



**STAFFORDSHIRE
CRICKET**

“KNOT-OUT”

The Staffordshire Cricket Newsletter
www.staffordshirecricket.co.uk
August 2011



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Will Davis Earns England Recognition

STAFFORDSHIRE Under 15 opening bowler Will Davis has been selected for the England under 15 Development Programme. The opportunity will give the Stafford teenager an exciting chance to travel the world as part of an elite squad.

The 15-year-old, who plays his club cricket for Milford Hall, was on a shortlist of 25 youngsters, and found himself in the final 12 after helping the Midlands win the recent Bunbury Festival in Monmouth.

"It's amazing. I know it will mean a lot of hard work at the training camps where I'll be tested against other good players, but hopefully it will improve me as a player and help in my personal development too," said the Stafford Grammar School pupil.

"It's a massive opportunity for me and I'm really looking forward to the year ahead."



The programme will involve a series of specialist coaching camps at home and abroad.

Some training is scheduled to take place at Loughborough University, and the squad will also travel to South Africa in December, with further plans for a trip to Sri Lanka or India next year.

The scheme is part of the England Cricket Board's (ECB) commitment to develop young players between the ages of 16 and 19 with the potential of performing at world level.

Davis has been on an upward curve for the past two years, since receiving a call-up to the Derbyshire Academy.

He represented Staffordshire under-15s this season in the ECB Championship and has claimed more than 20 wickets for Milford Hall in the Staffs Club Championship first division.

Staffordshire head coach Alan Hill commented "This is the big news of the summer for us and is a fantastic reward for the hard work Will has put in to his cricket. The whole of Staffordshire Cricket should be very proud of him."

Club captain Guy Bulpitt said: "Everyone at Milford is really pleased and proud of what Will has achieved.

"It's great for the club, his school and the county as a whole.

"We may see less of him in the future, but he goes forward with all our wishes."

Davis is the second Stafford Grammar pupil to join the EDP. He follows in the footsteps of 16-year-old Kidsgrove all-rounder Greg Massingham, who was called-up for England under-15 duty a year ago.

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Louis Allison Hits Back To Back Hundreds

Staffordshire under 13 opening batsman Louis Allison scored two hundreds in consecutive games in the hugely successful Staffordshire under 13 ECB campaign.

The Porthill Park star scored his first hundred in an exciting 28 run win against Warwickshire. His total of 131 not out came in a Staffordshire total of 265-1 off their 45 overs.

The following Wednesday Louis again hit a ton this time against Oxfordshire scoring 116 of just 101 balls, taking part in a stand of 140 with Liam Banks of Silverdale. In the game against Warwickshire the pair had shared an unbroken stand of 160.



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SYC TRIALS COUNTY BOYS UNDER 13,14,15,16,17

The Trials dates for Boys County Age Groups, Boys District u10, u11 & u12 and Girls County Age groups have been published. Detailed below are the dates, to download a nomination form please follow the following link where you will also be able to download a covering letters providing you with all of the details.

Completed nominations forms signed by an ECB CA qualified coach and a parent (or guardian) along with the fee for the trial should be sent to Bob Askey, Staffordshire Cricket Ltd, c/o Himley CC, Stourbridge Road, Himley DY3 4LB. (Please remember to use the correct postage, especially on large envelopes).

County Boys-Dates and times of trials

U13 Nominations and Fee to be received by 17th September 2011

Date	Venue	Time
Sun 25 th Sept 2011	Clayton	12.30pm to 4.30pm
Sat 1 st Oct 2011	Wolverhampton Grammar School	12.30pm to 4.30pm
Sun 16 th Oct 2011	Rawlett Community School Tamworth	11am to 3pm

U14 Nominations and Fee to be received by 24th September 2011

Date	Venue	Time
Sun 2 nd Oct 2011	Wolverhampton Grammar School	1.00pm to 5.00pm
Sat 8 th Oct 2011	Clayton	12.30pm to 4.30pm

U15 Nominations and Fee to be received by 24th September 2011

Date	Venue	Time
Sat 29 th Oct 2011	Clayton	12.30pm to 4.30pm
Sat 15 th Oct 2011	Wolverhampton Grammar School	12.30pm to 4.30pm

U16 Nominations and Fee to be received by 18th September 2010

Date	Venue	Time
Sat 24 th Sept 2011	Clayton	12.30pm to 4.30pm
Sat 8 th Oct 2011	Wolverhampton Grammar School	12.30pm to 4.30pm

U17 - There will be an Open Trial. Nominations and Fee to be received by 6th October 2010.

