase in teams v 2024

670 Women played softball cricket in 2025 - 4% Growth

More than half of players are aged 41+

"The festivals we have been to have been very well organised, great team spirit and excellent support from all clubs. Seeing other teams help new players on the opposition, lots of praise and respect for each other"

"The club has been very encouraging as I have never played cricket before and have started at the age of 23. I have thoroughly enjoyed it and have grown as a player. The club does not focus on the result but the fact that women are involved in the sport"

WOMEN'S LEAGUE CRICKET HITS NEW HIGH!

The East Midlands Women's Cricket League (EMWCL) continues to be a vital driver of growth and sustainability for Women's cricket across the region.

64 Derbyshire teams in the East Midlands Women's League

23% Increase on 2024 teams

9 Teams played in the Derbyshire & Cheshire League

817 Fixtures scheduled in 2025 - 17% Increase

DERBYSHIRE TEAMS INVOLVED IN OVER A QUARTER OF ALL WOMEN'S GAMES PLAYED ACROSS THE MIDLANDS REGION

INVESTMENT IN DERBYSHIRE'S FEMALE CRICKET WORKFORCE REMAINS A PRIORITY FOR LOCAL CLUBS

We invested in Derbyshire's female workforce by funding coaching courses and training more female coaches than ever before. In 2025 we trained....

14 Female Activators

48 Female Coaches



TRAILBLAZING YEAR FOR GIRLS'

CRICKET...

The launch of the Derbyshire Junior Cricket League (DJCL) in 2025 revolutionised girls-only cricket offers across the county. With dedicated fixtures and formats for girls at multiple age groups, clubs saw a surge in participation and engagement - making this a landmark year for the growth of girls' cricket in Derbyshire

239 girls games played - more than double v 2024

39 Clubs with girls sections - 30% increase on 2024

69 Girls teams - 31% increase on 2024

DJCL Girls' Leagues

105 Entries - 134% increase on 2024

12 Dynamos Festivals - 50% increase on 2024



Partnering with Chance to Shine, we delivered girls' cricket in state secondary schools across Derbyshire...

6 Secondary Schools

700 Girls engaged

216 Hours delivered

87% Increase in delivery

ENGAGE CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

ECB National Programmes continue to inspire and engage children from age 5-11 to choose cricket.

Record levels of participation across All Stars and Dynamos in 2025, with 3,500 children engaged!!!



2122 All Stars Participants in 2025

4% Increase vs 2024

87 Centres - 6% increase on 2024

28% Female participants

Over 500 free bursary funded places used



1378 Dynamos Participants in 2025

25% Increase v 2024

77 Centres - 18% increase on 2024

40% Female participants - 3% Increase

Over 650 free bursary funded places used

18% Ethnic Diversity across both programmes - 3% up on 2024

1164 girls across both programmes!!

We are committed to making cricket accessible and removing cost barriers to playing cricket. In 2025, in partnership with the ECB and EDI fund, we provided over **1200** children with funded National Programme places.



ENGAGE CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

We provided high quality coaching camps throughout the year, including 15 Falcons summer holiday camps for children aged 5-13, giving children the chance to develop their skills in a fun and enjoyable environment!

441
Total Participants

79 Participants received financial assistance - totalling nearly £10,000

111 Girls participated in total with 2 girls camps at Denby and Ockbrook & Borrowash

Our falcons camps have continued to grow and played a crucial part in providing a year round coaching offer for young people. Across the year we have engaged 738 participants through our falcons programme.

“Amazing - always helpful and offer encouragement. Always give skills to do at home.”

“Coaches were fantastic”

“Couldn’t stop talking about how good it was, the goodie bag was an unexpected plus as well that made it seem extra special - he wants to sign up for next year already”

“The coaches running the course were amazing and my daughter loved it and can’t wait to do another!”



CRICKET IN THE PLAYGROUND....

In partnership with Chance to Shine, we continue to grow the amount of cricket we provide in state primary schools, encouraging thousands of children to play, learn, and develop through cricket!

In 2025, through our Chance to Shine Schools programme, we delivered:



3150 Hours of coaching 13,000+ Children inspired

138 Primary Schools Engaged - 11% Increase

2 Formal teacher CPD workshops

80% of students would consider playing cricket again

Through our place-based planning model, we have successfully supported transition from our schools programmes into National Programmes, Street Cricket Clubs and other playing opportunities within the county.

