

May / June Newsletter

Anthony Axford North West Cricket League

Meetings; Clubs will be advised of the date of the next meeting with clubs.

Lancashire KO; The NWCL will have five teams in the 2026 Lancs KO.

English Language Skills;

On Thursday, 15 May 2025 at 15:16:12 BST, Phil Gardener <philipwilliamgardener@gmail.com> wrote:

Good afternoon Ray,

I'm writing to you in your capacity of secretary of the North West Cricket League. I'm reaching out with a unique opportunity for players in your cricket league who might be interested in improving their English language skills in a fun and interactive way.

As a passionate fan of cricket and an advocate for language learning, I've developed an online version of the dice cricket game designed to help players practice English while enjoying the sport they love. This game combines the excitement of cricket with practical language exercises—whether it's discussing match scenarios, learning sports terminology, or building conversational confidence in a relaxed setting. The games and lessons are played over Zoom, MS Teams or Google Meets

The classes are based on an online version of the old dice cricket game you may have played yourself previously. The 'game' is a limited over match played over one or more sessions between myself and the student(s), there is a detailed scoring spreadsheet based on a standard cricket scorebook that I complete in collaboration with the student. The ball-by-ball action is auto generated by AI, in place of a dice, runs, wickets etc are determined not only by the roll of the dice, as it were, but also on the Q&A and dialogue between the student and myself.

I've previously taught as part of the Talk English team at Manchester City Council, there we taught people from South Asia and beyond rudimentary language skills to help them assimilate into local society. I'm aware that much of what holds people back from a more fulfilling life in the UK is poor English skills, many people cannot afford lessons or lack the confidence or opportunity to practice at a time, place or pace that suits them.

As Cricket is such a part of the South Asian community's way of life I feel this is the perfect safe environment to practice, build confidence and develop skills that can be applied to all other aspects of a person's life.

Why this could benefit your players:

- **Engaging Learning:** By tying language practice to cricket, players can learn naturally, without the pressure of traditional classroom settings.
- **Practical Skills:** English fluency can open doors—better communication with teammates and coaches, or future career prospects.
- **Flexible & Fun:** The game is accessible online, allowing players to participate at their convenience while connecting with fellow cricket enthusiasts.

There is no cost involved, all lessons are free of charge.

I'd love to collaborate with you and the NWCL to see if any players or players families in your league might be interested in trying this out. Perhaps we could start with a small pilot group within a few clubs or even organize a demo session. I'm happy to tailor the experience to suit their skill levels (this is not aimed at children or players with no English language skills) and cricketing interests.

Thank you for considering this idea. I'd be grateful for the chance to discuss it further or answer any questions you might have. Looking forward to your thoughts!

regards

Phil Gardener

Ladies Coaching / Playing;

- From: **Bonnie Davies** <playcricket.emailer@ecb.co.uk>
Date: Sun, 18 May 2025, 13:30
Subject: Playing/Coaching
To: <nwcricketleague@gmail.com>
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Hi I am emailing you in regards to some guidance on playing/coaching opportunities around Blackburn/Preston region for women's cricket.

I am an experienced cricket operations manager, coach, and player with over six years of professional involvement in cricket across multiple roles. My background combines high-level playing credentials with proven expertise in coaching and cricket operations management. I am currently based in the UK on an Ancestry Visa, which allows me to live and work here without restriction, and I am looking to become actively involved in a cricket club—whether in a coaching, operational, or playing capacity.

My playing consists of the following.

- Tasmania Representative: Played at the Cricket Australia Under-Age Female Championships (2014–2019), including being part of the leadership group (2017–2019).
- National Recognition: Selected for the Cricket Australia U19 Exhibition Match and Perry XI (WBBL exhibition) in 2019 – the only Tasmanian selected.
- Hobart Hurricanes: Involved in U19 Indigenous matches and squad training on (2018–2020).
- Club Achievements:
 - Multiple 'Best Player', 'Best Batting' and 'Best All-Rounder' awards at Kingborough Knights.
 - Women's Club Vice-Captain (2017–2019).
 - Consistent selection in Tasmania's Team of the Year (2019–2021).
 - Player of Match in 2019 and 2020 Kookaburra Cup Grand Final

As Operations Manager at The Cricket Hub in Tasmania (2019–2023), I was responsible for the day-to-day and strategic management of a busy cricket-focused retail and indoor sports facility. My role included:

- Managing stock orders, retail display, and supplier relationships with major brands (Gray Nicolls, Kookaburra, Adidas, New Balance, ASICS).
- Coordinating junior competitions and liaising with schools for talent identification.
- Organising and leading coaching programs, staff training, and umpire coordination.
- Overseeing marketing, social media, email newsletters, and the creation of an online store.
- Running events, facility bookings, and business operations including cash handling and reconciliation.
- Managing uniform design, orders, and distribution for multiple sporting clubs (cricket, netball, soccer, MTB).

I have coached both junior and senior cricketers, with formal roles at Kingborough Knights Cricket Club (2020–2021), and volunteer coaching for U17 Girls. My coaching includes:

- Planning and conducting training sessions with a focus on technical and physical development.
- Providing game strategies, performance analysis, and one-on-one skill-based coaching.
- Teaching game safety, conditioning programs, and providing holistic athlete support including nutrition and wellbeing.
- Umpiring and mentoring junior staff and players in both coaching and officiating roles.