Date	Venue	Time
Sat 15 th Oct 2011	Clayton	10.30pm to 4.30pm



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SYC TRIALS DISTRICT UNDER 10, 11, 12

County Districts Boys – Trials are in each of the four Districts which cover the whole County

North - (players from clubs in Staffordshire Moorlands, Stoke and Newcastle u Lyme Development Groups)

South - (players from clubs in Wolverhampton, Sandwell and Walsall Development Groups)

East - (players from clubs in East Staffordshire, Tamworth & Lichfield and Cannock Chase Development Groups)

Central - (Players from clubs in Stafford and South Staffs Development Groups)

U12 District Trial Sessions (Nominations and Fee to be received by 23rd Sept)

Date	District	Venue	Time
Sat 1st Oct 2011	North	James Brindley	12.30pm to 4.30pm
Sun 2 nd Oct 2011	Central	Stafford Grammar School	12.30pm to 4.30pm
Sun 2 nd Oct 2011	South	Wolverhampton Grammar School	9.00am to 12.30pm
Sat 1 st Oct 2011	East	Rawlett Community College	12noon to 4pm

U11 District Trial Sessions (Nominations and Fee to be received by 30th Sept)

Date	District	Venue	Time
Sat 8th Oct 2011	North	James Brindley	12.30pm to 4.30pm
Sat 8th Oct 2011	Central	Stafford Grammar School	12.30pm to 4.30pm
Sun 9th Oct 2011	South	Wolverhampton Grammar School	12.30pm to 4.30pm
Sat 8 th Oct 2011	East	Rawlett Community College	12noon to 4pm

U10 District Trial Sessions (Nominations and Fee to be received by 7th Oct)

Date	District	Venue	Time
Sat 15th Oct 2011	North	James Brindley	12.30pm to 4.30pm
Sat 15 th Oct 2011	Central	Stafford Grammar School	2pm to 6pm
Sun 16th Oct 2011	South	Wolverhampton Grammar School	12.30pm to 4.30pm
Sat 15 th Oct 2011	East	Rawlett Community College	12noon to 4pm

SYC TRIALS COUNTY GIRLS

County Girls

All girls who have been involved with the County Girls Age group last season as well as new girls should be nominated and attend the trials.

Dates and times of trials for all Girls aged

Girls U17 County Age Group Trials(Nominations and Fee to be received by 30th Sept)

Date	Venue	Time
Sat 8 th Oct 2011	Stafford Grammar School	9.30am to 12.30pm

Girls U15 County Age Group Squad Sessions(Nominations and Fee to be received by 23rd Sept)

Date	Venue	Time
Sat 1 st Oct 2011	Stafford Grammar	9.30am to 12.30pm

Girls U13 County Age Group Squad Sessions Nominations and Fee to be received by 30th Sept)

Date	Venue	Time
Sun 9 th Oct 2011	Stafford Grammar	12.30pm to 3.30pm

Girls U11 County Age Group Squad Sessions(Nominations and Fee to be received by 7th Oct)

Date	Venue	Time
Sun 16 th Oct 2011	Stafford Grammar	1pm to 4pm

UMPIRES NEEDED IN STAFFORDSHIRE



Is there a chance that any member of your club might wish to take the Level-1 Umpires' Course, in preparation for next season? If so, please get in touch with me. Such courses are available in the north, south and east of Staffordshire. I can even pass on details of Cheshire courses, if needed.

Ex-players are the obvious choice, but this is not the only source of potential new blood. Relatives of players, spectators, ladies, club officials are also possible sources. No previous experience necessary.

The courses are likely to be held in the period January – March 2012.

Anyone interested should contact Keith Healey (North Staffs Umpire & Scorer Training Officer) before the end of October, in order to ensure that all training materials can be obtained in good time.

Tel: 01782 460639

email: k.healey@staffordshirecricket.co.uk



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Taunton Success As Under 13's Retain Shield

Staffordshire U13's completed a remarkable season by retaining the Taunton festival shield, the first time this has been achieved by a non-first class county. Captain Zen Malik received the shield (pictured right) from Sharaz Mohammed Secretary of the Trinidad and Tobago cricket council who was visiting the event.

