



**STAFFORDSHIRE
CRICKET**

“KNOT-OUT”

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



**STAFFORDSHIRE
CRICKET**

St Margarets Woolstanton Win National Chance To Shine Award



Inside this issue:

Tom Steele	2
Georgia Debuts For England	2
District Under 13, 14 and 15 Trials	3
STAG HMRC Advice	4
Disability Cricket In Staffordshire	5
One to One Coaching Now Available	6
Staffs Under 13	7
Women's and Girls	8
SASSOT Courses	9
Diary and Contacts	10

The great and the good of the cricketing world came together to celebrate the work being done by Chance to Shine supported by Brit Insurance.

The awards recognised the efforts of the coaches, teachers and club managers involved on the ground in the country's biggest school sports development initiative.

The star-studded event was attended by the Governor of the Bank of England and Chance to Shine President, Sir Mervyn King, England captains Andrew Strauss (pictured above second right presenting the award to Dave Mack of Porthill Park, centre) and Charlotte Edwards along with fellow England players Chris Tremlett and Jade Dernbach.

St Margaret's C of E School scooped the coveted School of the Year Award. The judges praised how the school has embraced the essence of Chance to Shine and in particular the creation of an all-girls after school cricket club for years three, four, five and six. As a result, the school has had an impressive average of fifty girls attending the club each week.

The Chance to Shine project at St Margaret's is part of Porthill Park CC's Chance to Shine programme which is administered by Staffordshire Cricket as part of the Cricket Foundation's drive to get cricket back into state schools.

"We are absolutely thrilled with the award" said coach Dave Mack who along with John Hancock (coach) far right, Bob Askey far left and Jason Britton from Staffordshire Cricket attended the awards dinner at the famous Long Room in the Lord's pavilion. "I rang my daughter to break the good news and she burst into tears!" he continued. John, who has also coached at the school, commented "It's fantastic recognition for the school but also for the club and for the Chance to Shine programme as a whole."

Staffordshire Cricket's Development Manager, Jason Britton, was delighted with the award. "This is Staffordshire's second national cricket award in the last three weeks. Last month George Hawbrook from Stone SP CC picked up a national OSCA and now St Margaret's have collected the Chance to Shine School of the Year Award. It shows the quality and commitment of our cricket community" said Britton.

St Margaret's headmaster, Andrew Black said, "This is fantastic news. The school, through Porthill Park CC, have been involved with the programme since the early days. Not only has Chance to Shine ensured a strong cricket presence in the school and forged links with the club, it has also helped to enhance our facility provision with support for a non-turf pitch. The coaches who have delivered into the school have been outstanding and we have recently focused on developing the girls' game. We have 126 girls in the school and 56 of them are now playing cricket!" he continued.

Plans are now afoot to re-award the trophy to the school and its headmaster Andrew Black who was unable to attend the awards due to illness.

Tom Has The Steele For Lancashire

Leek CC's under16 star, Tom Steele has been selected to join the Lancashire Emerging Player Programme (EPP) for a second year after impressing in club, county and Bunbury Festival games in the last season.

Tom, who is a batsman and leg-spin bowler, has been invited to join Lancashire's Emerging Player Programme for 2011-12 season after impressing coaches with his county performances in the successful Staffordshire under 15s team which included an unbeaten 104 against Worcestershire.

Lancashire's Youth Academy Director, John Stanworth commented "We have been very impressed, not only with Tom's cricket ability, but his 'coachability'. He is always willing to learn and has taken great personal responsibility in improving his fitness."

Tom, is the latest in a long line of Staffordshire-based talent to have progressed onto the rungs of the first class cricket ladder, having grown through club cricket into Staffordshire Cricket's county age group programme into what will hopefully become a playing career in the game.

Staffordshire Cricket's head coach Alan Hill was delighted with the news, pointing out that Tom's work ethic had had a major impact on his progress. "It's fantastic when a young player takes his or her own development responsibility seriously and Tom has done that. As coaches we can do a certain amount, but when the player himself is willing to work in his own time to develop as a cricketer the results are clear" said Hill, who was speaking at the ECB Head Coaches Conference in Loughborough

The news comes early in the 2011-12 programme for Staffordshire Cricket and follows a very successful 2010-11 campaign with tremendous on-field performances across the boys' and girls' age groups and recognition of Staffordshire-based cricket talent with 8 current age group players now linked with first class counties.



