



Berkshire
Cricket



SCHOOLS REPORT
23/24



INTRODUCTION



THE 2023/24 ANNUAL SCHOOLS REPORT IS A FIRST FOR ME PERSONALLY, BUT I'M PROUD TO PUT THIS TOGETHER, SHOWCASING THE INSPIRING WORK CARRIED OUT BY OUR COMMUNITY COACHES. THIS REPORT HIGHLIGHTS THE IMPACT THAT WE'VE HAD IN BOTH PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS OVER THE 2023/24 ACADEMIC YEAR, AS WELL AS THE EFFORT THAT WE'VE PUT IN TO OFFER CRICKET TO STATE SCHOOLS ALL ACROSS BERKSHIRE.

AMONGST OUR SUCCESSES IN THE 23/24 CAMPAIGN, WE MANAGED TO DELIVER OVER 2000 HOURS OF COACHING ACROSS 81 SCHOOLS OVER THE ENTIRETY OF OUR DIFFERENT PROGRAMMES. ON TOP OF THIS WE HOSTED 29 FESTIVALS, FROM KEY STAGE 1 & 2 SKILLS EVENTS, TO YEAR 5/6 DYNAMOS CRICKET COMPETITIONS.

THIS SUCCESS WOULD SIMPLY NOT HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE IF IT HAD NOT BEEN FOR THE CONSISTENT ENERGY AND ENTHUSIASM FROM THE BERKSHIRE CRICKET COMMUNITY COACHING TEAMS. THE YEAR-ROUND HARD WORK IS WHAT HAS MADE THIS POSSIBLE AND THEIR EFFORTS HAVE NOT GONE UNNOTICED. THEY'VE ACTED AS ROLE MODELS AND LEADERS OVER THE COURSE OF 2023/24 AND HAVING SUCH AN EXCELLENT COACHING TEAM IS TRULY A JOY.

AS WE BEGIN THE NEW ACADEMIC YEAR FOR 2024/25, BERKSHIRE CRICKET IS STRIVING TO REACH HIGHER LEVELS OF SUCCESS, GETTING CRICKET INTO MORE SCHOOLS AND ENSURE AS MANY CHILDREN AS POSSIBLE GET THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPERIENCE OUR GAME.

**ALLY DARLOW
SCHOOLS CRICKET MANAGER**



PRIMARY SCHOOLS DELIVERY



OUR PRIMARY SCHOOL PROGRAMME WAS DELIVERED ACROSS BERKSHIRE TO 65 SCHOOLS AND 7206 CHILDREN AT NO COST, BECAUSE OF CHANCE TO SHINE'S FUNDING. THESE 65 SCHOOLS RECEIVED EITHER A SIX-WEEK BLOCK OF COACHING OVER A HALF-TERM, OR A ONE-OFF DAY OF TASTER CRICKET SESSIONS TO AS MANY CLASSES AS POSSIBLE. THESE SESSIONS WERE ALL GEARED TOWARDS MAXIMUM PARTICIPATION FOR ALL CHILDREN, ENJOYMENT OF THE GAME AND EVEN USING CRICKET TO DELIVER LIFE SKILLS.

THESE SCHOOL SESSIONS ALSO PROVIDED US WITH A PLATFORM TO PROMOTE OTHER PROGRAMMES WHICH WE RUN, SUCH AS CHANCE TO SHINE STREET AND OUR SUMMER HOLIDAY ALL STARS AND DYNAMOS COURSES.

IN 2023/24 WE ALSO RECEIVED ADDITIONAL YOUTH STRATEGY FUNDING, ALLOWING US TO TARGET FOUR ADDITIONAL SCHOOLS THAT HAD OVER 40% OF CHILDREN ON FREE SCHOOL MEALS. USING THIS FUNDING WE WERE ABLE TO DELIVER 141 ADDITIONAL HOURS TO CHILDREN IN SOME OF THE MOST DEPRIVED AREAS OF THE COUNTY.



65 SCHOOLS



7206 CHILDREN



1253 HOURS

MEADOW PARK ACADEMY CASE STUDY



MEADOW PARK ACADEMY IN TILEHURST, READING WERE A PRIME EXAMPLE OF FANTASTIC CHANCE TO SHINE SCHOOL THIS YEAR. ALL OF THE YEAR GROUPS THAT RECEIVED CRICKET DELIVERY WELCOMED IT WITH OPEN ARMS, ENGAGING IN ALL OF THE LESSONS WITH ENTHUSIASM AND ENERGY THROUGHOUT. THE TEACHERS ALSO ASKED PLENTY OF QUESTIONS, HELPED TO RUN SESSIONS WHEREVER THEY COULD AND ALL IN ALL MADE THE ABSOLUTE MOST OUT OF THE PROGRAMME AS WE DELIVERED IT. MEADOW PARK WERE ALSO CHOSEN AS ONE OF OUR SCHOOLS TO RECEIVE A DAY OUT AT LORDS AS PART OF CHANCE TO SHINE'S SPIRIT OF CRICKET EVENT.