Off the back of a successful ECB campaign Staffordshire travelled to Taunton knowing that they would have to perform to their very best if they were to retain the shield. Opposing counties were aware of Staffordshires success during the season and would certainly be looking to bring the winning sequence to a halt.

The defence of the shield started with a fixture against Cambridgeshire. Having been asked to bat Staffs struggled against a good attack eventually reaching 208 for 9 from their allocated 50 overs. This was thanks mainly to Andrew Coxon (42) and a spirited 38 no from George Scrimshaw. In reply Cambridgeshire reached 65 before losing their first wicket and looked to be cruising to a comfortable win at 128 for 3 when the predicted rains duly arrived. The abandonment of the match gave Staffs an opportunity to re group and focus on the size of the task ahead.

The following day staffs won the toss and elected to bat against an Oxfordshire team they had comfortably beaten in the ECB competition a week earlier. George Sellers (53) Jack Stanley (64no) & Liam Banks (62no) ensured Staffs posted a total of 225 for 3. The Staffordshire bowlers bowled with purpose to reduce Oxfordshire to 86 all out with Faizan Zaroof being the leading wicket taker with 3 for 8. Jack Manning excelled behind the stumps taking 2 stumpings

Day 3 saw Staffs playing Yorkshire 'A'. Yorkshire won the toss and elected to field. On a small ground where we expected to score in excess of 250 a combination of tight bowling and poor shot selection at key times brought about a batting collapse from 63 for 1 to 164 for 8. However, another excellent innings from Scrimshaw (41no) supported well by Andrew Murphy enabled staffs to post a total of 193 for 8. In reply Yorkshire looked comfortable and heading towards victory at 144 for 2 requiring just 50 runs to win with 12 overs remaining ! What followed next can only be described as an exceptional demonstration of guts and determination by the Staffs boys to prevent a Yorkshire win. With Aiden Hennessey toiling away at one end to restrict the flow of runs (10 overs for 25 runs) a second spell by Scimshaw in which he claimed 3 wickets ripped out their middle order. This combined with a fabulous run out by Liam Banks and 2 wickets each for Tom Hope and Alex Beaman left Yorkshire having to survive the last over to prevent what would of been a remarkable Staffs victory. Hennessey was unlucky not to get the final wicket with the last ball of the innings leaving Yorkshire hanging on perilously at 172 for 9.

Derbyshire were the opponents on day 4. Staffs won the toss and with the prospect of rain asked Derbyshire to bat. Another excellent bowling and fielding display reduced Derbyshire to 169 all out. Leading the bowlers was staffs captain Zen Malik taking 3 for 26. Zaroof and Murphy both claimed 2 wickets each and Chris Becker making his debut at U13 level claimed 2 smart stumpings. In reply Staffs got off to a solid start with Louis Allison (33) being the second wicket to fall at 73. Allison received a fabulous applause on his dismissal, as the 33 runs had brought about his 1000 runs exactly for the season. Banks (64no) and Malik (37no) ensured that victory was achieved with 13 overs still remaining. A very comprehensive victory.

Cambridgeshire meanwhile had been having an equally successful festival and went into the final days play 1 point ahead of Staffordshire. Their opponents on the final day would be Derbyshire !

Our opponents on the final day were Northamptonshire who won the toss and elected to bat. Staffs were in no mood to ponder on thoughts of what might be happening in the Cambridgeshire fixture and set about Northants with a real positive intent. Opening bowlers Scrimshaw and Hope both got 2 wickets a piece as they ripped out the early order leaving them 32 for 4. This was followed by Ben Hudson claiming the 5th wicket and then completing an excellent fielding display with a remarkable run out for the 7th wicket. Northants eventually being all out for 75 in the 33rd over. In the Cambridgeshire and Derbyshire fixture Cambridgeshire had bowled first but had only been able to take 6 wickets thereby losing 2 bonus points. This meant that a Staffs victory would ensure the retention of the festival shield.

Armed with this information Staffs set about the Northants attack. The early loss of Allison was to prove only a temporary set back as Sellers (31no) and Banks (23no) completed a 9 wicket victory in just 18 overs.

The festival organiser Malcolm Broad MBE complimented the squad not only on their cricketing ability but also on the way they had conducted themselves throughout the festival. The squad and coaches are pictured left with the shield.