Georgia and Danielle Represent England In South Africa



Georgia Elwiss the former Staffordshire captain, this month made her debut during the England tour to South Africa. Elwiss got her chance in the starting eleven when strike bowler Katherine Brunt returned home following an injury during the first one day international.

On making her debut the Loughborough University student said: "It was very exciting but I was very nervous and emotional, I just wanted to get out there, control my emotions and have the first ball go where I wanted.

"After the first ball I settled down and got into my rhythm, it's just really nice to be able to go out there and play with ten other really good players and mates. It was a really good feeling and something that I want to continue.

"I was ready for it, I knew there was a chance that I would get a game as Mark Lane discussed the rotation of bowlers before we came out.

"You can't replace a Katherine Brunt so in terms of that there was a bit of pressure on, but our batsmen got a really good score on the board so I couldn't have asked for a better score to defend. It was just a case of remembering to continue to play in the same way I have been doing to get picked for England.

The Wolverhampton born player continued "I had brilliant support from the team. Our batsmen set it up fantastically in the first half and I was supported by all the other bowlers and fielders, it was a great feeling to be part of the victory."

Georgia was joined on her debut by a familiar face as former Staffordshire colleague Danielle Wyatt opened the batting for England during all three one day internationals on the tour.



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District Under 13, 14 and 15 Squad Trials

Staffordshire Young Cricketers

Player Pathway – District Programme for U13, U14 and U15 Age Groups.

Introduction - Following the introduction of this programme last season as a further enhancement to the Staffordshire Cricket - Player Development Pathway, this programme will commence in January 2012. This format offers a District programme at u13, u14 and u15's to run parallel to the County Age Groups and aims to provide a better test for players because it is a level above club cricket.

The major aims of this programme are to: Identify potential talent for County Age Group teams for inclusion in 2011/12 Winter Squads, Identify late developers, Broaden the opportunity for players at this age range to experience and compete in the longer game (40 overs), Provide an opportunity for ECBQA Qualified Coaches to coach Representative Teams.

Programme - The programme involves Talent Identification, Talent Selection, Talent development and Confirmation.

Talent Identification – Players nominated by clubs for the Age group trials in Sept/Oct 2011 and did not make the County Age group winter squads will be offered the opportunity to be assessed as to their potential for being a member of the District Squad. Plus Club Coaches can nominate players who they believe will benefit from developing and competing in the District programmes. Typically this would be players who are not yet proficient to challenge for a County place but by taking part in the District Programme they would be able to develop to possibly challenge for a County Age group squad in the coming seasons.

Talent Selection – 4 hour assessment session from which a squad of up to 15 players will be selected

Talent Development and Confirmation - there will be 4 x 2 hour Development Squad sessions followed by 2 Outdoor/middle practises during May. This will be followed by 3 matches to be played during the Whit Week holiday and a further 3 matches played during the School Summer holidays, Following this programme those players identified as the best performers will be given the opportunity to play in two matches against the current u13, u14 & u15 County Age squad players. These games will be used as Performance based trial matches for talent selection for next season's County Age group winter squads.

Eligibility - This programme is aimed at the current seasons under 13's (school year 8) and u14's (School year 9) and u15 (School Year 10) but County Age Group Players are ineligible.

Programme Schedule

The trials will not commence until January 2012 this is an early announcement to raise awareness of the programme. The nomination process for the trials will be started in early December and will be announced via communications from the Junior Leagues, Cricket Development Groups and the Website. Please note the closing dates for the Nominations on the information below. Those players previously nominated for County Age group Trials will be contact during December to advise on the trial details.

