

# Pushing the boundaries

Capital Kids Cricket:  
Impact Report 2019









# Introduction from our CEO



On this significant occasion, following the end of the thirty-year anniversary of Capital Kids Cricket (CKC), it gives me great pleasure to extend my warm congratulations to all our worthy trustees, past and present and members of the current and past staff and the many volunteers who have supported us over the years.

It can be hard work running a charitable organisation but CKC's achievement of running for three decades, despite many challenges, is significant.

Our themes: Inspire, Challenge and Change, define our philosophy and are the focus of what we deliver across our various projects. CKC engages and seeks to INSPIRE our participants through physical activities and sports, we CHALLENGE them with various activities, competitions and courses and, by doing these, we CHANGE their lives.

Our World Cricket Festival, held on the 8th of July 2019, was a true picture of the diversity in London and the power of CKC's work. I would like to thank all our staff, coaches, volunteers and sponsors, as well as Middlesex Cricket, Essex Cricket, Surrey Cricket, our trustees and patrons for their huge contributions. We set and broke a few World Records on the day!

Our overseas project at a refugee camp in Lebanon has had a positive impact on Syrian children as well as many of the school teachers working at the camp. Through this project we are hoping to spread the spirit of cricket and make cricket accessible for all, regardless of their ability and background.

My sincere thanks go to our valuable funders, sponsors, donors and all our staff. Without them, we could not achieve what we do.

This report will give you a brief insight into how we change the lives of so many people. I hope we receive your continuing support.

**Md. Shahidul Alam Ratan**  
Chief Executive

# Contents

Introduction from our CEO	3
What We Do	5
Year in Numbers	6
Why Cricket?	7
The Importance of Sport	8
Staff, Trustees and Ambassadors	9
Partners and Funders	10
<b>Inspire</b>	<b>11</b>
Hospitals	12
The Royal Free	12
Great Ormond Street Hospital	13
Chelsea Community Hospital School	14
Schools	16
Newham Girl's Cricket Festival	18
Women's University Cricket	19
Residential Trips	21
Cricket at Arundel Castle	22
Wormsley Cricket Festival	23
CKC Returns to Shatila	24
<b>Challenge</b>	<b>27</b>
Moogsoft William Greaves Trophy (MWGT)	28
CKC Inclusive Cricket League	30
London Sixes	32
Tape Ball Cricket	34
<b>Change</b>	<b>35</b>
Clubs	36
Tower Hamlets CC	37
West Ham and Stratford CC	38
Spikes Bridge Junior CC	39
Leyton Wicketz CC	40
Workshops	42
Community	44
Refugee Cricket	44
Kingsmead Estate and Milton Gardens Estate	45
Mothers and Children	46
Adult Inclusion Session at Little Venice	48
CKC and the Cricket World Cup 2019	49
How to Donate	50

# What We Do

We are one of the few charities in the capital dedicated to bringing cricket to a wider audience of young people and using it as a vehicle to change their lives. Over the last thirty years, we have been running coaching programmes and projects in schools, universities, hospitals and with special educational needs and disability (SEND) groups across London.

Our sessions have reached many of the most disadvantaged young people in some of the most deprived areas of the city. All of our projects operate with three aims in mind: to Inspire, to Challenge and to Change.

Through our sessions and our clubs, run with no or low membership fees, we have sought to break down the financial barriers which often prevent disadvantaged young people from picking up a bat and ball.

Through our competitions, we have taught our participants the thrill and the spirit of the game – helping them to learn the value of sporting behaviour and fair play.

Through it all, we have sought to change how our target groups see their futures: boosting their physical, social and emotional development and helping them achieve their potential.

# Year in Numbers

**10,704**  
total participants

**1,444**  
total sessions

**5,372**  
total hours

**22**  
London boroughs



# Why Cricket?

Cricket is an individual game within a team environment. While all members of the squad need to work together to win each game, individual batters might hit hundreds, star bowlers might take multiple wickets and a fielder might take a spectacular catch.

This blend of team and individual sport is invaluable when working with children. Playing the game, children learn to take responsibility for themselves – and to make the most of the opportunities available to them. But, while playing, children also learn how to balance their individual achievements with teamwork: they learn to recognise their strengths but also their weaknesses, and they learn to recognise the value of working together.

One of the most popular sports in the world, cricket is a unifying force. Regardless of ethnicity, gender, religion, class or sexual orientation, cricket reaches across boundaries and brings people and communities together. Through participating in cricket, young people have the opportunity to meet and socialise with others from a wide variety of backgrounds – cricket can be a platform for children to learn the strength which comes with diversity.

While many sports can say the same, we believe that the spirit of cricket in particular, sets it apart. The game is run on the basis not only of rules, but a deeply ingrained sense of fair play is an essential part of the sport. Respect for others, whether they're in your own team, in the opposition or whether they are the officials applying the rules of the game is integral. The Spirit of Cricket is one of fairness and of generosity – which makes the sport a powerful tool for teaching children vital social skills which will set them up for life.

Physically, contrary to some beliefs, cricket is also a demanding sport. The game requires both endurance and the ability to perform short, sharp explosive movement. Players need to be able to spend hours in the field, but also be able to move at a moment's notice – to hit the ball, to sprint between creases, to run and to jump and dive in the field.

# The Importance of Sport



## Why is it important for children and young people to play sport regularly?





# Staff, Trustees and Ambassadors

## Staff

Md. Shahidul Alam (Ratan) – CEO  
Joe Fisher – Operations and Development Manager  
Ray Tudor – Head Coach  
Denise O’Neill – Inclusion and SEND Coach  
Jerry Bramble – Engagement and Development Coach

## Trustees

Haydn Turner – Chairman  
John Challinor – Treasurer  
Richard Verity  
Kalyan Kumar  
Phil Turner  
Vikas Sagar  
Phil Ladmore  
Yemi Osho  
Will Ellse  
John Barclay

## Patrons

Lady Victoria Getty

## Ambassadors

Jenny Gunn  
Tamim Iqbal  
Shakib Al Hasan

# Partners and Funders

We would like to say a huge thank you to all of our supporters, partners and funders for your continued support!



We would also like to thank all of our individual sponsors and donors. Without your generosity we would not be able to carry out the work that we do.

Thanks to Regent Typesetting who donated their time to work on the layout of this report.

Thanks to George Watson, Instagram: georgea2409 and Md. Abu Sufian, Facebook: @Studio.A47 for use of their photography.

## Accreditations



# Inspire

Challenge

Change





# Hospitals

Our work in hospital schools is long running and has long been expanding. 2019 was no exception.

On top of our work at Great Ormond Street Hospital, Evelina Children's Hospital, the Collingham Centre (Chelsea Community Hospital School) and the Royal Free Hospital. We have worked with funding from Chance to Shine to run sessions at the Royal Marsden (Sutton) and the Lavender Walk Adolescent Mental Health Unit – also part of Chelsea Community Hospital School.



## The Royal Free

Each week at the Royal Free, Denise takes a group of teenagers with a range of mental health issues for sessions which are often tailored to the mood of the room.

Getting to know her participants over the weeks and months she works with them, Denise is able to judge when to proceed with a sports session and when her group would rather just have a chat – to sit down and socialise, as a group, and talk through any issues they may have.

For young people who are struggling with huge disruption in their lives these sessions can be a life raft.



## Great Ormond Street Hospital

Our coaches Denise O'Neill and Ray Tudor ran their first session at Great Ormond Street Hospital 16 years ago. They have worked in the hospital's school week-in week-out ever since.

It is a varied and, at times, difficult job, but it is one our coaches approach with passion. Working at bedsides, Ray and Denise will play catching games with large soft balls which are designed to get patients who can't leave their beds moving – bringing a touch of excitement to brighten the days of parents and their child. Often, parents show their appreciation:

*“Last week, I got a teddy bear named after me – I was using it to cheer up one of my kids, pretending that his toy bear was talking to me. His mum thought I was bonkers, but it got him laughing and suddenly he brightened up. His mum turned around as I was leaving and said to her son: ‘you know what: your teddy bear was looking for a name...’”*

Denise



Working in hospital schools, Ray and Denise are able to provide a broad range of activities, to get their kids moving. Sessions begin with catching games, followed by games in which points are scored by hitting balls along the floor to knock over pins or get them through hoops – knocking over a pin means 10 points, getting the ball through a hoop is 20 points.

Bringing the excitement of friendly competition onto the wards, Denise and Ray are particularly popular with their participants.