We also supported 30 School National Programme Centres with curriculum delivery providing 424 bursary places!

11 All Stars Cricket programmes in schools

18 Dynamos Cricket programmes in schools

“I thought cricket was boring until we did it. I really want to play at break times now.”

“The coach has encouraged me to now play for my local cricket club!”

“The children have all been inspired and were disappointed to know it was over!”



GROW AND NURTURE CLUBS AND LEAGUES

Cricket clubs are key to the long term sustainability of the game in Derbyshire. Clubs in Derbyshire continue to grow and develop with 20% more cricket played in 2025 compared to 2024!!

104 Affiliated Clubs

62 Clubmark Accredited Clubs

3 Senior Leagues

3 Junior Leagues

88 Junior Sections

100%

of clubs affiliated to DCF and ECB and met the minimum requirements for governance and safeguarding.

9%

Increase in Open-Age cricket played in 2025 v 2024

1834

Junior Fixtures played in 2025

6500+

Games scheduled in 2025. 8% increase on 2024!

25%

Increase in junior fixtures played on 2024

DERBYSHIRE JUNIOR CRICKET LEAGUE

The new Derbyshire Junior Cricket League (DJCL) launched in 2025, merging 4 junior leagues together!

69% of all junior cricket matches played across Derbyshire happened in DJCL

37% increase on games played vs 2024

182 girls games played. 90% increase on 2024!

DCF COMPETITIONS PROVIDING ADDITIONAL PLAYING OPPORTUNITIES FOR CLUBS!



20 Clubs

Played in the DCF Development League



48 Clubs

Played in the ECB Junior National Club Competitions at U13's and U15's in 2025. 41% increase in entries from 2024.

WELCOMING AND INCLUSIVE CLUBS...

Our County Grants fund is proving to be vital in supporting clubs to develop welcoming and inclusive spaces!

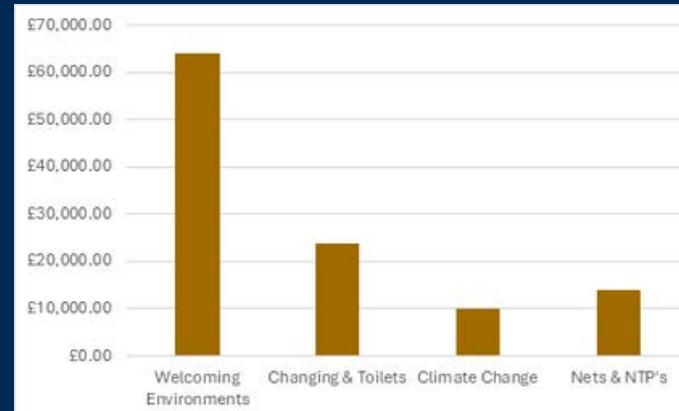
24 Clubs Supported

22% increase on 2024

£121,000 Total Investment

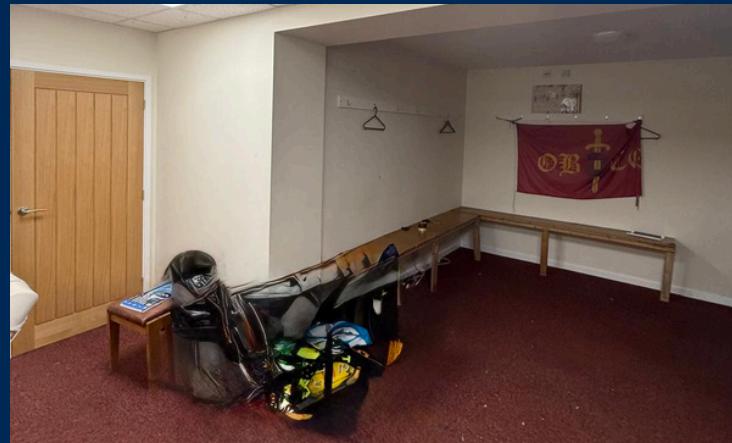
25% increase on 2024

£31,471 Match Funding



Ockbrook & Borrowash CC received a County Grant of £10,000 to support their changing room project, aimed at creating a more female appropriate changing space for their growing Women's & Girls' Teams to use.