U13 District Trial Sessions (Closing Date – 2nd Jan 2012)

Date	District	Venue	Time
Sat 7 th Jan 2012	North	James Brindley	12.30pm to 4.30pm
Sat 7 th Jan 2012	Central	Stafford Grammar School	1.30pm to 5.30pm
Sat 7 th Jan 2012	South	Wolverhampton Grammar School	12.30pm to 4.30pm
Sat 7 th Jan 2012	East	Rawlett Community College	12noon to 4pm

U14 District Trial Sessions (Closing Date – 9th Jan 2012)

Date	District	Venue	Time
Sat 14 th Jan 2012	North	James Brindley	12.30pm to 4.30pm
Sat 21 st Jan 2012	Central	Stafford Grammar School	1.30pm to 5.30pm
Sat 14 th Jan 2012	South	Wolverhampton Grammar School	12.30pm to 4.30pm
Sat 14 th Jan 2012	East	Rawlett Community College	12noon to 4pm

U15 District Trial Sessions (Closing Date – 16th Jan 2012)

Date	District	Venue	Time
Sat 21 st Jan 2012	North	James Brindley	12.30pm to 4.30pm
Sat 28 th Jan 2012	Central	Stafford Grammar School	1.30pm to 5.30pm
Sat 21 st Jan 2012	South	Wolverhampton Grammar School	9.30am to 1.30pm
Sat 21 st Jan 2012	East	Rawlett Community College	12noon to 4pm

Should you require any further information please contact Bob Askey on email bob.askey@ecb.co.uk.

STAG (Staffordshire Association of Groundsmen)

At the recent AGM Stuart Williamson who had served the group as Chairman for a number of years decided not to stand for re-election. Dennis Wall who has supported the group as Secretary decided that he would offer his services for another year, so we thank him for that. At the AGM Dave Smith (Milford Hall cc Chair) was voted in as the new Chair and we look forward to working with Dave to help us build on the good work Stuart has started during his tenure. Jerry Young was re-elected as Treasurer and Central Rep, as were Ian Plant (North District Rep) and Phil Spencer (East District Rep). John Whistance was prepared to carry on but said he would stand down if anyone else came forward (we wish John well as we understand he has recently suffered a fall at home and we all wish him a speedy recovery). However, Dave Hayden from Fordhouses CC has agreed to be the South District Rep and we welcome him to the committee.



The meeting record their thanks to all the support and hard work carried out by the outgoing officers. The election of officers was followed by a discussion about good practise and the sharing of ideas across a number of topics relevant to the work of the Grounds teams during the close season. This covered areas of Machine maintenance, square and outfield maintenance, disease, moss and weed prevention and cure and the ways and means that Clubs manage the financial aspects of the grounds.

December Maintenance

Cricket Square

Make sure to check for disease activity and if identified, spray with a propriety fungicide. Continue to brush as regular as possible to allow sward to remain upright and to remove excess moisture/dew, and if any earthworm activity is noticed try not to smear the casts. If possible aerate using solid tines to a depth of 125mm. If climatic and ground conditions allow mow sward by topping off.

Outfield

Continue to check for damage especially if used for winter sports. If climatic and ground conditions allow mow sward by topping off. If possible aerate outfield to 125mm

As all clubs will probably soon start thinking about the ground and facility preparation (if you haven't already!!) remember to use the NatWest CricketForce weekend to generate the support and resources to get the jobs you want doing. Clubs are able to register now and as an added benefit on the NatWest CricketForce website there is a new Pitch Doctor,

To sign up to the NatWest Cricket Club and watch the new Pitch Doctor series visit www.natwest.com/cricket.

HMRC OFFER AMNESTY TO COACHES

HMRC have announced an amnesty for coaches and private tutors which means they are likely to receive favourable penalty terms if they register by the 6th January 2012 deadline.

Coaches and private tutors have until 6th January 2012 to register for the Tax Catch-Up Plan as part of the HMRC's latest campaign to encourage disclosure of undeclared tax liabilities.

Coaches who register for the plan will have until 31st March 2012 to let HMRC know about any taxed owed for the years up to 5 April 2010 and pay the outstanding amount.

By doing this, the terms of payment will be more favourable than to those who wait for the HMRC to come to them, with reports suggesting that the penalty for those who register will be no more than 20%.

[To view more information on the HMRC website please click here.](#)

Do You Receive The SASSOT Coaching Newsletter?

If so, you receive the latest information on HMRC campaigns and other developments in coaching across Staffordshire and Stoke-On-Trent including funding and training opportunities.

The Newsletter is emailed monthly and you can receive this by visiting [SASSOT Coaching](#) and clicking on 'Register as a coach'. It will then take just a few minutes to fill in your information and make sure you set your preferences to receive the Newsletter.