*“Ray and Denise are easily the most popular members of school staff on the ward. While many great charity projects have come to the hospital school, funding issues have meant that many have had to end eventually. Capital Kids’ Cricket, meanwhile, has been a uniquely stable presence on the ward for the last 16 years”*

Danielle Valdar, Assistant Head, Great Ormond Street Hospital

## Chelsea Community Hospital School

In late 2018 we began working at a newly opened adolescent psychiatric unit at Chelsea Community Hospital School. With funding from Chance to Shine, we have been running weekly sessions at the unit throughout 2019. Here, Denise shares what it is like to work at the unit and how the work we do can be life changing.

### Emma's story – using sport to improve mental health

While working in the hospital schools you meet many children and young adults with wide ranging medical conditions. These include mental health difficulties that result in them feeling low about themselves and they find it difficult to feel good about anything.

As part of my work at Chelsea Community Hospital School, I encounter many young adults with mental health problems, and it can be very challenging to interact with them or get them to take part in any form of sport. This is even harder in groups, so I also run a lot of one-to-one sessions.

Last year, I had one young lady, Emma\*, who happened to mention that she played badminton in her previous school, so I decided that getting her to play would be our target. We started a game during our first session together and Emma was really good, so I encouraged and praised her. This led to her becoming much more confident about herself and, eventually, Emma would laugh and joke with me about how bad I was. She even enjoyed telling everyone that she would beat me over and over again.

As Emma grew more confident as a player, she would challenge others and you could see a change in her. Emma was having fun, and this is one of many examples of how sport and physical activity are so important for mental health. It is not about being the best, it is about doing your best and having fun.

The simple act of having fun is something we take for granted. Many of these children and young people, however, have lost a lot of their years as children and, for many reasons, may have never laughed or even smiled. Making a difference and having a positive effect through my sessions makes this work hugely rewarding.

\*name changed for confidentiality

**Denise O'Neill, CKC Inclusion Coach**

## In the news

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/cricket/2020/11/13/cricket-perfect-cure-forchildrens-boredom-londons-hospitals/>



## Denise gains national recognition

In late 2019 Denise, our specialist Inclusion Coach, received national recognition from Chance to Shine for the life changing sessions she runs each week at Great Ormond Street, Evelina and, in particular, Lavender Walk Adolescent Mental Health Unit (Chelsea Community Hospital School).

In recognition of her work and contributions, Denise received the 'NatWest No Boundaries' award at the Chance to Shine Awards 2019.



## Growing the project

Due to the success of our pioneering hospital work we have had requests from other hospital schools to run similar sessions. Unfortunately, however, we do not have the funding available to train new staff to allow us to work in these hospitals.

In 2020 we will be working hard to try and secure this funding. If you think you can help, please contact us using the details on the back of this report.

## Hospitals worked in

GOSH, Evelina, Royal Marsden, Royal Free, Chelsea Community Hospital (Lavender Walk and Collingham Child and Family Centre).

## Numbers

Total boys: 83 (66% increase on 2018)

Total girls: 61 (54% increase on 2018)

Total participants: 144 (61% increase on 2018)

Total sessions: 201 (21% increase on 2018)

# Schools

When we first started out, in 1989, cricket being played in London state schools was in decline. A lack of funding and enthusiasm for the game meant few schools were willing to invest in the equipment required and few staff members were willing to bring the game into their lessons.

We set out to reverse that trend, by making state school cricket central to our work. We brought our own equipment and our own coaches into schools to ensure kids across the capital were able to access one of the world's greatest sports.



## Capital Kids Cricket at New End School

Over the last few years, Ray Tudor has been running weekly cricket sessions for groups of 15 or so children who are vulnerable, have a range of special educational needs (including some with moderate or severe learning difficulties), have problems controlling or managing their own behaviour or have low confidence and self-esteem. These groups of children have benefitted enormously from Ray's input and have always made tremendous progress over the course of the year, from their weekly sessions with Ray. Some of these children have had the opportunity to play in the yearly Inclusive tournament at Lords Indoor School, meeting and playing against other children with a range of needs from schools across London.



So thank you so much CKC for all you have done for the children at New End over the last 30 years.

**Steve Buzzard (Teacher i/c Cricket at New End School)**

## Ben's story – changing lives through cricket

Ben\* is a student at New End Primary School in Camden and participated in my cricket sessions in the academic year of 2018–2019. At the time he was in Year 5 and was part of a group of 10 SEN children that I coached weekly. He has behavioural issues which at that time tended to get him in trouble.

Early on I was approached by a teacher at the school who was concerned that Ben's behaviour was on the verge of causing him to be permanently excluded from New End. They asked if I was able to help at all and of course I was happy to try and engage with him.

After each coaching session I took Ben to one side and just took some time to have a chat with him, just to see where he was at and what he was thinking. The conversations were not always easy, but we stuck at it and after some months I could see he started to come out of his shell and started to enjoy himself more in his cricket sessions. He still had his moments but was much happier in general.

This had a wider reaching effect as, on speaking with his class teacher each week to follow up on Ben's progress, I found out his general demeanour and attitude to learning in class was dramatically improving.

That result was so rewarding and satisfying. To see that the cricket sessions and extra counselling with Ben created a positive change in his life truly made me smile. The improvement in his behaviour and to see how he has connected with the entire group made it all worthwhile. The overall impact of the counselling played a fundamental part in his overall attitude to being obedient and positive in the classroom. I was fortunate enough to witness his entire journey.

\*name changed for confidentiality

**Ray Tudor, CKC Head Coach**





## Newham Girl's Cricket Festival

A big part of our work with schools is providing an opportunity for children and young people to take part in cricket sessions. Whether it is their first time experiencing the game or they play regularly, running sessions and supporting schools where needed is of huge importance to us.

In 2019, as a result of our close relationship with the Tapscott Trust, we ran a primary school girls cricket competition in Newham. Providing an instant competitive, but fun, opportunity for girls to experience cricket. The small-sided matches were a huge success.



### Growing the project

In November, for the first time in our history, we brought our cricket sessions to a pupil referral unit (PRU) – alternative provision schools for children and young people unable to attend mainstream schools due to health problems or exclusion.

Run as a pilot at Tunmarsh PRU in Newham, we are excited by the potential to bring real life changing impact to students at PRUs across London and hope that this pilot is the stepping stone to further success in the future.

### Schools stats:

Total boys: 2,132

Total girls: 1,794

BAME percentage: 78%

Total participants: 3,956

Total sessions: 748

# Women's University Cricket

Throughout 2019, our weekly sessions for King's College London Women's Cricket Club (KCLWCC) continued. Our Sunday sessions provided training and competitive opportunities for women from KCLWCC, London School of Economics (LSE), University College London (UCL) and St Mary's University through the Trailblazer Trophy.



With continued support from the Surrey Cricket Foundation, supplemented by Sport England funding, we launched the Trailblazer Trophy in October. Forming six-a-side indoor teams from the students who attended the training sessions, the Trailblazer provides bi-weekly league fixtures, offering the players the perfect opportunity to put their training into practice.

Beyond boosting the profile of women's cricket, these sessions provide students with the opportunity to be physically active – keeping fit while making new friends from other universities.



*“During one session we were very fortunate to have former England International Beth Morgan visit and help out with some coaching”*

## Women's University Cricket



I am so glad I joined the KCL Women's Cricket club! I have been a member for 3 years now and have not only improved my performance but made great friends along the way. The sessions cater for women of all cricketing abilities so, whether you're a beginner or a pro, the sessions are always fulfilling.

From KCL I found out about the Sunday sessions. I found these sessions to be very enjoyable and playing in a sports hall helps us gain more experience by playing indoor matches. I have also enjoyed mixing with girls from other universities, who I otherwise would not have had the chance to meet.

Training with other girls and improving my cricket skills has now given me the confidence to join my local cricket club. The friendly, inclusive, environment has allowed me to work on my skills without feeling self-conscious. I now feel more confident to take part in matches for my club and will enjoy doing so.

Joining these sessions has also given me the opportunity to train as a level 2 cricket coach! I hope to use this qualification to encourage more girls to get into cricket and stay with the sport. It feels really empowering to be a coach and to have the ability and opportunity to help my friends improve their confidence and cricketing skills.

**Tara Gulshan, KCL Student**

As in 2017, these sessions have enabled us to provide coach education pathways for some of the students. Five students are in the process of gaining their Level 2 Coaching Certificate and, in 2020, hope to be fully qualified and able to run sessions of their own.



### Growing the project

We look forward to running the second Trailblazer Trophy in 2020. Going forward, we hope to expand our Sunday session outcomes to include work around mental health, as well as connecting with the wider community through fundraising and events.

### Stats:

Students undertaking coaching qualifications: 5

Total participants: 68

Total sessions: 44

Percentage BAME: 96%



# Residential Trips

As we have done for many years, in 2019 we were able to run residential trips to both Arundel Castle and Repton School in Derbyshire. 192 children from across London took part in our trip to Arundel and 30 children from our Leyton Wicketz, Tower Hamlets Wicketz and West Ham and Stratford clubs took part in the Lord's Taverners' Wicketz Festival at Repton School.