Shrewsbury Festival Round Up Under 11

The Festival this year saw the inclusion of two additional teams Berkshire and Grange CC from Scotland to make up two groups of four teams. Staffordshire were in the group with Huntingdonshire, Northamptonshire and Herefordshire. Staffordshire started the programme with a game against Huntingdonshire. After winning the toss and electing to bat Staffordshire got off to a steady start from openers Wilcox and Ramsdale. After losing Ramsdale in the 8th over Greg Clarke(34) supported Wilcox(27) to achieve 100 runs in the 23rd over. However, what became the undoing of this Staffordshire squad in a number of our games, was the fragile middle order. Suddenly finding themselves 128 for 7 off 32 overs, Joe Potts (15) and Harry Brundrett (25 not out) were able to bring the score up to a respectable 189 for 9 off the 40 overs. The Huntingdonshire run chase started slowly and was never to gain momentum as Staffordshire took wickets regularly Oli Edwards 2 for 30, Tom Hodson 2 for 19 and James Davis 3 for 8. An excellent batting performance from Huntingdonshire's JJ Smith (72) enabled them to hold out for the 148 for 8 off 40 overs. So a confident winning draw put the squad in a good frame of mind for the next day's game against Northamptonshire.



Batting first the Staffordshire batters never really came to terms with a wicket which was keeping low. Despite a reasonable start once Jonty Barnes was out there was again a batting collapse from which Ewan Wilcox(22), Joe Potts (11) and Jaden Patel (10 not out) reached double figures in a total of 104. The Staffordshire team took the field in a determined frame of mind to make the opposition work for every run. The opening attack of Jake Powell and Robbie Jones did not quite hit the right line and length and Northants got off to a confident start. After losing their first wicket at 50 the Staffordshire bowlers supported by some excellent fielding started to build the pressure. This resulted in 6 wickets for 41 runs and there did appear to be some nervous Northants Coaches and parents but this wasn't to be enough and Northants won the game by 3 wickets. Tom Hodson (2 for 21) and James Davis (3 for 15) were the pick of the bowlers.

After the previous day's disappointment, the subject for that day's team meeting was what we needed to do to achieve maximum points from our game against Herefordshire. It meant batting the 40 overs and producing excellence in our bowling and fielding. Batting first but losing an early wicket brought James Davis to the crease who batted well for his 69 and was supported by Jaden Patel(14) and Harry Brundrett(25). 195 for 9 off 40 overs, the first part of our target was achieved. Oli Edwards took a wicket in the first over of the Herefordshire innings and this set the standard. Both Powell (3 for 23) and Edwards (1 for 6 off 6 overs) sent the stumps cartwheeling and Priyan Patel's (3 for 21) left arm over proved too much for the Herefordshire batters. In supporting roles Robbie Jones and Sam Clarie calmed a wicket each to seal the victory, bowling out Herefordshire for 90 and achieving our target of maximum points from the game. With Northants losing to Huntingdonshire this meant we finished 2nd in our league and would play Berkshire on Friday in the 3rd/4th play-off.

On Thursday there was some light relief from the rigours of the 40 over per side game with two T20 games. Our first game was against Shropshire who were able to keep it tight and only Jaden Patel with a quick fire 31 was able to keep the scoreboard moving but this was not enough to overcome a determined Shropshire team. The second game resulted in a convincing victory over Huntingdonshire with Greg Clarke and Harry Bailey being amongst the runs. Friday morning threatened rain by the weather held to allow our final game start on time. Being asked to bat by Berkshire, Staffordshire made a slow but steady start but with Wilcox and Davis going quickly it was up to Jonty Barnes(27) and Greg Clark(26) to put the Staffordshire innings back on track. A number of batters got starts but were unable to kick on Joe Potts (20), Oli Edwards (16) and Robbie Jones (19 not out). By not batting out the 40 overs the Coaches felt Staffordshire we probably 30 runs light. Staffordshire got off to a great start by taking two early wickets but a well paced innings from Berkshire's Barlow(54 not out) saw them home and win the game by 5 wickets.

Taking all in consideration this was an excellent learning curve for the squad where they all learned about their own game during some great games of cricket and an added bonus a week of good weather. As with all of these events a big thanks must go to the support of the Coaches Bob Askey, John McCredie, Jim Dawson and Aaron Jeavons, and scorers for the week Rachel Davis and Dean Hodson.