THE SCHOOL EVEN TOOK THE NEXT STEP WITH THEIR CRICKET, INVITING OTHER LOCAL PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN THEIR AREA TO PLAY DYNAMOS CRICKET FIXTURES DURING THEIR CRICKET AFTER-SCHOOL CLUB. THIS GAVE SOME PUPILS WHO HAD NEVER EVEN PICKED UP A CRICKET BAT SIX WEEKS EARLIER TO TEST THEIR SKILLS IN A COMPETITIVE, YET FRIENDLY, ENVIRONMENT, DEVELOPING A LOVE FOR THE GAME AMONGST CHILDREN WHO WERE COMPLETE NEWCOMERS



TEACHER CPD, YOUNG LEADER TRAINING & READING UNIVERSITY



OUR TEACHER CPD PROGRAMME IS EPITOMISED BY THE WORK WE DO IN ASSOCIATION WITH READING UNIVERSITY. OVER THE COURSE OF MULTIPLE DATES THROUGHOUT THE YEAR WE DELIVERED CPD TO OVER 100 TEACHERS FROM UNDERGRADUATES TO POST-GRADUATES. THESE SESSIONS ARE AIMED TOWARDS BUILDING UP TEACHER'S CONFIDENCE IN DELIVERING CRICKET DURING PE LESSONS AND DEMONSTRATE THAT CRICKET IS A SIMPLE GAME TO TEACH TO CHILDREN.

WE ALSO HAD GREAT SUCCESS WITH OUR YOUNG LEADER TRAINING IN 23/24, LOWERING THE AGE OF THE LEADERS TO 12 TO GET MORE CHILDREN ON THE COURSES, WE RAN THREE SUCCESSFUL COURSES DURING SCHOOL HOLIDAYS, TRAINING 41 YOUNG LEADERS.



***Over 100
Young
Leaders
Trained***

***44
Teachers
Trained at
Reading
Uni***



PRIMARY SCHOOL COMPETITIONS



IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE SCHOOL GAMES ORGANISERS ACROSS THE COUNTY, WE OFFERED SKILLS-BASED FESTIVALS AND COMPETITIVE COMPETITIONS FOR KS1 AND KS2 RESPECTIVELY. FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN, SKILLS-BASED FESTIVALS WERE RUN TO FOCUS ON LEARNING CORE CRICKETING SKILLS. FOR YEAR 5/6 CHILDREN THE FESTIVALS WERE DYNAMOS FORMAT COMPETITION, WHERE REGIONAL SCHOOLS WOULD COMPETE FOR QUALIFICATION TO OUR COUNTY FINALS DAYS.



10 SKILLS FESTIVALS
62 SCHOOLS
496 CHILDREN



15 DYNAMOS COMPETITIONS
144 SCHOOLS
1293 CHILDREN



1 COUNTY GIRLS FINAL
12 SCHOOLS
111 GIRLS COMPETING

SECONDARY SCHOOLS DELIVERY



OUR SECONDARY GIRLS PROGRAMME WAS TAKEN ON BY MICHELLE JEYARAJAH, OUR NEW WOMEN AND GIRLS OFFICER THIS YEAR.

MICHELLE HAS DEVELOPED AN EXCELLENT WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH MANY SECONDARY SCHOOLS, LEADING TO US GETTING INTO MORE SECONDARY SCHOOLS AND COACHING MORE HOURS THAN WE DID IN 2022/23.



13 SCHOOLS



995 GIRLS



347 HOURS



SCHOOLS FEEDBACK



WE ARE ALWAYS LOOKING TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF COACHING AND OVERALL EXPERIENCE THAT SCHOOLS RECEIVE WHEN WE DELIVER. AT THE END OF A PROGRAMME WE SEND A FEEDBACK FORM TO SCHOOLS, ASKING PE LEADS TO RATE THEIR EXPERIENCE OUT OF 10, AND TAKE A COMPARISON OF HOW COMFORTABLE THEY FELT TEACHING CRICKET AT THE START OF THE PROGRAMME TO HOW COMFORTABLE THEY FELT AT THE END OF THE PROGRAMME.

IT'S ALWAYS FANTASTIC TO RECEIVE POSITIVE FEEDBACK AND THE RESPONSES WE'VE HAD SHOWS THE IMPACT THAT WE'VE HAD, NOT ONLY PROVIDING ENJIYABLE CRICKET SESSIONS TO SCHOOLS, BUT ALSO IN HELEPING TO UPSKILL TEACHERS TO DELIVER CRICKET IN THE FUTURE.

HOW LIKELY ARE YOU TO REBOOK BERKSHIRE CRICKET IN THE FUTURE?

9.1/10

HOW CONFIDENT WERE YOU TO COACH CRICKET BEFORE WORKING WITH US?

5.6/10

HOW CONFIDENT ARE YOU TO COACH CRICKET AFTER WORKING WITH US?

8.4/10

CHANCE TO SHINE SPIRIT OF CRICKET DAY



DURING 2024'S NATIONAL CRICKET WEEK, WE WERE ONCE AGAIN INVITED TO HELP STAFF CHANCE TO SHINE'S SPIRIT OF CRICKET DAY AT LORDS. BERKSHIRE CRICKET INVITED THREE SCHOOLS TO THE HOME OF CRICKET FOR A DAY OF DYNAMOS CRICKET ON THE OUTFIELD, STADIUM TOURS AND EVEN HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET ENGLAND WOMEN'S CAPTAIN, HEATHER KNIGHT. IT WAS A DAY TO BE INCREDIBLY PROUD OF AS OVER 400 CHILDREN WERE ABLE TO ENJOY A MONEY-CAN'T-BUY EXPERIENCE.