“The recent upgrades to the changing rooms have had a significant and positive impact on the women's team. Having access to appropriate amenities has helped the players feel valued, respected, and fully integrated as an essential part of the club community.”



The Grass Pitch Improvement Fund (GPIF) has made a huge impact in Derbyshire.

GPIF has played a role in improving grass squares, bringing old cricket grounds back into use and supporting pitches needing improvement with vital funding for new maintenance equipment such as Rollers and Mowers.

£83,295 Total Investment

4 Clubs Supported

Click or Scan the QR Code to hear about Victory CC who have accessed the fund!



WORKFORCE & VOLUNTEERS

Our coach development programme is playing a key role in growing and diversifying the cricket workforce.

15 coaching courses

166 coaches trained

29% Female

16% Ethnic Diversity

100

Foundation Coaches Trained

39

Core Coaches Trained

27

Support Coaches Trained



92 Safeguarding Officers trained - 48% Female

3 Safeguarding Conferences held across Derbyshire

105 attendees



THE CRICKET COLLECTIVE...

Volunteers are the heartbeat of our clubs and communities, without them we wouldn't have a thriving and growing game in Derbyshire.

We celebrated all of our fantastic volunteers in the game at our annual Cricket Collective Awards! 132 nominations and 17 award winners!

LIFETIME ACHIEVER

ANDREW MITCHELL



RISING STAR

MATTHEW BUTCHER



GAME CHANGER

OLIVER TAYLOR



CONNECTING COMMUNITIES

HINDU CULTURAL AND WELFARE SOCIETY CC



CRICKET INNOVATORS

MARK ASHMORE



UNSUNG HERO

MARK BAILEY



COACH OF THE YEAR

LEANNE BUNTING



GROWING THE GAME

MICHELLE BUTLER



YOUNG COACH OF THE YEAR

FREYA HARPER



SAFEHANDS

MATTHEW GABBITAS



INSPIRED TO PLAY

RICKY PODMORE



SCHOOL OF THE YEAR

ANTHONY GELL SCHOOL



Other award winners:

Teacher of the Year: Louise White - Royal School for the Deaf

Metro Bank Champion of Girls Cricket: Ed Buchan

Volunteer Grounds Management: Chris Wood + Clowne CC

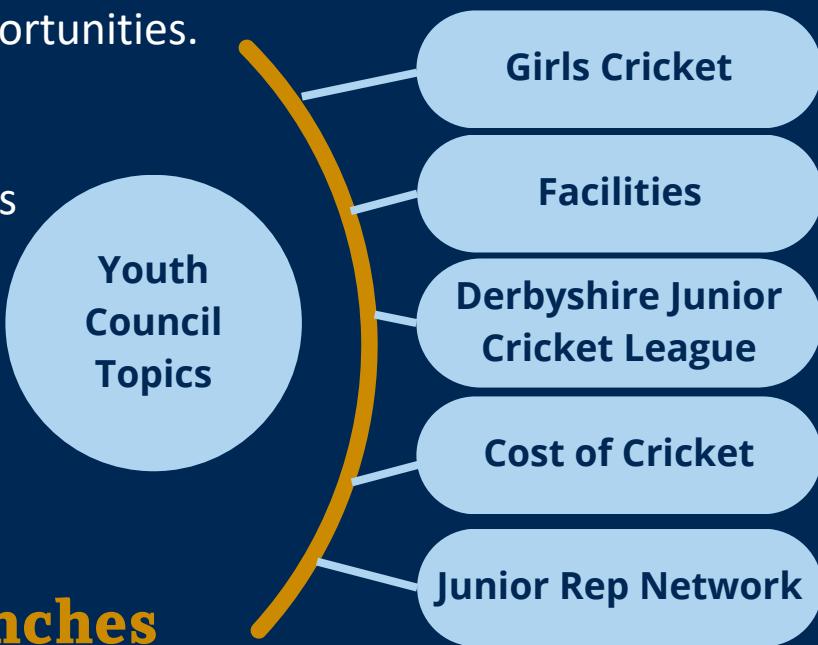
Outstanding Contribution to Coaching: Dunc Green

Champion of Women's Cricket: Nelle Hutchinson

DEVELOPING THE NEXT GENERATION OF VOLUNTEERS...

Our young volunteers programme continued to grow during 2025, providing young people with the opportunity to develop their skills and enhance their volunteering opportunities.