Giving many participants their first taste of being away from home without their parents, these residential trips can be hugely beneficial to the social and emotional growth of the young people who come along. As well as making plenty of new friends, many participants develop important life skills such as independence and responsibility while away. Over 3 days at Arundel or Repton School participants bunk together with new and old friends, eat together as a group, sharpen cricketing skills and create lifelong memories.



## Cricket at Arundel Castle

For more than thirty years children from London's boroughs have been visiting Arundel for Cricket, coaching and fun during the Spring half-term and early summer holidays. The eldest would now be over 40 years old, and many with children of their own, and all ages in between. How good it would be to rediscover some of those who came to Arundel in the past and find out from them the impact it made and the influence it may have had on their lives.



Travelling some 50 miles from London and staying away from home, often for the first time, makes all the difference to the young. The activities, arranged around cricket and exercise, encourage the children to share their lives with each other amidst all the space – grass and trees – of the park and its castle. Eating together with constant chatter and laughter; sleeping in small groups is an adventure for many whilst the outcome of all this energy and enthusiasm is an outpouring of self-confidence and self-worth. I believe these youngsters feel better about themselves as a result. It is also fun for all the adults who have accompanied them over the years and witnessed the progression.

New skills are important too; learning to succeed and fail in equal measure is as important as an understanding of what it means to play a part in a team. The concept of teamwork – the sharing of skills and contribution – plays as important a part as any on every trip.

The space we have outdoors in which to run around and exert boundless energy; the opportunities that can be exploited indoors when the weather lets us down; safe and secure accommodation nearby and meals which almost always get a mention; and finally, at the end of each day, the celebratory moments when special achievements are often remembered as the highlight of each day.

Long may this continue. These trips make such a difference to the children, to all of us at Arundel and to their teachers and especially those involved with Capital Kids Cricket. The social, educational, health and well-being and sporting benefits are clear and enable us to share Arundel with thousands of young people who do not have the same opportunities on their doorstep.

We look forward to many more visits in the future.

**John Barclay – Director of Cricket at the Arundel Castle Cricket Foundation up until 2019 and now a CKC Trustee**

## Wormsley Cricket Festival

In August 2019 we visited the Wormsley Estate in Buckinghamshire for the first time. The day long festival provided 40 children from across our clubs with an opportunity to play matches and develop their skills at the picturesque ground nestled among the Chiltern Hills.



### Growing the project

In time, we hope to expand the Wormsley Cricket Festival to become a week-long residential trip for children and young people across London.

Using the estate's incredible facilities, the residential trip will allow us to run lots of cricketing sessions as well as workshops, for example learning about healthy eating by visiting the estate's vegetable garden.

### Stats:

Total trips: 6  
Total boys: 151  
Total girls: 104



# CKC Returns to Shatila

Since first introducing cricket to the children living in the Shatila refugee camp in Lebanon in 2018, the sport has taken off and is now hugely popular among the children living in the camp.

In March 2019, we teamed up with the Alsama Project, a charity based at the Shatila and Bekaa refugee camps, to run a week of coach education courses for the charity's staff, enabling them to run cricket sessions year round.

Here, Ratan, CKC CEO, shares his experiences of the week and running the courses:

## Day 1

Returning to the Shatila camp this morning excited me – it felt like returning to another home.

The main difference between this camp and the one we held last time is that we are also focusing on more teacher training alongside coaching the children.

Upon my arrival I was greeted by several teachers and translators whom I had met on my previous trip. The weather this morning was wet with some drizzle, but luckily this improved as the day progressed.

We started the session as suggested by Scyld Berry – by having the group run around with balls before beginning introductions. The session went much better than I was expecting. We had several newcomers (mostly Syrian refugees) join, who seemed to really enjoy the day and playing with us.

In the afternoon, the children joined us, and they were all very excited to see me! I could already see a lot of improvement in their batting and bowling thanks to our trustee, Richard Verity, who has been running two sessions a week since last November.

We ended the day with demonstrations using a junior Bola bowling machine and everyone had a turn to experience hitting a few tennis balls.



After returning to my hotel I was at the reception when I ran into one of our participants, a Syrian refugee attending the teachers' course. He lives with his family in a tent in the Bekaa Valley bordering the area and he shared with me his family's story of fleeing the Syrian war and his children's fear of the police/army here in Lebanon.

I wish I had the ability and resources to do more for all of them!



## Day 2

Today was another busy and exciting day. I have been very pleased with the way the teachers at the camp have been taking cricket seriously, while also enjoying the game. There is a lot for new coaches to take in, however, there are a few things that are non-negotiable and it's important for the new coaches to know this.

They were taught basic bowling and completed a few fielding drills. Following this they played a KWIK Cricket game for the first time, which they really enjoyed!

A great part of the day was seeing the coaches' management improve and the running of group activities was much better than Day 1. One Lebanese teacher who was present at our last camp mentioned today that Basketball was his first sport – but he was now going to teach cricket! He plans to teach all his family members cricket, including the rules and will try as much as possible to spread the game among as many people as possible. I was over the moon hearing his excitement.

The children have also improved a lot and it looks like they are all really enjoying the game! I am thinking hard about how to keep this momentum going for the months and years ahead ...



## Day 3

Coaches training was much more exciting today. The coaches seem to be finding more enjoyment in the sport every day! The best part of the day was watching how much they enjoyed the KWIK cricket game and learning about some tactics on not getting out!

Every individual in the camp has a sad story and yet they are all trying to be as happy as possible. I am pleased that even for short time, through cricket, we can give them some new excitement.

The children's game was much more organised, and we are all looking forward to our last day tomorrow with competitions running between the four teams. The Telegraph, BBC and Guardian all joined us today. We are all very hopeful that this project will continue, and that cricket will grow in this part of the world.



## Day 4

It was a wet start this morning as we started the coaches' teacher training session, but we managed to get through it with only a few stops! By the end, the coaches hopefully understood about batting set up, running between the wickets and basic bowling actions. The best part of the day was seeing the coaches understand the shorter Kwik cricket game!

During the afternoon session we held a competition between the four children's teams. The coaches ran the games, which was one of the outcomes we worked towards during the course.

I was delighted to hear all of the coaches praise the programme; they were all committed to continuing cricket within their school's camp.

I was also happy to hear a few of the boys express their feelings about the programme – they informed me that they feel safe when coming down to play cricket.

I wish we could extend more support to these child refugees ...



## In the news

<https://www.theguardian.com/sport/2019/mar/09/cricket-beirut-shatila-refugee-camp-children>

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/cricket/2019/03/12/cricket-provides-unlikely-refuge-displaced-syrian-kids-lebanons/>

## Stats

Total participants: 70

Total girls: 30

Total boys: 40

Total staff trained: 9

# Celebrating 30 Years of Capital Kids Cricket



Total schools  
worked in:

**515**

**310,000+**

Total participants

**14** clubs  
set up/  
developed

Cumulative Participants:

**2,700,000+**



# Capital Kids

As another LORD'S FINAL reached its thrilling last overs, the thoughts of a swilling and noisy crowd focused more and more on the CRICKET WORLD CUP - OF 2019.

**THE SCENE** was the MCC Indoor School one day last month. Two inner London primary schools - Cassenbury, from Haringey, and Brackbury, from Hammersmith and Fulham - were heading in out to determine the overall winners of the first British Land Kids Cricket League, organised by a ground-breaking charity called Capital Kids Cricket.

And the World Cup connection? Capital Kids Cricket was formed 17 years ago to rescue the teaching of the game in the primary and secondary

schools of central London, where it had all but died out and where half a million children represent the biggest concentration of potential sporting talent anywhere in Europe.

Two years ago, however, it was CRICKET which sent its coaches into a primary school in Newham, East London, and introduced the game to a nine-year-old wonder called Ravi Rajan.

The charity's first "old boy" in a sense is now the full England team. Ravi Rajan had just emerged in a new responsible talent in an otherwise disappointing England campaign in the Caribbean.

# Evening Standard CAPITAL Kids CRICKET

www.capitalkidscricket.co.uk

## THE KING OF SPIN POPS IN

Legend Shane Warne helps us look for a new generation of spinners

HE WAS going to be an hour late - but not one cent. Two dozen of the luckiest schoolkids in London were gathered at Bethnal Green Technology College and happy to wait as long as it took to see poppy from the greatest leg spinner of all time.

That was last May - and the Capital Kids Cricket it was just the start of the Shane Warne seminar.

Throughout the year, Capital Kids Cricket has been organising a series of residential state bowling academies for 100 school children from across the country.

In return, the legendary Aussie has been giving his pupils the chance to meet the end of the season - this time at the MCC's Indoor School in London.