To view the November edition of the SASSOT Coaching Newsletter, [click here](#).

For further information, please contact SASSOT on coaching@staffordbc.gov.uk or 01785 619349.

DISABILITY CRICKET IN STAFFORDSHIRE

Overview and Future Objectives

Disability Cricket, what does it actually mean? What does Staffordshire Cricket offer, and what opportunities are open to children who show a passion and desire to play cricket?

First of all we are very lucky that the Chance To Shine (Cricket Foundation) heavily support the development of cricket throughout schools. With this in mind we have been able to put a development plan in place to structure disability cricket throughout the county and develop ourselves to become the best county in the country when it comes to disability cricket.

Currently at the moment we have a Chance To Shine project focusing on offering kwik cricket to special schools in the North of the county. This has been in place for a number of years now and the schools involved are extremely pleased with the benefits of the project. With this in mind we are looking to replicate the same project but in the East and South of the county, to maximise our delivery to children who are disabled. The delivery involves curriculum and after school sessions focussing on skill development, working towards a competition at the end of the summer. Previously Hem Heath CC have kindly donated their facilities to stage this competition which has been a success in previous years. As always, we are looking to improve the competition to offer a better day to all cricketers involved, both boys and girls. Our future target regarding disability kwik cricket tournaments are to stage area based competitions in the North, South and East of the county - with the winners/qualifiers attending a county based final, potentially filtering in to a regional/national organised competition by the ECB.

We are also looking to drive Table Cricket throughout the county, which is a new, up and coming disability sport. Delivery is currently being offered to specific special schools from all around the county, offering sessions to keen young cricketers who are not able to participate with kwik cricket due to their severe disabilities. Nationally, table cricket is growing rapidly and we aim to support this game by developing it throughout the county. A county based table cricket competition is an objective in 2013, with the winners progressing forwards to the regional competitions and the national final held at Lords.

Our aim by the summer of 2013 is for the county to field a L.D (learning disability) representative team in to a local county based competition with our neighbouring counties. If this is successful we desire to replicate this at a H.I (hearing impairment) level. We understand that we are a long way from achieving this, but we see ourselves as a county with a rising disability section.

Recently the England LD team have been crowned champions of a tri series held in South Africa against the hosts and Australia. This is a massive achievement for the squad and backroom staff, and credit to all the hard work that has gone in to achieve such high levels.

We hope that in years to come when Staffordshire field a L.D representative team along with other disability representative teams, promising players from our teams could potentially be selected to represent their country at numerous venues all around the world.

I am already aware that we have a number of children in Staffordshire who have some form of disability that are playing mainstream cricket. This is fantastic news and credit to clubs who have been able to offer this opportunity. Progressing forwards it is important that we identify these talented individuals and integrate them in to our disability programmes throughout the county.

If you are interested in the development of disability cricket and are able to offer support then please get in touch as your help is much appreciated. Likewise, if you are aware of any disabled players who are already currently playing in mainstream cricket, please let me know as we can potentially offer them additional opportunities alongside their club commitments.

Jim Dawson

Disability Cricket Co-ordinator

07929 744597

jamesawdawson@hotmail.co.uk



England LD Squad After Being Crowned Tri Series Champions

ONE TO ONE COACHING NOW AVAILABLE

One to One coaching is a great way to receive additional coaching that is aimed around the players own targeted improvement areas. All of our coaches aim to make the sessions enjoyable as well as offering the opportunity to develop the player in all aspects of cricket. It is a fantastic way to gain confidence as well as improving specific cricket skills.

Aimed at players of all ages and abilities

Led by Level 3 coaches, who currently work with our county representative squads at all ages including both boys and girls.

Video analysis is available with certain coaches

The 4 session programme consists of 4 x 1hr One to One sessions, with the cost of the programme being £120. Below are the dates for our January 2012 programme at Clayton sports centre.

