



## **DULWICH CRICKET CLUB**

A Section of Dulwich Sports Club Ltd

*Affiliated to:*

The England & Wales Cricket Board

The Surrey Cricket Championship

The Surrey Cricket Foundation

The Club Cricket Conference

[www.dulwichcc.com](http://www.dulwichcc.com)

## **DULWICH CRICKET CLUB OUTREACH PROJECTS**

### **Dulwich Dragons (Womens Soft Ball)**

Report 2024

### **The Dulwich CC Snow Leopards**

Report 2024



# **DULWICH DRAGONS**

## **SOFT BALL CRICKET TEAM**

Report 2024

Dulwich Dragons, Women's Soft Ball team, is part of Dulwich CC Diversity and Inclusion project. This is DCC's new inclusion project, launched in the 2023 season, with great success and potential. The project is led by Assan Crawford-Khan (D&I officer) who enjoyed fantastic support from Charlotte Lindner (Lead Coach 2023), Amanda Pitt (team captain), Katy Haile (team manager) and Annie Tiranti (team manager). This report attempts to summarise the project and our successes, both on and off the field. We are grateful to all the people and organisations who have supported us, financially, and otherwise, and believe we have built a firm foundation to build on in the 2025 season.

### **ABOUT THE DULWICH DRAGONS**

The idea for the Dulwich Dragons Women's Soft Ball cricket team came from a realisation that there was a group of women who would be interested in trying cricket, perhaps for the first time. Many women, now involved in playing softball cricket at DCC have played many other sports to high levels, but very few have had the opportunity to play cricket. Thankfully, for younger women, this is now not the case and girls in the Junior section at DCC are thriving, with the U15 team particularly strong. Hard-ball cricket can be intimidating for new-comers and the uninitiated, with all the requirements for expensive equipment and the perception that prior cricketing knowledge is necessary. Cricket is full of terms and this language can be a barrier to inclusion if you don't know it! The training sessions for the DCC's women's team had been open to new members who could be new to cricket, but those attending found that the younger girls are now so good, it was difficult to think how a predominantly older and inexperienced group of women would fit in. These women are often (but not always) mums, with sons and daughters already participating in the Junior Section of the club; involving them in a style of cricket that was welcoming and realistic was the idea, which would not only make cricket at DCC more inclusive, but also help to create even more of a 'family' club atmosphere for DCC. Parents would now be able to contribute, not only as chauffeurs, managers, scorers, umpires, caterers, etc, but also as players in their own right. Softball Cricket and Dulwich Dragons provided the solution!

## ACTIVITIES FOR THE DULWICH DRAGONS

1. Indoor and Outdoor Coaching sessions
2. Soft Ball Festivals/tournaments
3. Soft Ball League Matches
4. Social Events

## PARTICIPATION

Within its first team, the project has 42 members of which more than half are keen Soft Ball players who train and play on regular bases. The squad includes students, professionals and mums, many who are new to cricket in any form. Some may go on to contribute to the DCC women's hard ball team or be active participants in both teams.

## OUTDOOR TRAINING SESSIONS

**Coaching Sessions:** From April 2024 till September 2024, we ran focused coaching weekly sessions to train the Dulwich Dragons as a separate group, developing and improving their cricketing skills and enabling them to bond as a group. The sessions were mainly delivered by our lead coach Charlotte Lindner who is assisted by Assan Crawford-Khan. A total of 20 focused training sessions were delivered to 20 extremely committed and 42 very enthusiastic cricketers during summer 2024.



Training session at Griffins Cricket Ground on Wednesday, 23rd May 2024.



One of the practice drills at our weekly training sessions

## **FESTIVALS FOR DULWICH DRAGONS**

### **Oval Smash IT Festival, Saturday - 22 June 2024:**

Saturday 22nd June dawned with much anticipation, very importantly for cricket, sun and the joy of going to play at... wait for it... the Oval! THE OVAL. Imagine the excitement (and envy) around the cricketing breakfast table, when the person going to play there was your mum/sister/friend who had only just started to play cricket!

This was the Dulwich Dragons' first event and, as we weren't sure about uptake, one team had been entered. Such was the enthusiasm to play, 19 players were available, enough for three teams, so team rotation made sure that everyone got a game. The festival was divided into two groups of four teams, so everyone was guaranteed at least one game.

Although the games were not played on the actual hallowed square, but on the outfield, the atmosphere was fantastic, with many DCC supporters, family and friends turning up to cheer the team along. We all felt very professional in the DCC Academy kit and much was learnt from the experience. Apart from perhaps two players, these were our first ever games of cricket in any form and insights were shared after about nerves, decision making and all the things we might have heard our children and children's coaches talk about, with a realisation that, sometimes, these things are quite hard to achieve in a game scenario. Whilst no games were actually won, a lot was learnt and, above all, a love for playing cricket was well and truly lodged into each and every one of our hearts. Thank you, Surrey CC for a fantastic day and for making these opportunities for Women's Soft Ball Cricket possible.