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Mike Gatting Masterclass At Wolverhampton



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Mike Gatting Cricket Master Class at
Wolverhampton Sports Arena
Monday 26th September
5.30pm – 6.30pm



WOLVERHAMPTON SPORTS ARENA, UNIT 1-3 RACECOURSE RD, DUNSTALL, WOLVERHAMPTON, WV6 0QU

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Don't Forget To Register YOUR CLUB For The 2012 NatWest CricketForce
Weekend via the following link <http://bit.ly/nd3nsD>

Staffordshire Cricket Golf Day 2011

Unfortunately due to unforeseen circumstances this event has had to be cancelled and no date can be found now in 2011. We hope to host this event in 2012

CRICKET COACHING MATS

David Cooper 01943 864226 07986 234489 cooper.david6@sky.com

“Just to say how much our youngsters have improved by using the coaching mat. Every club should have one” Alan Taylor Caldicotes CC

“Marvellous, better than a net practice for coaching batting”

Don Wilson Yorkshire and England and former Head Coach at Lords

“The mat works wonders and the results were staggering”

Mike Moores Blackpool CC



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Himley Under 11's Capture Staffordshire Cup

Pictured below is the victorious Himley under 11's side that beat Dunstall Cricket Club in the final of the Staffordshire junior U11 cup competition. Himley got to the final by beating Milford Hall in the semi final and look forward to travelling to Worcestershire's New road ground at the end of August to compete in the final of the Worcestershire Competition. Manager Gordon Lewis stated "It is a pleasure to work with these very talented lads, and they deserve all the success that they have achieved over the last few seasons for all the hard work and effort that they have put in, hopefully we can play well at Worcester and win again"



Himley's junior section trains on a Friday night, taking children from 6 years old, Boys and Girls of all abilities and age groups are welcome. Parents who require any further information on joining can contact Guy Whittaker on 07973266058.

STAG (Staffordshire Association of Groundsmen)

September Maintenance Square and Outfield : Cricket Square

With the Season now closing a thorough renovation of the square will be required. Mow the whole square to 5mm or so to produce a fairly clean top surface. Scarify thoroughly, this could be from 3 to 10 passes/occasions. A scarifier with a collection system would be advantageous, making sure to carefully observe the changes to the surface to evaluate the impact of each pass of the scarifier – it depends on the standard of the square and available staffing. The operation will really clear out an undesirable vegetation. Scarify from corner to corner as this will be a change from the end to end direction which is carried out during the playing season. Caution must be exercised not to scarify at direct right angles as this can produce a cubed effect and weaken the surface and cause more of a problem when working in top dressing. Mow afterwards to keep the surface clean and ready to receive the seed and top dressing. It is important that if the square is to be aerated, ideally with a punch action solid tine machine to 100-500mm depth, that sufficient irrigation is carried out beforehand to assist in time penetration. Sarel Spike the square then overseed at 34 -50g/m². Typically a pure 100% perennial ryegrass mixture is applied to the whole of the square. Apply the dressing if possible using a spreader to allow for an even application and work in a topdressing material, using a trulute and straight edge to ensure the square is even throughout. A pre seed fertiliser containing approx 5-8% nitrogen can be applied, if an application wasn't given in August. Germination sheets can be applied especially at the ends which will invariably be the most bare. These will aid seed germination.



Cricket Outfield

Now is the month to reduce the amount of mowing; also, height of cut should be raised to 25-35mm after the final game. Many outfields are also used for winter sports such as football, so now is the time to repair any areas worn or damaged by overseeding and topdressing etc. The onset of winter sports games will mean that an application of fertiliser will help and assist in creating strong growth to help sustain the required usage throughout the winter.

STAG TRAILER

The trailer is available for hire to all members and the equipment on it is ideal for carrying out the end of season renovations and top dressing.

The equipment includes a Sisis Autorotorake scarifier, Groundsman deep spiker, sarel roller, Sisis loam spreader with dragmat and lute and is available for collection from Stafford Cricket Club.

Several bookings have already been received for the end of season so any club wishing to hire it should contact Jerry Young at jerry_young43@yahoo.co.uk or on 07891428433 as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

STAG WORKSHOPS

As part of Staffordshire Association of Groundsmen 'STAG' two workshops have been held recently.

On Wednesday 3rd August, the venue was Hem Heath Cricket Club, to which around twelve members attended and on Wednesday 10th August at Wednesbury Cricket Club, the attendance was low with only four members attending.