Our youth council engaged 14 young people during 2025 and is playing a key role in providing young people with a voice. The input is helping to shape the future of cricket for young people.



Junior Network Launches

The DCF Junior Network launched in 2025 creating a network of young people to provide a platform for young voices to be heard and create volunteers of the future. **51** young people took part in its first year across the following workshops:

Anti Discrimination	Mental Health	Coaching
Event Planning	Officiating	Bystander Intervention
First Aid	Social Media & Marketing	Sports Psychology



“Fun and educational day”

“well organised and structured”

“A good way to learn more about cricket and progressing into the future”

“It was a great learning opportunity”

IMPROVING OPPORTUNITY AND ACCESS IN URBAN AREAS...

We are committed to improving access and opportunity for those living in urban areas. With the support of our partner, Chance to Shine, we have made significant progress during 2025!!

Our Chance to Shine Street programme is reaching more participants in urban and diverse communities than ever before. In 2025 we delivered....

8 Programmes Running

358 Free sessions delivered totalling over 300 hours

431 Participants - 28% Increase v 2024

As well as providing playing opportunities, our Street Programmes are providing a pathway for coaches to develop their skills and are increasing the diversity of our workforce!!

31% Female - up 4% on 2024

64% participants Ethnically Diverse

Click or Scan the QR Code to hear about Mohsin's coaching journey with the DCF!



17 Street Coaches -

**50% Ethnically Diverse
30% Female**



IMPROVING OPPORTUNITY AND ACCESS IN URBAN AREAS...

We were successful in our bid to become an ECB Cricket City, which will see greater investment in the city over the next 3 years. Enabling us to provide greater opportunities to diverse communities within the city.

SOUTH ASIAN WOMEN'S CRICKET & FITNESS PROGRAMME

18 Sessions

20 Participants

The weekly women's tapeball session at the Sherwin Centre remains one of our most consistent and impactful programmes.

A key milestone this year was the group's participation in the ECB Manchester Tapeball Tournament at Emirates Old Trafford, where 11 women represented Derbyshire.

For many, it was their first competitive cricket experience and first time travelling outside Derby for sport. The event strengthened friendships, built confidence and fostered a strong sense of belonging, highlighting a clear appetite for cricket in this community.

“Representing Derby on a national stage made me feel proud of my heritage and inspired me to show younger girls in our communities that there is a place for them in the sport.”

“The fast-paced format boosted my confidence, helped me develop new skills, and allowed me to connect with other south asian women who have the same passion for cricket”



IMPROVING OPPORTUNITY AND ACCESS IN URBAN AREAS...

DRIVE TO MOVE - URBAN HUB FOR TAXI DRIVERS

Drive to Move focuses on taxi drivers and others working long, unsociable hours within the South Asian community. The programme provides a weekly hour of cricket that allows participants to stay fit, relieve stress and build social connections

MEN'S TAPEBALL

A group of 10 players competed in the ECB Tapeball Tournament at Old Trafford, which offered a valuable competitive outlet and provided participants with the chance to showcase their skills on a major platform.



FUTURE FALCONS - STREET INTROS

Future Falcons launched this year as an introductory tapeball offer for children aged 5–8, designed to bridge the gap between entry-level cricket and our youth and young adult sessions. Delivered across multiple inner-city venues, the programme provided a fun, safe and engaging environment using a taped tennis ball rather than a soft windball, giving participants an authentic tapeball experience while still being accessible for beginners.

13 Participants

6 Sessions

13 Participants

6 Sessions

IMPROVING OPPORTUNITY AND ACCESS IN URBAN AREAS...

This year, the DCF ran ECB National Programmes holiday camps to inspire and engage children from age 5-11 to choose cricket and remain active in the summer holidays.

6 Centres across Derby City

Normanton Park

Rykneld Park

Sunnydale Park

Arboretum Park

Sinfin Moor Park

Derbyshire CCC



We utilised our ECB funded bursaries to give FREE places to all 312 participants!



GIRLS DYNAMOS AT SHERWIN CLUB

13 Participants

Girls Dynamos continued to be a key vehicle for engaging young girls from ethnically diverse communities.

8 Sessions

Across the summer, we saw increasingly strong attendance and a noticeable rise in confidence, enthusiasm and leadership. The girls really came out of their shells, developing not only their cricket skills but also their personalities and social confidence. The offer plays an important role in widening the pathway for girls who may otherwise have limited access to structured cricket.