It was almost Shane Warne's last set in England before returning to his native Australia to re-engage the Ashes River.

It was also a chance for the former Test captain to give a glimpse of his cricketing life to a new generation of young players to keep the spirit of the game alive.

Continued on page 10



SHANE WARNE: Who just the K in Cricket? Many thanks to the MCC for the opportunity to meet the former Test captain and give a glimpse of his cricketing life to a new generation of young players to keep the spirit of the game alive.

# NEWS

**CAPITAL KIDS CRICKET**  
**FINISHES** Capital Kids Cricket enjoyed the backing of many schools in the British Isles. An initiative to bring the game to the attention of half a million more school children is an annual expansion one. One year ago, our fourth thanks to the charity's founders, British Land, the Lyons Trust, the Metropolitan Police, Sportsworld and the Dock. The initiative has been a major success, with the number of schools participating in the game increasing from 100 to 1,000. The charity has also been successful in securing a community sports coach for our Region's Park House, and the many individuals who have become involved in the game. The charity has also been successful in securing a community sports coach for our Region's Park House, and the many individuals who have become involved in the game.

# Shahidul is leading a cricket revolution

**MOORE** primary school children were taught cricket at three schools in the British Isles. An initiative to bring the game to the attention of half a million more school children is an annual expansion one. One year ago, our fourth thanks to the charity's founders, British Land, the Lyons Trust, the Metropolitan Police, Sportsworld and the Dock. The initiative has been a major success, with the number of schools participating in the game increasing from 100 to 1,000. The charity has also been successful in securing a community sports coach for our Region's Park House, and the many individuals who have become involved in the game.

TRIAL BLAZER: Shahidul Alam

# Little League has landed

**IT BEGAN** as a brainstorm, grew into an experiment and this winter it became the British Land Kids Cricket League - perhaps the most ambitious initiative in the history of Capital Kids Cricket. American children are excited to become Little League members in a series of "Little League" schools across the country. The initiative has been a major success, with the number of schools participating in the game increasing from 100 to 1,000. The charity has also been successful in securing a community sports coach for our Region's Park House, and the many individuals who have become involved in the game.



INSIDE: Little League cricket, London's latest cricket craze

# Major movers join up to get capital's kids playing cricket again

**TALKING SPORT**  
**Schools sport**  
**Gareth A Davies**

THE tang of cut grass, the boundary ropes laid, the squares cut and rolled... but some schools, even the most traditional, will not be playing cricket at certain times during this summer term.

As the new *Widens Cricketers' Almanack* reveals this year in its section on schools cricket: "It now takes good fortune in your choice of school, as well as talent, to reach the top of the table. Fewer and fewer first teams play a significant amount of cricket.

The figures, mounting and saddening, are those: in 1983, 22 per cent of the schools whose results were listed in *Widens* arranged more than 20 matches. By 1993, that figure was 19 per cent. Last year, it was seven

per cent. As the period of examinations has grown longer - six weeks with some examining boards - so the need has been felt by boards to curtail cricketing activities. Last year saw the fewest scheduled fixtures for many years.

The England and Wales Cricket Board continue their claim that 85 per cent of sixth secondary schools provide cricket, but it has to be seen in the context of the ECB allowing a broad definition of the game.

Certainly, the sport is hardly flourishing in schools, with school field sides on the rise. What is both alarming and worrying is the declining trend in the schools which have held steadfast to the game over many years.

A flourishing story, though, comes from Capital Kids Cricket, in its 15th year of battling to get cricket into the inner-city boroughs of London. William Genavres, a cricketing physiotherapist, battled for years

to unite different organisations under one banner in an attempt to enhance cricket for the 500,000 inner-city youngsters in London as he perceived it to be dwindling away in the schools. His early work, Crick in London flourishes mostly at youth level through clubs, not schools.

Tomorrow at the Indoor School at Lord's, the county boards of Middlesex, Essex, Surrey and Kent, the MCC, the ECB, the Land's Taverners, NatWest and the Royal Parks, are all joint sponsors of the Capital Kids Cricket funds, with the winning teams from London's 18 inner-city boroughs battling it out to overall champions of London.

After his exertions with England in the West Indies,

Mark Butcher will attend the matches and present the prizes.

John Challiner, chairman of Capital Kids Cricket, said: "After years of commitment to separate initiatives, all the major movers in the game seem to be pulling together."

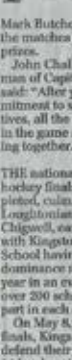
THE national schools competition, run by the MCC, culminates at Old Longhorns Hockey Club, Chigwell, early next month, with Kingston Grammar School having shown a dominance nationally this year in an event which sees over 200 school teams take part in each age group.

On May 8, in the boys' finals, Kingston Grammar defend their title at Under-14 level against Portsmouth

Grammar, Kingston Grammar will look for another title in the final of the Under-16 age group where they face Langley Park from Beckenham. In the Under-18 group, St George's College, Weybridge, the 2003 winners, face a tough challenge from Kent College, Canterbury. St George's have won the Under-18 title three times.

The final of the national girls' competition was played at Highfields Hockey Centre, Nottingham, taking a round-robin format in the final with the five top schools battling it out. This year, Kingston Grammar won the Under-18 Cup, with Felstead, from Essex, runners-up.

Please e-mail your letters on school sport to schoolsp@telegraph.co.uk



CRICKET

# Going in to bat for stars of the future

**By Ed Harris**

IT HAS given thousands of schoolchildren a chance to play cricket, and it is in its 15th year of bringing the game to London's inner-city youngsters.

When Capital Kids Cricket was launched in 2001, the game was played at only two dozen out of more than 600 primary schools. Now the charity has helped put cricket back on the curriculum at more than 300 schools.

The results of last year could be seen at Lord's, which hosted the Capital Kids Cricket Finals, Lang

**From war-torn streets to Lord's acclaim**  
**By Ed Harris**

WHEN he arrived in London five years ago, after fleeing an war-torn area in Afghanistan, he had never held a cricket bat or played the game on a proper pitch.

But today 14-year-old Yousaf Mahmood is in

the kind of generosity that CXC constantly encounters.

Alex Roberts-Miller, a former head boy of Charterhouse and a fine all-round sportsman, was 28 when he was killed by a hit-and-run driver seven years ago. His family set up a foundation in his name to help young people enjoy similar sporting opportunities to those he had. In the past three years it has donated £12,000 to CXC and Inner-London children.

**Worthy winner:** Callum Walters receives the Alex Roberts-Miller Memorial Award from Alex's father Richard

A tragedy that turned to triumph

Callum Walters, an outstanding young prospect at Forest Hill Secondary School, Lewisham, became the first winner of the Alex Roberts-Miller Memorial Trophy when Capital Kids Cricket and MCC gave nearly 300 London state schoolchildren the thrill of appearing at Lord's.

His triumph as the day's best all rounder was a fitting finale to a heart-warming story that began with tragedy and culminated in

**LOGO EVOLUTION**

TO coincide with the 150th anniversary of Charles Darwin's *On the Origin of the Species*, Capital Kids Cricket has gone in for a bit of evolution of its own. Here's how the K of Capital Kids Cricket developed into our mascot, Wick-Kid, and then into a new logo for the Heavy Rollers. Our design team (consisting of Roger Strong and Malcolm Seyfang) have obviously had another boy or girl stirring their stumps.



# World Cup call-up for the boy whose school didn't even play cricket

**RICHARD EDWARDS**

HE went to an east London school that did not play cricket but today Ravi Bopara became a sporting hero of the East End after being named in England's World Cup cricket squad.

The 23-year-old will face the biggest names in the game as he heads to the Caribbean next month.

He will be one of the youngest players but England selector David Gaveony said he had confidence in the new recruit.

He said: "Ravi is a big match player. He epitomises the spirit of the young players around."

The world stage in the Caribbean is a far cry from his early sporting days. Ravi was born in East Ham to Punjabi parents and went to Central Park primary.

Aged 10 he was a budding cricketer and demanded that his headmaster set up a cricket team.

A charity, Capital Kids, which was set up to introduce the game into inner-London schools, came to the rescue and coached him to success.

Ravi progressed from a rounder who is known to his teammates as "Puppo" - because he is said to still have "puppy fat".

Mr Bopara Sr, who works in catering, told the *Standard*: "I watched the team being announced live on TV and I'm absolutely elated. It makes me so proud, I could not have ever imagined from watching him play as a seven-year-old on the field it would be that one day he would be at the World Cup representing England."

Football was accused of being institutionally racist today at Central London Employment Tribunal Office. Black referee Joe Bawa, a father-of-three from Chingford, was sacked as an assistant referee last year. He is claiming one of football's senior bodies has a "hidden agenda".