Jerry Young gave a comprehensive report on how to make sure your cricket square is of the right dimensions by using the 3-4-5 system. Ian Plant then gave a demonstration on how to get your square ready for the autumn renovation. More Workshops are planned for the near future of which details will be sent to clubs.

The Staffordshire Association of Groundsmen would like to thank the 2 clubs concerned for letting the demonstrations take place on their club ground.

Coaches For Staffordshire Young Cricketers (SYC)

There are in excess of 60 ECB qualified coaches working with Staffordshire Young Cricketers to identify and develop the best young players to represent the County at District and County age group levels.

Like any organisation we have a turn over of staff, so we are always on the look out for ECB qualified coaches to join us as lead coaches and/or age group managers of our age group squads.

We are looking particularly for coaches to fill the following vacancies for the new season starting in October 2011.

Under 10 East District – two coaches	Under 11 East District – one coach	
Under 12 Central District – one coach	Under 13 East District – two coaches	
Under 14 East District – two coaches	Under 14 North District – one coach	
Under 15 East District – two coaches	Under 15 North District – one coach	Under 15 Central District – one coach

There may also be opportunities to coach and/or manage boys county age group squads, but coaches will need to be qualified to level 3 or working towards level 3.

If you are a Level 2 or level 3 ECB qualified coach or working towards level 3 and not already a lead Coach/Manager for SYC and would like to play a part in developing the most talented youngsters in Staffordshire we would like to hear from you. Any appointment would be subject to interview and those appointed must have substantial club coaching experience, attended the Life Support and Safeguarding Children courses within the previous three years, completed a CRB enhanced disclosure also within three years and be a member of the ECB CA.

Please contact Tony Gubby, Chairman of Staffordshire Young Cricketers at agubby@go-plus.net or 07802 534129 if you're interested and he'll provide a job description and person specification if required

Follow snapshots of news on our Facebook page <http://www.facebook.com/Staffordshirecricket> You can find results, fixtures and updates of all things Staffordshire Cricket here.



Also find the time to add us on Twitter @staffscricket will keep you updated on all our recent happenings

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You're the Umpire

(As sent in by Keith Healey Umpire Tutor)

A fielder **wilfully** attempts to trip one of the batsmen as he is turning for his fourth run. This happened on the sixth ball of the over. What action should the bowler's end Umpire now adopt?

- A) allow 3 runs plus 5 penalty runs – call over
- B) allow 4 runs plus 5 penalty runs – call over
- C) allow 3 runs plus 5 penalty runs – allow 1 extra delivery
- D) allow 4 runs plus 5 penalty runs – allow 1 extra delivery
- E) take no action – the batsman should have kept well clear of the fielder

Answer on Back Page



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Staffordshire Coaches Association HOWZAT Orientation for Club Coaches

Our ECB CA members will have received a copy of the HOWZAT DVD which is an excellent resource for our Coaches to use to more easily plan and deliver quality coaching sessions. The HOWZAT resource has a number of features which will make our coaches lives easier as well as providing a huge library of drills, practices, small sided games to meet the needs from the beginner to the elite player.

To help our Coaches get the best value from the HOWZAT resource the Staffordshire Coach Education team will be delivering a number of HOWZAT Orientation sessions around the County. The aim is to deliver one within each of the Local Cricket Development Group areas (our Development Officers are currently organising dates). So please make your coaches aware of these sessions and invite them to attend so they can in turn enhance the delivery of the coaching within your clubs.

The first three sessions are planned:

7th September – Cannock Chase Development Group – Cannock CC 7pm

15th September – Stafford Development Group – Barlaston CC 7pm

21st September – Tamworth & Lichfield Group – Tamworth CC 7pm.

When all of the other dates are confirmed we will ensure that they are advertised.



LADY TAVERNERS GIRLS UNDER 15 AGE GROUP COMPETITION

Five teams (pictured right) contested the u/15 Staffordshire Lady Taverners competition with all teams playing against each other in a league format. The result was East Staffs 4, Leek 6, Wolverhampton 10, Meir Heath 10, Penn 10 points. As three teams finished on 10 points each the winner was the team who had scored the most runs from all their games. Wolverhampton scored 201, Meir Heath scored 206 and Penn scored 227 which meant they were the eventual winners. Penn went on to represent Staffordshire in the Regional final at Moseley CC in Warwickshire in August.