IMPROVING OPPORTUNITY AND ACCESS IN URBAN AREAS...

In 2025, we expanded our Lord's Taverners Wicketz offer in Derbyshire to provide further opportunities to access cricket!



LORD'S TAVERNS
Giving young people a sporting chance



3 Hubs across Derbyshire

3 Festivals delivered

2 Residential attended

8 Life skills workshops delivered

114

weekly hub sessions delivered

94

Participants engaged

55%

Ethnically diverse participants

52%

Female participants

46

hours of local taster engagement sessions in schools

Click or scan here to read about Matty Butcher's journey.



IMPROVING OPPORTUNITY AND ACCESS IN URBAN AREAS...

In 2025, our MCC Foundation Hub programme expanded to provide more free training and match play opportunities to talented children from state schools.



3 Hubs in Derby and Chesterfield

5 Programmes at U12, U14, & U16

142 participants assessed

70 sessions delivered

55 new participants

82 participants engaged

29% Female

16% Ethnically Diverse

Derby U16 Girls were Midlands Winners and North Finalists!



Our very own Emma Thatcher was named 2025 Coach of the Year in the MCC Foundation Awards!

3 girls progressed to County Talent Pathway

2 boys progressed to County Talent Pathway

8 Coaches

75% Female

38% Ethnically Diverse

MAKING CRICKET ACCESSIBLE!!

Disability cricket continues to grow in Derbyshire with more children and young people engaged than ever before!!!



LORD'S TAVERNS
Giving young people a sporting chance



SEND SCHOOLS PROGRAMME...

During 2025, through our disability schools programme funded by the Lords Taverners, we reached 30 schools, providing high quality and engaging adapted cricket sessions and Table Cricket.

**314 hours delivered -
52% increase on 2024**

30 schools engaged

656 children inspired

60 teachers engaged

DISABILITY SUPER 1'S...

Super 1's continues to grow. The wider impact we are seeing is greater confidence within the children and young people, and the added workshops teach life skills that are needed for a well rounded and happy life.

3 Hubs **8 Workshops**

36 Participants
110 Hours delivered -
44% increase on 2024

“The smiles on their faces, (and everyone who came to support them) goes to show how an inclusive environment can change lives”



MAKING CRICKET ACCESSIBLE!!

10 hours of Community Sessions

Providing inclusive and accessible cricket taster sessions at 4 community settings.

5 Disability Champion Clubs

Providing inclusive and accessible cricket sessions at clubs across Derbyshire.

DERBYSHIRE DISABILITY PATHWAY THRIVED IN 2025!!

For the 2025 season, the DCF took the disability county pathway under its wing. We had a brilliant first season, with lots of learning opportunities.

D40 Team

15 Players

8 Games

S9/S9 Challenge Team

21 Players

9 Scheduled Games

D40 team were crowned National Champions of the D40 Pursuit League!



3 players have been drafted in the 2026 Disability Premier League! 24

MOVING BARRIERS TO ACCESS AND IMPROVING OPPORTUNITY!

At the DCF we are committed to our mission to make cricket a game for everyone. We recognise that cost can be a barrier to accessing cricket and we are determined to remove that barrier to ensure as many people as possible can connect with the game!

During 2025, we awarded Access to Cricket Grants for those in need of financial support to help fund activity and purchase equipment.

66 Individual Grants Awarded

£8,300 Total Grants Awarded

17% Female

56% Ethnic Diversity



**KIT OUT DERBYSHIRE
CRICKET KIT REUSE SCHEME**

Our 'Kit Out Derbyshire' kit recycling scheme continued to make a difference during 2025!

The Kit recycling scheme takes cricket equipment and clothing donations and then recycles them to people in need of new kit.

12 Monthly kit out shops

420 People accessed clothing & equipment

MOVING BARRIERS TO ACCESS AND IMPROVING OPPORTUNITY!

During 2025 we provided financial support to under-represented groups and to those experiencing financial hardship to help increase the diversity of our coaching workforce.

**27 COACHES
SUPPORTED**

**£2925
BURSARIES
AWARDED**

**16 FEMALE
8 ETHNICALLY
DIVERSE**

**WE PROVIDED FREE PLACES ON NATIONAL
PROGRAMMES FOR CHILDREN FROM AREAS OF HIGH
DEPRIVATION....**

We delivered 91 bursary funded programmes across the county to provide free access to children from lower socio-economic groups. In total we provided 1285 participants with free access to an All Stars or Dynamos Programme.