CLAYTON SPORTS CENTRE NEWCASTLE UNDER LYME

Jan 2011	Tuesdays	Wednesdays
Possible Times	3.45pm or 4.45pm	4.00pm or 5.00pm
Week 1	10 th January	11 th January
Week 2	17 th January	18 th January
Week 3	24 th January	25 th January
Week 4	31 st January	1 st February

FURTHER COURSES IN FEBRUARY AND MARCH

STAFFORD GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Nov/Dec 2011	Mondays
Possible Times	5.00pm or 6.00pm
Week 1	9 th January
Week 2	16 th January
Week 3	23 rd January
Week 4	30 th January

FURTHER COURSES PLANNED FOR FEBRUARY



Girls Only Development Sessions

Open to all ages and abilities

Stafford Grammar School

5.30pm till 7.30pm

Level 2 and 3 coaches used – coach ratio 1:6

Sessions cover all skills using nets, games and drills.

Post Xmas Course 14th January 21st January 28th January 4th February 11th February 18th February £35 all inclusive

If interested, please contact Jim Dawson to book your place on the one to one coaching courses or if you require additional information.

j.dawson@staffordshirecricket.co.uk

07929 744597

Staffordshire Under 13 Squad Selected

The Staffordshire Under 13 Squad has now been selected for the 2012 season.

Coach Graham Warner and Manager Martin Williams oversaw a thorough process which first of all included two Best of District matches which saw twenty eight players involved all being given a chance to showcase their skills on grass.

The selection process then saw three open trials which took place at Clayton Sports Centre, Wolverhampton Grammar School and Rawlett Community College.

The coach then selected around twenty players for an invitation trial and then selected the squad. This process is particularly thorough and the coach and manager were also given player reports from season 2011 from under 12 manager and coach Andrew Mandelberg and Andy Grice.

The squad this season sees three changes from the under 12 squad in 2011.

Liam Banks will be staying at the under 13 age group having played a year above his age in 2011. New caps were awarded to Ravan Chahal of Cannock C.C and Shoaib Akhtar of Springvale C.C we wish both boys well and congratulate them on their selection for the county squad.

The full squad is as follows :

Shoaib Akhtar (Springvale), Liam Banks (Silverdale), Chris Becker (Milford Hall), Ravan Chahal (Cannock), Daniel Gibbs (Leycey), Matthew Hodson (Hem Heath), Hamaiz Mahmood (Leek), Anis Raza (Silverdale), Matthew Rogerson (Hem Heath), James Rudge (Tamworth), Aidan Schmid (StoneSP), Sam Slater (Leek), Louis Washington (Knypersley), Zak Wilcox (Hem Heath).

Manager : Martin Williams Coach : Graham Warner

Tony Gubby Chairman Staffordshire Young Cricketers



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

FOLLOW US ON 

Don't Forget To Nominate Fantastic Volunteers From YOUR Club For The 2012 NatWest Staffordshire OSCAs



You're the Umpire

The Bowling side have chosen to continue with the old ball. It is going soft, going out of shape and the stiching is unpicking, but it suits their slow bowling attack.

The batsman protest that it is unfair, both hard to hit and bouncing erratically.

What Do You Do ?

Answer on Back Page



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www.staffordshirecricket.co.uk
November 2011



Womens And Girls Cricket Development Group

The next Women’s and Girls Cricket Development Group Meeting is as follows :
Tuesday 13th December 7pm for 7.15pm at Stafford Grammar School.

Leigh Rees (Chair) and Ruth Hopkins (Vice –Chair) wish to invite you to attend the next Women’s & Girls Development Group meeting on the 13th December at Stafford Grammar School..

Laura Newton ECB Regional Womens & Girls will be also joining us for the evening. The Group welcome everyone who has an interest in Women’s and Girls Cricket at Senior or Junior Level. During the evening there will be short presentations about the where Staffordshire are now and where the ECB Women’s & Girls National Strategy would like us to develop female cricket. Including how Clubs can use Chance To Shine to increase the involvement of girls playing cricket. The main part of the evening will be to find out more, ask questions, forward your ideas and share good practise with others.

There will be five key areas we wish to get your views on these are:

- Volunteers - Coaches /Officials/Committee/Management Roles
- Junior Leagues (Winter & Summer)
- Senior Leagues (Winter & Summer)
- Clubs & Participation Junior
- Clubs & Participation – Senior

So if you are involved in Women’s & Girls Cricket in a small or big way and at what ever level we would like you to join us to continue to develop the excellent progress made over the last two years. If your clubs has a few girls/women who would like to play cricket but you don’t have enough for a team then please join us on the 13th to find out how we can help you progress. Could you please confirm with Bob Askey that you will be attending the Development Group meeting and should you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact Bob Askey on bob.askey@ecb.co.uk or via 07939 716884.