**in our Major project is 'teams not gangs'**

In the 19 years since our birth, we have increased the number of inner-London state primary schools teaching cricket from two dozen to well over 500 and the number of secondary schools from practically nil to more than 100.

That has effectively rescued cricket for half a million state schoolchildren. But we have also recognised that there is no point in teaching cricket to children if they don't get the chance to try out their new-found skills in our school competitions.

So Capital Kids Cricket stages a whole range of tournaments, competitions, festivals and school holiday residential events in London and as far afield as Arundel Castle in Sussex, Bradfield College near Oxford and Bradfield College in Berkshire.

**PADDINGTON IS OUR FIRST STOP**

With help from the estate of David Smith, Capital Kids Cricket intends to launch a "Twilight Cricket" project as the first in our new initiative under our "Teams not Gangs" programme, it will be focused on 23 schools in the Westminster estate of Paddington Green, Holford and Linton Grove and the

Now, sadly, knife attacks and other farcical assaults during summer evenings give us an even more daunting reason to give inner-city kids a release for their inebriated leisure-time energy. Capital Kids Cricket sees its dominant role in the next three years to be the development of "Twilight Cricket", an even more exciting out-of-school programme that will take London's children out of gangs and into teams.

No team game reaches out to a wider cross-section of multicultural and multicultural London than cricket and it is our fervent hope that this shift of emphasis towards out-of-school activities will have a significant long-term effect on the depressing crime figures of the capital.

Compared with this objective, the discovery of a future Test star or two will merely be a bonus.





# Introduction from our chairman



Thirty years ago, three cricket enthusiasts were told that cricket in London state schools was dying or even dead. In a moment of illogicality, they decided to do something about it.

With £39 they launched Capital Kids Cricket, a charity to bring back cricket to London schools. From this small beginning in Westminster we have now raised over £7.5 million pounds and introduced hundreds of thousands of kids to cricket in all of the London boroughs.

The thirty years has at times been a challenge but we have built a strong team of coaches and an international reputation for developing schools' cricket, particularly among the disadvantaged and children with special educational needs.

We are lauded by local authorities and the cricket establishment and have been acknowledged as one of the leading schools cricket developers. This has led to us advising in new areas such as China and Lebanon refugee camps.

This success is due to our coaching team, enthusiastic teachers, support from the County Boards and, very importantly, generous individuals and sponsors.

At the end of our thirtieth year we were facing the future with confidence, thousands of children participating, new junior clubs, programmes in hospitals and SEN schools, unusually we even had money in the bank. Then along came Covid-19, schools and hospital programmes shut and cricket in all forms came to a grinding halt. We could of course have shut down, declared our coaches redundant and the trustees settled for a quiet life.

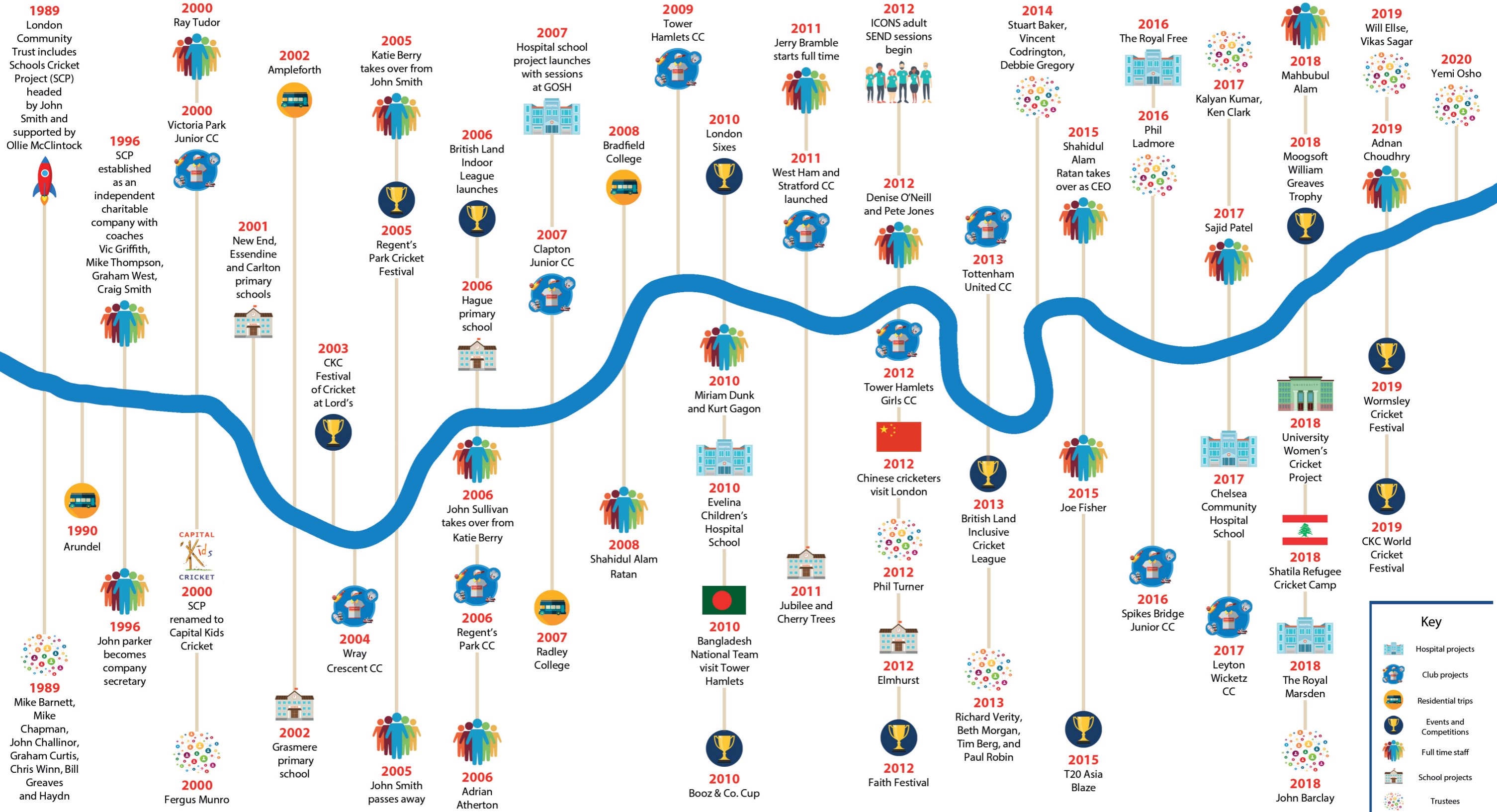
But no, this is not our style. We have a creative, enthusiastic CEO backed by a great team. Using the internet and social media, we developed activities so that children stayed with us and cricket, these challenges stimulated children throughout England and worldwide. Today as cricket returns, we plan to revitalise our school and hospital programme.

In life today we cannot sit back and say "They" must do something about it, if we want our children to be healthy and active and want cricket to prosper "We" not "They" have to do it. CKC, parents, grandparents, the community.

The mental and physical health of our children is the key to the future of our country, so let "Us" not "Them" do it.

**Haydn Turner**  
Chairman





**Key**

-  Hospital projects
-  Club projects
-  Residential trips
-  Events and Competitions
-  Full time staff
-  School projects
-  Trustees

# CKC Champions

In February we kicked off our 30<sup>th</sup> year celebrations with the CKC Champions, a special event we held at the MCC Academy, Lord's, in recognition of staff and volunteers who made CKC what it is today. While local school children played matches on the indoor pitches, our 'CKC Champions' received a special plaque during an awards ceremony.



# Special Recognition

In April, we were very honoured to receive the Peter Wade Special Recognition award at the Canary Wharf Group's Sports Personality of Year Awards. Awarded in recognition of the work we have carried out across east London; the award was made even more special by Tower Hamlets CC receiving the club of the year award.





## CKC World Cricket Festival

The biggest event in our history and a true one of a kind achievements for us, the CKC World Cricket Festival was the showcase event of our 30th Anniversary year. Taking place just before the 2019 men's Cricket World Cup semi-finals, our World Cricket Festival saw over 1,000 primary school children, teachers, parents and volunteers come together for a celebration of the growth of state school cricket and the diversity of London.

**866 children**      **58 nationalities**

**64 different language speakers**      **34 simultaneous matches**

Organised by our small team of just 6 full time staff, the event featured a day of cricketing fun and activities as well as an attempt to break the Guinness World Record for the 'largest cricket lesson at a single venue' – we should find out the result soon!

As cricket fever took over and excitement around the game grew throughout the day, we were delighted to be able to present every child who attended the festival with a plastic bat and ball of their own, generously donated to us by the ICC. We hope that we have planted the seed for the next generation of junior cricketers across London!





# Future stars put on festival style

BY DAVE BROWN

The docks may have gone back but the mood for cricket is undiminished in Tower Hamlets judging by the success of a festival of cricket at Whitechapel Sports Centre in the half-term break.