MEIR HEATH GIRLS WIN REGIONAL AWARD

Meir Heath's Girls' U11 Team, MH Vixens, completed a memorable day at Moseley Cricket Club in Birmingham by winning the Lady Taverners' Midland Regional Finals

The Vixens had previously become Staffordshire Champions by beating Cannock CC in the County Tournament, to represent Staffordshire at Moseley.

On the day the girls had to play four group games, winning all four to top the group. In the first game they overcame Worcestershire side, Oldswinford, then Shropshire team, Shifnal. In the third game they beat Kings Heath from Birmingham. In the final group game the Meir Heath girls faced so far unbeaten side Walmley from Warwickshire. This was hard fought game with the Staffs team coming out on top by 5 runs, chasing down 59 runs after 12 overs.

The Semi-Finals, reduced to 8 overs per innings due to the heat; saw them up against Oldswinford once more. Again the Vixens prevailed, this time coasting to an easy victory after restricting the opposition to just 12 runs off 8 overs with some fine bowling and fielding.

Kings Heath had succeeded in winning their Semi-Final to face Meir Heath for a second time. The Birmingham side posted 29 runs off their 8 overs. Again the Vixens triumphed by hitting 41 runs off their allotted 8 overs.

The girls from Meir Heath added the Midland Lady Taverners' Trophy to their unbeaten league record for the season. This season they have played 15 games, winning them all. After the team picked up their Midland Title; team coach, Paul Goodwin was full of praise for his young side. "The girls were tremendous today, as they have been all season. They have worked so hard all year with their coaches back at the club. Today we had 3 key players missing, but the girls never allowed that to be an issue. They battled their way through six tough games on a hot sultry day. It was a real team effort with all players chipping in with important performances in with the bat, the ball and in the field when it mattered."





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LEIGH REES ADDRESSES THE TRAINING OF WICKETKEEPERS

Keeping is by definition quite boring to train, as the range of disciplines is more shallow than say batting.

Also as much about drilling fitness and durability as technique-so we aim to overload the player and push them as hard as we can.

So, keepers have to be dedicated to repetition and “groove” in pursuit of perfection.

When planning your drills, you need to work on players shortcomings/development needs first and foremost (its best to ask open questions to get to this “i.e. what do you do best, what don’t you like, what frustrates you, where do you drop most catches.....” but if not think about the various disciplines that exist in keeping and what you might be able to simulate to improve this:

Basics:

Glove work Foot Work Eye work

Specifics:

Standing up/standing back Off side take-straight and wide High take Leg side take Staying down Keeping to turning ball
Keeping to low ball/coming up with the bounce Watching the ball Diving and sticking Taking the nicks/reactions
Ignoring distractions (batsman normally) Tidying up (poor throws)-keeping it clean Swinging ball

To address the basics it’s a simple case of grooving, via repetition, and also improving the feel. So: Gloves/hands

Two handed with different weights of ball and to some extent size of balls (inc sponge balls to make sure a keeper can catch anything; smaller balls-squash and golf- can be hard to make stick)

Two handed, high take, fingers up (not so common so requires practice). Focus on getting head out of the way and giving with hands.

One handed-stronger hand, weaker hand. Lots of weaker hand. Opposite hand (catching a catch on the left with the right hand-just improves wrist flex and improves hand/eye co-ordination).

Strong focus on “give” technique and hand position (i.e. making sure they’re giving enough, with decent hip rotation if outside the width of the body, hands are together with thumbs splayed wide to keep them out of the way).

Eyes closed/Kinesthetic awareness-get the player to catch with eyes closed and listen for the loudness of the impact. Close eyes just before taking the ball. Aim is to hear a soft noise as the “give” improves. Also start with eyes closed and player opens when they hear ball hit the floor-also improves reactions. Make sure you keep it safe.

Feet

Loads of crabbing between cones (crabbing is where feet move sideways, left foot goes, right foot moves to meet it again, left foot goes, right foot meets etc.....). Faster and faster to make it natural. You can do shuttles almost, timing the player to do so many repetitions. Set goals (time to complete a course/number of repetitions or number of repetitions in a set time). Increase the distance as they get quicker/better. Couple this with taking the ball-stretch the player by giving wide takes and insisting they get head in line. If two coaches can feed, one at each end of a two cone line, with the player working between the two of you, you can overload him/her and get really fast feet going. Couple with having to bend-put cones out, say 6 or 7, each with a tennis ball on. Keeper has to crab along the line going up and down to pick up the balls and toss them to you (wearing inners only on hands but full gear otherwise)

If feeding normal takes (i.e. bouncing balls) vary the width and line and observe and drill the head position-looking to get in line with the ball if possible.