34
Programmes



57
Programmes

553
Free Places

732
Free Places

45% Ethnic Diversity across both programmes

40% Female across both programmes



EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES AND IMPROVING LIVES THROUGH CRICKET

HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES AND FOOD (HAF) PROGRAMME....

We delivered a HAF programme in the 2025 summer holidays at Derbyshire County Cricket Ground, that provided free provision across a 2 week period for those in receipt of free school meals.

Children participated in a range of sporting activities, arts & crafts, games, and more with our staff and amazing volunteers!

36 Participants

8 Days of provision



WALKING CRICKET....

Our Walking Cricket continues to grow in popularity and is providing an accessible offer for those who might not get the opportunity to play without our programmes!!!

5 Hubs

86 Participants

184 Sessions Delivered



IMPROVING LIVES THROUGH CRICKET....

PARKINSON'S WALKING CRICKET....



Our Parkinson's Walking Cricket programme, funded by Foundation Derbyshire, continues to have a positive impact on the lives of the participants it's engaged!!

Recently, we spoke to Mandy about the impact these sessions have on herself and her husband Cas. Find out more by clicking or scanning the QR Code below!



YOUNG ONSET PARKINSON'S.....

Funded by Parkinson's UK, these sessions allowed us to provide a space for those affected by Parkinson's at a younger age to come together and enjoy sport in a supportive environment.

PARKINSON'S^{UK}
CHANGE ATTITUDES.
FIND A CURE.
JOIN US.

25

Sessions Delivered

14

Participants Engaged



EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES AND IMPROVING LIVES THROUGH CRICKET

We use cricket to improve and enrich peoples lives....

MONDAY MATES - DEMENTIA CAFE



Our café, funded by National Lottery Community Fund, is open to all, especially those affected by Dementia and their carers. It is a warm and welcoming space to have a hot drink and enjoy the company of others, alongside fun table top activities such as quizzes, puzzles, crafts and games.

This year's Monday Mates programme has been a great opportunity for us to grow and offer new things, such as more themed events.

Since January, we have held 2 special events, Easter and a Diwali celebration, as well as a trip down memory lane with the Central Co-op, which joined us to take a fun look at the local history of the Co-op.



FUNDRAISING & EVENTS

Our fundraising events are vital in raising funds that enable us to improve access and increase opportunities for people to play and connect with cricket.

On **Monday 23rd June**, a team of **15 DCF staff** took on the tough terrain of the **Edale Skyline Challenge** – a 20-mile circular route through the heart of the Peak District, with over 1,200 metres of climbing.

15 DCF staff

£7000 raised



Our Golf Day returned in it's second year bigger and better than before, raising valuable funds for our Access to Cricket Fund!

60 GOLFERS

£4,000 RAISED

20 BUSINESS SPONSORS



RELIGIOUS & CULTURAL EVENTS

We delivered our 11th Diwali Celebration in October, making it our biggest fundraising event to date!

The event raised over £31,000 to support the delivery of key community projects in Derby City.

300 people in attendance

£40,000 raised



IFTAR 2025

We welcomed guests to join us in breaking fast during Ramadan in March. The Iftar event brings together guests from the Muslim community and key community leaders at the Central Co-op County Ground for a fantastic evening of cultural learning and celebration.

Over 70 people attended and enjoyed a fabulous meal as part of our work to further engage the diverse community of Derby and Derbyshire.



WAYS OF GETTING INVOLVED

We welcome new sponsors and businesses looking to support the work we do. We are continually seeking support for a wide range of projects, programmes and events across all our priority areas.

DONATE: You can donate directly to the Foundation at
<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/DCF>

FUNDRAISE: We welcome your support in raising vital funds for the Foundation in any way you can

SPONSORSHIP: We have a wide range of sponsorship opportunities for businesses and individuals who would like to help us on our journey to making CRICKET A GAME FOR EVERYONE. For more information visit our website: www.dcfcricket.com

FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information about the work we do and to find out how you can support

Contact us:

**The Co-op County Ground, Nottingham Road,
Derby, Derbyshire, DE21 6DA**
info@dcfcricket.com

Donate Here