Two days, one for primary school children and one for secondary school pupils from the borough, were organised by the London Tigers and Capital Kids Cricket – an organisation raising the levels of participation in London's inner-city boroughs. In the afternoon, the head of development for London said the standards were high and

there was a great deal of enthusiasm shown by the children, some of whom had never played the game before.

"There were 40 bats over the two days which was a good number," he said.

"We provided coaching, games and competition and all the kids got a certificate."

He said schemes like this were helping to increase levels of physical activity in Tower Hamlets for both boys and girls – and would hopefully provide further players for the Tower Hamlets Club which will play in the Middlesex County League next season.

The club, which is being supported by all the schools and

other clubs in the borough, is designed to provide high-quality competitive cricket as well as building Sachin Tendulkar and Andrew Flintoff do not have to go to clubs outside the borough in which they live.

"Next season will be the first season and we will be playing our matches on the synthetic vicket at Victoria Park," he said.

"Hopefully soon we will have a grass vicket in the park and it will be more attractive for the best players in the area."

The deputy leader of Tower Hamlets Council, Cllr Jonathan Peck, and Lancashire councillor Mohammed Shabir Ali addressed on the last day and distributed medals to the participants.



Cllr Jonathan Peck presents medals to the...

# New chief coach gets off the mark

The first session at a new school has got to be absolutely the best you've ever coached.

After that first lesson, the kids are either going to lose interest and drift away, or else they are going to say to their mates 'I've seen it on telly but, wow, playing it is really cool!'"

That is the straightforward philosophy of Raymond Tudor, our new chief coach of Capital Kids Cricket. And so infectious is his enthusiasm that just about every London schoolboy and schoolgirl remembers that first encounter with Ray as the day cricket entered his or her life for all time.

"If I can get one kid in that class to join a weekend or after-school cricket club, I reckon I must have done something right," says the 32-year-old elder brother of England bowler Alex Tudor. "Sometimes seven or eight have joined up in one go – that gives me a real buzz."

Already selected for the England Under-17 squad and with a Surrey contract promised for the following season, the prospect of a glittering professional career were cruelly dashed with only the third ball he bowled in training with his new England team mates. "I felt a massive pain in my lower back which was diagnosed as a double stress fracture," recalls Ray. "Although it responded to treatment, doctors told me I could only



Ray Tudor: "It's a real buzz"

expect a playing career at the top level of four or five years. I was already studying civil engineering at Kingston College so I decided to go on to Westminster College, where I spent one day a week at college and four days working for a big firm of architects."

Now more of a batsman than a bowler Ray has spearheaded his club, Dulwich CC, through three table-topping years in the Surrey League, winning the Third, Second and First Division titles in successive seasons to win a place in this summer's Premiership.

"I've always really wanted to put something back into the game at grassroots level," he says, "so whenever I could I've coached youngsters at Lord's, Surrey, London Schools and, of course, for Capital Kids."

London's schoolchildren and Capital Kids Cricket are lucky to have such an inspirational leader on board.

# Everyone passes Tebbit's test now

Inner-city cricketers all want to play for England and a charity is giving them the chance, writes Ben Fenton

It's not just the long-haired, scruffy-looking boys who play for the London Tigers and Capital Kids Cricket, it's also the girls. In fact, the girls' team is so successful that it is now competing in the girls' section of the London County Cricket League. The girls' team is made up of 15 girls, all of whom are from inner-city schools. They are coached by a former England international, and their progress has been remarkable. They have won several matches and are now in the top half of the league.

It's not just the long-haired, scruffy-looking boys who play for the London Tigers and Capital Kids Cricket, it's also the girls. In fact, the girls' team is so successful that it is now competing in the girls' section of the London County Cricket League. The girls' team is made up of 15 girls, all of whom are from inner-city schools. They are coached by a former England international, and their progress has been remarkable. They have won several matches and are now in the top half of the league.



There's plenty to smile about on at Great O...

Capital Kids Cricket has been successful in raising the level of participation in cricket in the inner-city areas. The charity has provided coaching and equipment for many young cricketers, and has helped to build up a strong grassroots network. This has led to an increase in the number of children playing cricket, and to a higher standard of play. The charity is proud of its achievements and is looking forward to continuing its work in the future.

# Losing on the playing fields

Cricket is meeting its Waterloo in state schools that rarely host a match. William Greaves reports on efforts to revive the sport.

The decline of cricket in state schools is a worrying trend that has led to a loss of interest in the sport among young people. This is particularly true in inner-city areas where the facilities are often poor and the competition is fierce. However, there are those who are determined to reverse this trend and bring cricket back to its former glory.

Cricket is meeting its Waterloo in state schools that rarely host a match. William Greaves reports on efforts to revive the sport.

The decline of cricket in state schools is a worrying trend that has led to a loss of interest in the sport among young people. This is particularly true in inner-city areas where the facilities are often poor and the competition is fierce. However, there are those who are determined to reverse this trend and bring cricket back to its former glory.

Cricket is meeting its Waterloo in state schools that rarely host a match. William Greaves reports on efforts to revive the sport.

The decline of cricket in state schools is a worrying trend that has led to a loss of interest in the sport among young people. This is particularly true in inner-city areas where the facilities are often poor and the competition is fierce. However, there are those who are determined to reverse this trend and bring cricket back to its former glory.

Cricket is meeting its Waterloo in state schools that rarely host a match. William Greaves reports on efforts to revive the sport.

The decline of cricket in state schools is a worrying trend that has led to a loss of interest in the sport among young people. This is particularly true in inner-city areas where the facilities are often poor and the competition is fierce. However, there are those who are determined to reverse this trend and bring cricket back to its former glory.

# Kids get swinging at Lord's

ANNE CLAIRE executed a textbook off drive to clip an out-swinger into the boundary netting. From the other crease Kemi, her batting partner, advanced and the pair touched instinctively by way of celebration.

Annie Claire, 8, and Kemi, 10, were doing something yesterday their elder brothers and sisters had been denied: they were playing competitive schools cricket in London, helping Fircroft Primary from Wandsworth in the Capital Kids Cricket competition at the Lord's indoor school. And they were loving every minute of it. As were the scores of other children filling Lord's with the kind of high spirits not normally associated with the place on a day Middlesex were playing Nottinghamshire in front of two dozen people and a bank of Boyl.

As recently as 1987, it looked as though such a sight would never again grace Lord's. Then the tournament had to be abandoned because only two schools could raise a side: schools cricket had become the lion-faced tamarin of sport, a species on the brink of extinction.

"Cricket in state schools in inner London had all but died out," said

schools and discovered that the game was still hugely popular; it was not dying out through market forces. They were enormously helped by Cwikel Cricket, the plastic bat-and-ball game perfected by Annie Claire and Kemi which can be played anywhere.

According to Haydn Turner, the chairman of Capital Kids Cricket, schools cricket is an enormous marketing opportunity for the professional game: "Make kids excited by the sport, enjoy it. They won't all become England players, but they might become enthusiasts. They might even come and watch Middlesex v Notts."

As Annie Claire and Kemi disappeared into the hastily prepared ladies' changing-room at the indoor school, it seemed as if schools cricket was back in full health.

"Well, I wouldn't want to sound too triumphalist," John Smith, the LSCP's chief development officer, said. "We've reached 40,000 children so far, but our target is 100,000. There's only one borough where we have penetrated 100 per cent of the schools. That's the City of London. And they've only got one school."

# WOOLDRIDGE

Twenty20 still no match for school days out at Lord's

It's a good sign that the England cricket team's performance in the Twenty20 format has not been as good as hoped for. However, this does not mean that the game is no longer a popular one among young people. In fact, it is still a very popular one, and many young people are still playing it. This is particularly true in inner-city areas where the facilities are often poor and the competition is fierce. However, there are those who are determined to reverse this trend and bring cricket back to its former glory.



Inspire

# Challenge

Change



# Moogsoft William Greaves Trophy (MWGT)

2019 marked Moogsoft's second year of full sponsorship for the William Greaves Trophy and, with their support, we continued our trend of growing the competition year on year.

Last year's competition once again took place across 17 London boroughs with 14 schools having their first taste of MWGT action. Following a mammoth 400 matches, the finals day once again took place at the MCC Academy (Lord's). For the first time in its history it was live streamed across Facebook and YouTube. While adding a new and exciting dimension to the competition, this also allowed parents who were unable to attend to watch their children in action.

Following a day of high level, nail-biting cricket, Elmhurst Primary School (Newham) were crowned champions for the fourth time in the league's twelve-year history – a record that makes Elmhurst the competition's most successful school.