I am now seeking to bring my experience and passion for the game to a UK-based cricket club—contributing as a coach, operations coordinator, and/or player. With full working rights in the UK via an

Ancestry Visa, I am ready to commit to a new club environment, contribute to player development, and support the broader growth of cricket at all levels.

Thanks

Sent by Bonnie Davies

Tel: 07718947404 Email address: bonniehopedavies6682@gmail.com

Live Streaming;

LIVE STREAMING With the accelerating pace of changes in available technology, we are aware that many member clubs have now invested in equipment to allow Live Streaming of their matches. We recognise the added enjoyment and value that this brings to many but remind clubs again that new benefits come with new responsibilities. Clubs will be aware that Management Committee have, on a number of occasions since it was first published, highlighted the importance of the ECB Photo, Video and Live Streaming Guidance (attached again below). We recognise that most clubs will not have experience of professional broadcasting – the Guidance is designed to help clubs be aware of and, importantly, to mitigate against the avoid potential pitfalls associated with broadcasting and/or recording a live stream. Member clubs are expected to adhere to the ECB Guidance. We acknowledge some clubs are visibly making the effort to do this; however, last season, and again this season already, concerns have been expressed that some clubs are not following the Guidance. These concerns include: • Live streaming where participants were unaware that they were being recorded. • Live streaming where required consent and permissions have not been obtained. • Live streams being broadcast with audio that is picking up vulgar and offensive language being used by spectators. • Players/spectators using the existence of the live stream footage to challenge or threaten umpires during or after matches. Be advised that any of the above could be viewed as a breach of discipline and dealt with under General Conduct Regulations if an Umpire's Report or Disciplinary Complaint were received. If an individual or club was found to be in breach of GCR, failure to demonstrate that the club has followed ECB Guidance may be viewed as an aggravating factor when considering sanctions. For reference, the ECB Guidance (document attached) contains 13 steps: Step 1 | Nominate a contact for your Cricket Organisation Step 2 | Consider the purposes for which you want to live stream, photograph or make recordings Step 3 | Ensure you have a live stream, photography and audio visual recording policy Step 4 | Get League / other side's permission for any live streaming, photographing or videoing of their matches Step 5 | Get approval from both teams, the umpires and the scorers Step 6 | Consider child protection and safeguarding protocols Step 7 | Make spectators and other persons attending aware Step 8 | Remember – data protection law applies Step 9 | Ensure you have and give an appropriate privacy notice Step 10 | Prepare an appropriate consent form Step 11 | Timing for and obtaining consent from players and, for players under 16, their parent / carer Step 12 | Site cameras responsibly Step 13 | Tips for capturing and using images of children and dealing with complaints The Guidance is clear that consent must be explicit. Approval cannot be assumed.

Safehands; The most recent version is 4.0. There have been recent glitches with the system which the ECB are dealing with.

Treasurer; Mark Graham from Ribblesdale Wanderers has agreed to take over from Mike Bridges after the AGM.

Covers; If a club has a sheet they no longer use to cover the wicket, could they let Andy Scambler know please?

Anti Discrimination Update;

Formerly known as the ECB's Anti-Discrimination Code (ADC), 2025 sees a change in title as it is now called the Anti-Discrimination Regulations (ADR).

An important amendment has taken place within the GCR regarding offence categories when dealing with a breach of the ADR. Guidance has now been provided within Appendix 4, 3.2 and it reads:

Although every case will be considered on its facts, the starting position is that all On Field Offences which involve an alleged breach of the ECB's Anti-Discrimination

Regulations should be considered equivalent to a Level 3 breach and charged accordingly.

The Disciplinary Officer and/or the Disciplinary Panel may consider that an alleged breach

of the ECB's Anti-Discrimination Regulations in a particular case is not equivalent to a

Level 3 breach, based on the severity of the alleged conduct, and charge and/or sanction

on that basis.

Overseas Player Audit- LCF

As of 2025 cricket season, LCF will conduct an audit of overseas players currently playing regulated cricket within the county.

This will require vital assistance from our Leagues who will be able to assist in gaining information from clubs regarding their overseas players. LCF will look to obtain:

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- **Full list of overseas players registered within that League**
 - **Registration Documents**
 - **Visa Eligibility**
 - **Visa Sponsor details**
 - **Confirmation of pay, including on a sub pro basis**
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Clubs will be selected at random during the audit.

Registrations;

Registrations; Please make sure you send the Registration form in as well as the play cricket profile, as they will not be processed if we do not have both forms submitted.

If the player is transferring to your club, please make sure you request the profile from the previous club. Only create a new profile if you haven't received it and you need to send off

before registration cut off. Merge once you have the players profile from pervious club. Please also apply for the sub pros profile and register as normal with the League. Email requesting if you can have a sub pro to registrations@nwcl.co.uk and apply for his club profile on Play-Cricket then send through to be registered. De register once the game(s) he's played are completed.