Women’s and Girls Cricket in Staffordshire is increasing helped by visits to the county like the one above from England players Danielle Hazell and Katherine Brunt seen at last years visit to a girls only camp at Tamworth Cricket Club

**Please Register YOUR Club For
NatWest CricketForce 2012**

**Get The Benefits Of A Concerted National
Campaign Looking For In Kind Help**

Go to

<http://bit.ly/nd3nsD>



SASSOT WORKSHOPS UPDATE

Workshops 2011	Date	TIME	Cost	VENUE
First Aid For All	Thursday 10 November	6.30pm-9.30pm	£12.50	Stafford Leisure Centre
Safeguard And Protecting Children	Thursday 24 November	6.30pm-9.30pm	£25.00	Stafford Leisure Centre
First Aid For All	Tuesday 6 December	6.30pm-9.30pm	£12.50	Dudson Centre – Hanley - Stoke
Safeguard And Protecting Children	Thursday 8 December	6.30pm-9.30pm	£25.00	Dudson Centre – Hanley - Stoke
Sports Makers	Tuesday 13 December	6.30pm-9.30pm	FREE	Trentham Canoe Club – To Be Confirmed
Safeguard And Protecting Children	Tuesday 13 December	6.30pm-9.30pm	FREE	The Big Tap Fun Centre - Uttoxter
Sports Makers	Wednesday 18 Jan 2012	6.30pm-9.30pm	FREE	Stafford Sports College - Stafford
Reflect and Practice Safeguard 2	Thursday 24 Jan 2012	6.30pm-9.30pm	£25.00	Newcastle Borough Council
How to Coach Disabled Performers	February 2012 TBA	6.30pm-9.30pm	TBA	Possibly Stafford TBC
Equity In Your Coaching	Tuesday 6 March 2012	6.30pm-9.30pm	£25.00	Newcastle Borough Council
Safeguard and Protecting Children	Tuesday 27 March 2012	6.30pm-9.30pm	£25.00	Newcastle Borough Council

Note: Dates are continually being updated

For more information on Education and Training and how to book please click [here](#), or if you require any further information on other dates or workshops please call me. Single and group bookings can be taken, as well as planning a Closed event for your club members only. First Aid Courses available please ring Kam below.

Kam Webster
 Tel: 01785 619695
 Email: kwebster@staffordbc.gov.uk




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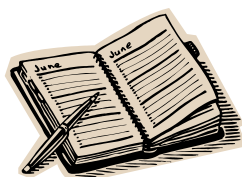
The Staffordshire Cricket Newsletter
www.staffordshirecricket.co.uk
November 2011



Team Contacts

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- Jimmy Dawson—Disability Cricket Co-Ordinator & Community Coach 07929 744597 jamesawdawson@hotmail.co.uk
- Bob Askey—Cricket Development Officer, Clubs & Performance 07939 716884 bob.askey@ecb.co.uk
- Andy Grice—Club Programmes Officer and County Volunteer Co-Ordinator 07831 158522 andy.grice@ecb.co.uk
- Chris Guest—Community and Club Development Officer 07969 364241 c.guest@staffordshirecricket.co.uk
- Steve Walker—Finance & Administration Officer 01902 897659 Stephen.walker@ecb.co.uk
- Alan Hill—Head Coach, Emerging Player Programme 07816 966939 a.hill@staffordshirecricket.co.uk

December 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.

- 8th December Stafford Cricket Development Group 7.15pm at Barlaston CC
- 12th December Staffordshire Cricket 2012 Workplan Meeting at Himley C.C. 10.00am
- 13th December Women’s And Girls Cricket Development Group 7.15pm at Stafford Grammar School
- 14th and 15th December ECB Regional Midlands Meeting at Lullington Park C.C. 9.30am

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

You’re The Umpire Answer :

The batsmen cannot demand a new ball, but they can complain to you. The umpires are the sole judges of fair and unfair play. In this instance you should change the ball for one in a better condition.

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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