## Adem Ali – Rhodes Avenue Primary School

CKC has been fantastic this year in allowing our children to participate in the Moogsoft Trophy. The children have developed skills such as teamwork, sportsmanship and improved their overall cricket ability due to the competition. We have been able to have both an A and a B team participate this year in our local competition in Haringey giving more boys and girls the opportunity to play cricket and improve their skills. They have trained each week and continued to work hard and show a fantastic attitude and this is down to the effects of having the Moogsoft Trophy.





*“When you get to the point that you have to retire because you’ve got all those runs, it feels really good!”*

*“I found it really fun and really enjoyable to play at Lord’s”*



### Stats:

Total participants: 2,530  
 BAME percentage: 78%  
 Number of boroughs: 17  
 Total schools: 260

## Phil Tee, founder and Chairman of Moogsoft



“I remember as a young boy falling in love with cricket in the era of Ian Botham, Dennis Lillee, Imran Khan and Viv Richards. For an Englishman, the 149 not out of Ian Botham versus the Aussies at Headingley in 1981 remains one of the most exciting moments in sport! Ever since then it has been a passion of mine both as a player and a spectator, and I truly believe a metaphor for how to thrive in the hurly burly of the business world. It is sometimes said that uniquely amongst sports, cricket is simultaneously an individual and a team sport. As I have built software companies, ultimately success has come from both individual contributions and the team ethos as a whole. As a direct consequence of that, the opportunity to support the Capital Kids Cricket program and sponsor the “Moogsoft William Greaves” trophy is a huge honour. We depend intrinsically on the skills and talents of our kids, and this is a great way to nurture the next generation’s leaders. I hope that everyone involved has a fantastic time and may the best team win!!!!”





# CKC Inclusive Cricket League

Each year for the past six years the CKC Inclusive Cricket League (previously sponsored by British Land) has provided a unique opportunity for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) to represent their school at the MCC Academy (Lord's).

We continue to learn and adapt the league to have the maximum impact. In 2019, we took the step of running two different competitions based on the ability of the children taking part. Following a day of cricketing fun, we were delighted to see Hague Primary and Essendine Primary crowned the 2019 British Land Inclusive Cricket League champions.

On the surface, our adapted version of cricket ensures that every child has fun and can enjoy the thrill of throwing, catching, and hitting a ball. Underneath the surface, however, this competition has a far greater impact.

Using the league's platform, we aim to have a life changing impact. Through taking part in the games, SEND children learn to communicate, socialise, and work with others as part of a team. For a child with autism, for example, learning and developing these skills is hugely beneficial.





## Growing the project

We are now actively seeking new funding/sponsorship for the league and, without it, we will be unable to run the competition in future. If you are interested to learn more about this project, please contact us using the details on the back cover of this report.

### Stats:

Total boys: 201

Total girls: 180

New schools: 2



# London Sixes

In 2019 we ran our annual fundraising competition for the ninth time. The London Sixes took place at Leyton Sports Ground supported by Essex Cricket in the Community and new sponsor SmartCricket.com. The event once again featured a men's and women's competition with a total of seven teams taking part.







Due to restricted funding the competition was run on a smaller scale compared to previous years. However, the competition featured a landmark moment as, for the first time ever, a team made up of students from our university women's cricket project took part!

# Tape Ball Cricket

Although we have delivered tape ball cricket competitions in the past, 2019 saw an explosion in their popularity across east London. The game, first developed in the streets of Karachi, uses a tennis ball covered in electrical tape and requires minimal equipment to play.

Throughout the year we ran a range of leagues and competitions for children, young people, and adults. These included:

- Two days of 'Double Wicket' competitions in West Ham park, Newham.
- Tape ball cricket competitions on Christmas eve and Christmas day at the Leyton Urban Cricket Hub.
- Six weeks of indoor leagues for U13s from Chingford CC, Barking CC, Leyton Wicketz CC, and West Ham and Stratford CC at the Leyton Urban Cricket Hub.
- An evening of tape ball competitions at Leyton Orient Football Club in Waltham Forest, working alongside Essex Cricket in the Community.



## Stats

Total matches played: 25

Total participants: 150



## Growing the project

We are excited to build on the success of 2019's tape ball cricket competitions and will look to run further leagues and competitions across London.

Inspire

Challenge

# Change





# Clubs

Alongside our coaching programmes in schools, our aim to bring the game of cricket to disadvantaged children led us to set up cricket clubs in deprived areas across the capital.

With low or no membership fees, each of our community cricket clubs provides a space for young people from disadvantaged backgrounds to try their hand at cricket and develop skills on and off the pitch through training sessions and life-skills workshops.

We are now directly involved in running four clubs.



## Tower Hamlets CC

Our flagship club, we set up Tower Hamlets CC (THCC) in 2009. Ten years later, it is thriving with three adult sides competing in the Middlesex Cricket League and a healthy colts section, with teams playing in the Middlesex Colts league.

As the longest running and most successful club, THCC provides the sustainable and autonomous model by which we develop and will develop our current and future club projects.

Our coaches share their expertise with members and parents, providing pathways to employment via coaching courses and volunteering opportunities through positions on each club's committee.

To date, we have provided pathways for over 30 THCC members to become trained as coaches – many of whom now have fulltime employment as a result – and the club's committee is almost entirely made up of senior players.





## West Ham and Stratford CC

Our second oldest club, West Ham and Stratford CC, has been run by our development coach Jerry Bramble since its founding in 2011. With over 50 attendees during the winter months, and 70 in the summer, the club continues to thrive, with three teams being entered for the Metropolitan Essex League each year.

The club also now runs a successful young adults team, consisting of members who have been at the club since childhood, who compete in the National Cricket League. In 2019, the team cemented their spot in the third division and are now hoping to push on for another promotion.





### Spikes Bridge Junior CC

Spikes Bridge Junior CC, founded in 2016 with funding from John Lyon’s Charity, entered its final year of funding in 2019. In this time, we have developed a junior cricket club at Spike Bridge Park in Southall, which serves multiple age groups of both boys and girls for a long time to come.



Building on our successes in 2018, we continued our work in local primary and secondary schools and boosted the membership of the club from 45 to 88 members.

With this boost in the membership, we are not only one step closer to creating a self-sufficient and self-sustaining club, but Spikes Bridge Junior CC have also been able to continue sending teams to competitions all year round. Alongside winter indoor competitions organised by Middlesex CCC, the club competed against other London-based clubs, such as Osterley CC and Tower Hamlets CC, and entered a team into the Women’s London Sixes in east London.

Going forward, the club aims to enter junior sides into the Middlesex Colt’s Cricket League.



## Leyton Wicketz CC

Catering for 20 participants in the winter months, group sizes at Leyton can swell in summer to 30 or 40 young people – meaning our participants make plenty of new friends as they play. With such high attendance, we have also been able to take a further step towards making Leyton Wicketz independent, self-sufficient and self-sustaining: splitting the costs of running the club across all participants, we have introduced an affordable membership fee of £2 per session, which we hope will help make the club a fixture within the community for a long time to come.



Since its founding with funding from the Lord's Taverners Wicketz programme in 2017, our Leyton Wicketz club has grown quickly.

We run two sessions a week for children and young people at the club and, towards the end of 2019, had the exciting opportunity to run training at the newly refurbished Leyton Urban Cricket Hub – the first of its kind in the UK!

I joined Leyton Wicketz when the club was very new. I had recently got into cricket and I wanted to be able to make new friends and just have a lot of fun and maybe play competitions and I was told that Leyton Wicketz would have these so I joined.

There was a lot that I enjoyed about being part of the club, I actually felt like I was not being left out and I was enjoying the sessions and I was also developing my skills.

Before joining Leyton Wicketz I was not able to speak in front of people but since joining them and being a captain for some years I have been able to develop that skill and I can comfortably speak in front of everyone.

I did the coaching qualification because I wanted to be able to coach but at the same time, I believed that me helping others would help me develop as a cricketer and become better.

**Ijlal Ali, 17 – Leyton Wicketz player and coach**





Ibraheem and Sufyaan attended the Leyton Summer Camp in 2019 (August). At the time Ibraheem was 7 and Sufyaan was 5 years old. The Cricket World Cup had just ended, and the boys were so energised by it all and looked forward to going to do cricket training and play games. It was a brilliant initiative where parents were invited to stay and watch the children from the sidelines!

Even after 5pm the boys used to stay on for ages playing with their friends and practicing! They made so many friends and then after the holidays they attended the Leyton Wicketz Saturday morning sessions with Adnan. It was the highlight of their week playing in a well-equipped indoor cricket hall in all weathers. We are excited to be part of this wonderful club and look forward to many more years of cricketing fun!