Eyes.

Observations skills.

Coloured balls. Keeper has to catch one colour, parry another to the left, parry another to the right, bat back another..... Fast repetitions needed to keep him/her on his toes/keep refocussing. Start with eyes closed, you throw ball (either straight, left, right or high) and say “go” at last minute. Keeper has to react. Care-use soft balls, just in case.....

Tips to address specifics:

High take-use really bouncy ball (large power ball delivered from short distance)

Leg side take-use a wide obstruction to exaggerate the difficulty-a couple of chairs, 3 sets of stumps. Put a batter in who stops some balls and evades others. Vary your feed so keeper doesn’t anticipate-principle being that “he/she goes when he/she sees”. So throw in some off siders to try to catch out anticipation.

Staying down/staying low/coming up with the bounce-delay release and catch the keeper on the up. Use different balls that bounce differently. A good one is the juggling ball, which dies on hitting the deck. Also throw in the odd full ball/yorker for the keeper to take on the full/half volley.

Turning ball-use rubber balls and impart spin/bounce. Use back of mat (you can use shower mats and door mats too) to exaggerate spin and bounce.

Nicks-have someone throwing tennis balls, and flick at the ball with a cone, or length of pipe insulator. Use a cut down bat with thin cardboard taped to the outside edge. Coach aims to flick the cardboard.

Reactions-shorten the feed distance. Standing close, hold two balls at eye level in front of keeper who is squatting, and drop just one, then quickly drop the other for a second catch. Hit tennis balls with a racquet, varying height and line. Rebounds off wall at close distance (you stand behind). Improves decision making.

Tidying up-place two cones for keeper to work between and a third one behind them. Lob a ball just short of the line between the two cones, for keeper to come forward and tidy up on half volley, they then have to run back and round the rear cone ready for the next throw which again dies/is short and needs tidying up. Great for fitness and tidying up skills and simulates whats in a match (eg poor throws from fielders). 5 minutes of this and your keeper will know what hard work is.



“KNOT-OUT”

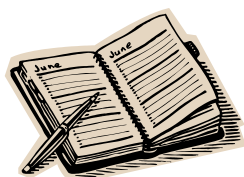
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September Diary Dates



If you have any dates of interest in the upcoming months—e.g. fund raising events, beer festivals, club anniversaries, charity games etc. please contact any member of the team and we'll try to include them in the newsletter. For details of any of the events listed checkout the calendar section of the website or contact any member of the team.

2nd September	EPP V Derbyshire Academy at Denby C.C. 11am
5th September	Walsall Cricket Development Group Meeting at Aldridge Cricket Club 7.30pm
6th September	Staffordshire Cricket Directors Meeting at Himley C.C. 10am
6th September	SYC Executive Meeting at Areva Sports and Social Club, Stafford 7.15pm
7th September	HOWZAT Orientation For Cannock Cricket Development Group at Cannock 7pm
13th September	Staffordshire NGB Forum at Staffordshire FA 9.30pm
15th September	HOWZAT Orientation For Stafford Cricket Development Group at Barlaston C.C. 7.30pm
20th September	Black Country NGB Forum at Deck House 10am
21st September	Staffordshire Moorlands Cricket Development Group Meeting at Moorlands House C.C. 7.30pm
21st September	HOWZAT Orientation for Tamworth and Lichfield Cricket Development Group at Tamworth C.C. 7pm
21st September	STAG Executive Meeting at Stafford C.C. 7.15pm
26th September	Deadline For Articles For Inclusion In September 'Knot Out' Please send to andy.grice@ecb.co.uk

Please Go to www.staffordshirecricket.co.uk and choose the calendar tab for more events.

You're The Umpire Answer :

D) allow 4 runs plus 5 penalty runs – allow 1 extra delivery

[There should also be a disciplinary report sent in to the Governing Body. The ball must be bowled again and the two batsmen are given the choice as to which one of them will face the next delivery!]

Staffordshire Cricket is striving to provide all of the county's cricket playing public with as much relevant and up-to-date cricket related information as possible. We rely on you to help to provide that information. If you think your particular area of interest in the game or even your area of the county is under-represented, then why not submit an article? We'll be more than happy to try and include it.



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