**Shamama, mother of Ibraheem and Sufyaan who play for Leyton Wicketz CC**



*Ibraheem and Sufyaan with their younger sister*

*“I love playing at Leyton Wicketz and I love my coaches!”*

**Ibraheem**





# Workshops

Working in line with our club development philosophy – developing people, not just players – we supplement our cricket training with life-skills development workshops specifically designed and delivered to tackle local issues and help the children and young people we work with to fulfil their potential.

In 2019, we designed a brand-new programme featuring six workshops based on themes including communication, empathy, leadership, teamwork, and healthy lifestyles. Participants followed clues to unlock padlocks, built spaghetti towers and constructed parachutes for eggs, all while learning valuable lessons and making plenty of new friends.

Through our partnership with the Lord's Taverners, we were also lucky enough to have the Royal Navy visit our Leyton Wicketz programme to run an evening of exciting and interesting workshops. These included teamwork exercises such as building a 'satellite tower' from giant Meccano to help reconnect a stricken, hurricane-hit island to the world and working together to navigate a giant 'spider's web'.

At West Ham and Stratford CC we supplemented our workshop programme with a first aid course for children and held special activities and workshops for mothers and daughters.

In 2020, we look forward to expanding our workshop programme with the development of new workshops as well as bringing them to our other projects.





## Growing the project

Having introduced innovative workshops for the first time in 2019, we are excited to expand on these in 2020 and look at how we can shape our delivery to have an even greater impact on the children and young people we work with.

We will now be looking at how we can use our workshops to enhance the connection between our young people and the communities they live in, thereby cementing the clubs as true community hubs.

### Stats:

Total Club Members

Tower Hamlets CC – 159 participants with 11 new members joining in 2019

West Ham and Stratford CC – 112 participants with 22 new members joining in 2019

Leyton Wick CC – 78 participants with 18 new members joining in 2019

Spikes Bridge Junior CC – 88 participants with 43 new members joining in 2019

Total club workshops run: 16

# Community

In 2019 we strengthened our work within disadvantaged local communities and brought our programmes and work to new areas of London.

## Refugee Cricket

We first began running sessions for refugee groups in 2017 when, with funding from Essex Cricket in the Community, we partnered up with Dost, a charity for young refugees, and ran weekly tape ball cricket sessions in Newham. These sessions have continued ever since and continue to be a great success.



More recently, we have begun to work with another group of young refugees as part of our Leyton Wicketz club. Having turned up out of the blue to join the sessions, the group, mainly aged 14 to 19, has grown to such an extent that we now run another night of training specifically for them and other young people.

Many of the refugees we have been working with are young people from Afghanistan with a huge passion for cricket. Our cricket sessions have been a huge draw and have allowed us to get to know the individuals better and identify how we may be able to offer them more support in future.



## Growing the project

Following consultations with the group, we plan to expand on the foundations we have laid and provide wider benefits via education support, access to English language courses and employment opportunities via coach education and signposting to other opportunities.

We hope to use the work we do in Leyton as a template for future work with other refugee groups across London.

## Stats:

Total participants: 46



## Kingsmead Estate and Milton Gardens Estate

Working in partnership with Hackney Marsh Partnership (HMP) for the first time, we delivered a summer programme on Kingsmead and Milton Gardens Estates aimed at working with children and young people who are at risk of becoming involved in gangs and criminal activity.



Across the six-week summer holiday, we delivered cricket activities and workshops designed to engage participants and develop life-skills that allowed them to set life goals, realise their potential and identify the opportunities available to them.



### Growing the project

This was our first experience of working with children and young people on these estates and we are hopeful that, as our partnership develops with HMP, we can provide even more opportunities.

In 2020, we will be working with HMP to source further funding to allow this work to continue. If you think you can help, please contact us using the details on the back of this report.

### Stats:

Total workshops run: 10

Total boys: 10

Total girls: 8

## Mothers and Children

In 2019, we were able to once again expand our cricket and aerobics sessions for women in Newham and Tower Hamlets, encouraging mothers to get active and become more involved in their communities by participating in aerobics sessions at accessible times and venues.

In Newham, we began by setting up sessions at primary schools in the winter and spring months. Phased in over the Easter School Holiday, the sessions then brought the same participants to West Ham park for a range of activities from aerobics sessions for mothers to girls only cricket sessions.

Throughout late spring and the summer, we ran weekly sessions in the park and regularly engaged mothers and their children in sessions that not only kept them physically fit, but also improved their confidence, self-esteem and connection to the park. To create an even stronger bond between the participants and the community we have begun to promote volunteering opportunities with mothers taking it upon themselves to arrange sessions and run their own activities.

The project culminated in a huge cricket festival on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> August, with over 150 participants taking part in a range of activities from cricket games to dance and beach volleyball. With families bringing their own food and refreshments out to the park, we were very pleased with the community feeling on the day.



I was one of the first to join Capital Kids Cricket's Women's Aerobics Group and cricket sessions one year ago and thoroughly enjoy every moment of each session. This is one of the few places I can come and socialise with a range of different women and integrate as one. In my jam-packed schedule from the early morning school run to preparing dinner in the evening, Women's Aerobics group is where I can truly relax, have a chat and remain healthy. Ultimately, this is a stress reliever from doing the same tasks everyday which gives me great pleasure and delight. I continue to make more friends as the group progresses and we are very intimate and transparent which has created a sense of security.



The women's aerobics has directly contributed to my confidence and resulted in me being encouraged by CKC to take my activator course – mental health, first aid and coach support worker all completed successfully. In doing this I am truly happy and since February 2018 I have been an active volunteer for Capital Kids Cricket. I would love to see CKC implement even more projects that support all female sessions to accommodate our privacy and preferences.

Thanks to Capital Kids Cricket for giving me and my family this wonderful opportunity. We are very proud to be part of a great impact towards individuals who aren't always fortunate with these types of opportunities.

**Saleha Ahmed – mother, participant and CKC volunteer**



## Growing the project

2019 was just the start of our mothers and children project and going forward we hope that we can use our proven track record to strengthen communities and get more families physically active across London.

### Stats:

Total mothers: 170

Total children: 115



## Adult Inclusion Session at Little Venice

Working in partnership with Everyone Active, we have been running weekly cricket sessions at Little Venice Sports Centre for adults with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) since 2015.

The sessions are run by our Inclusion Coach, Denise O’Neill and, during her time working with the group, it has become clear that the sessions have been transformative for the participants. Through providing a platform for them to develop crucial life and social skills, participants progress towards greater independence while increasing their engagement in their local communities. “Our oldest player is 56”, Denise says, “he has a learning disability, a hearing impairment and lives with diabetes, he is amazing and an absolute star in the session.”

The majority of participants at our Little Venice Adult Inclusion sessions come to us through the Westminster based charity Pursuing Independent Paths (PiP). Some are escorted by staff while others are able to make the journey on their own. We are particularly proud that our coaching sessions can play a part in enhancing the quality of life of this valuable community.



### Stats:

Total participants: 16

The sessions provide a relaxed, social environment where they can spend time with their friends, share in each others success and support each other through challenges. The value of the emotional development and wellbeing is just as important as the mental, physical and skills benefits.

**Adam Pearson – Service Manager at PiP**

# CKC and the Cricket World Cup 2019

In addition to our own World Cricket Festival, 2019 featured the small matter of the men's ICC Cricket World Cup coming to England and Wales with England being crowned champions for the very first time.

In the build up to the World Cup cricket events took place across London and, for a morning, we were privileged to have our own slot at the ICC World Cup Fan Zone in Trafalgar Square. Making use of the specially built cricket cage, we introduced children and families to tape ball cricket and even had a few international players drop in too!



Adam Milne, New Zealand International Cricketer, bowls at children during our tape ball cricket exhibition

# How to Donate

Thank you for reading this report and sharing in our journey. As an organisation, we take great pride in our work and hope that what we strive to achieve is inspirational.

If you would like to support us via a donation, any amount is significant to us and there are a variety of ways to donate:

## Online donation

Please visit: <https://donorbox.org/ckc-donate>

Alternatively, you can scan this QR code:



## By Cheque

If you would like to donate by cheque, these can be made payable to 'Capital Kids Cricket' and sent to our office address:

Capital Kids Cricket  
157 Tennyson Rd  
London, E15 4DR

## Gift aid

If you are a UK taxpayer, please consider 'gift aiding' your donation. This, at no extra cost to you, allows us to claim 25% extra on your donation.

For more information, please visit: <https://www.gov.uk/donating-to-charity/gift-aid>

For online donations, please tick the Gift Aid box when making your donation. For donations by cheque, we will provide a simple Gift Aid form for you to complete should you wish to gift aid your donation.









Capital Kids Cricket  
157 Tennyson Road, London, E15 4DR  
[info@capitalkidscricket.org.uk](mailto:info@capitalkidscricket.org.uk)



Registered Charity Number: 1056817  
Company Registration Number: 3175913