Dulwich Dragons during Smash IT Festival Kia Oval on Saturday 22 June 2024

*B: Kath, Hermoine, Helen, Lucila, Susan, Amanda, Rebecca, Katy, Charlotte B., Lizzie Ch., Annabel*

*F: Sonia, Vanessa, Mel, Annie, Tazeem, Charlotte L., Pru, Isabel, Tania, Assan*



Post Festival team chat - Captains, managers and coaches



Dulwich Dragons with other teams at the Oval

### **Epsom CC Smash IT Festival - Sunday, 21 July August 2024**

The Epsom Smash IT Festival was an 8-a-side Festival held at the lovely Epsom Cricket Club ground, of which, we discovered, there are two - a bit like we have three at Dulwich...! Once all nine of us had found the correct ground, it was time to get down to some serious Soft Ball cricket on a perfect summer's day for it which also marked our first win in the history of the Dulwich Dragons! A narrow defeat to the old adversary, Sanderstead meant we missed out on the final, but a play off for third and fourth place vs Epsom saw us safely bringing home third place in the Festival. Further lessons were learnt about focus in the field, preserving your wicket at all cost and managing the run rate in the final overs when batting second. Thank you, Charlotte! All in all, it was another lovely day out, played in good spirits and with good sportsmanship, despite some dubious bowling actions from the other team (who will go unmentioned!) that got to the final... Thank you Epsom CC and Surrey for another fantastic Smash IT Festival.



Dulwich Dragons at Epsom CC Smash IT Festival, Sunday 21 July August 2024

*B: Olga, Rebecca, Katy, Lizzie, Tania, Becks, F: Holly, Amanda, Charlotte L. Susan*

### **Cranleigh CC Smash IT Festival - Sunday 4 August 2024**

Cranleigh CC Smash IT Festival was another 8-a-side Festival held in the picturesque village of Cranleigh, 90 minutes away from our Dulwich grounds. Being August, a lot of the Dragons were busy with their summer holiday schedules and unable to attend, but this provided a wonderful opportunity for two new players to join the fun - Tania's daughter Scarlett, and Charlotte's mum Rachel. These two mother & daughter pairings were both delightful and formidable additions to the team, as was the enthusiastic side-line support from many of the Dragons' children who came to cheer on their mums. In the end we enjoyed winning two of our four matches and finished in 3rd out of 6 overall - our first "Bronze medal"! Onward and upwards for the Dragons.



Dulwich Dragons at Cranleigh CC Smash IT Festival, Sunday 4 August 2024

B: Tania, Becks, Katy, F: Olga, Rachel, Scarlett, Charlotte L. Kat

### **Dulwich CC Festival - Sunday, 15 September 2024:**

The late summer weather couldn't have been better for our first festival hosted at our Dulwich grounds by the Dragons' team. Everyone wanted to make sure we lived up to the cricket tradition of 'cricket teas' and ensure we hosted and welcomed the teams that had made the effort to travel and participate. The teams that came were The Old Ruts and Leatherhead CC, with Hampton Hill withdrawing at short notice. Alongside the hot drinks, many of our team players had made cakes and other nibbles to offer to the teams when they arrived which were all warmly received by our visitors.

Given the high turnout we had for the festival, our captain, Amanda, made the sensible decision to split into two teams, Dulwich Burbage and Dulwich Griffin, based on ability and training sessions attended, and handled this as always sensitively and with kindness.

Dulwich Burbage won their first two games, playing some of our best cricket yet, in all departments. We won both tosses, meaning we could choose the preferred option to field first with a run chase, catches and wickets were taken and we posted our highest total yet, crucially preserving all our wickets, in our first game vs (a much stronger) Old Ruts team.

So, on to the final vs Old Ruts... a final we should have won on past form, but somehow the wonderful game that is cricket had other plans... This time, catches were dropped, wickets were lost

and an experienced and wily opposition set good fields that cut off a lot of boundaries. Again, fielding first, we let them get too many runs by our own design and then, unusually, didn't post as many runs as we had expected to. The lesson learnt this time: catches really do win matches!

Dulwich Griffin lost the first two games, but had a nail-biting last game... We had decided to bat last so we had the advantage to know what we were up against. With Lizzie's fantastic bowling and Anjali's brilliant wicket keeping and all round team effort, Dulwich Griffin managed to clinch victory; 262 runs (having needed 258 to win). Well done, Griffin - it was a great performance. In the end, therefore, Old Ruts took first place, with Dulwich Burbage runners up and Dulwich Griffin coming in third.



Three games ran in parallel meaning every team there was playing at the same time. We had a wonderful lunch break where our head coach, Assan, had managed to secure lots of delicious lunch leftovers from another cricket function so we could offer everyone a range of curries, rice, sausages and salad. It was like school dinners (though with much nicer food!) with everyone lining up and Dulwich Dragons as the host team serving the food. There was enough to even offer family and friends that had come to cheer us on!



Both the Dulwich Dragons teams with The Old Ruts, and Leatherhead CC

It was a lovely idea of our coaches Charlotte and Assan, who asked the captain of each team to identify and recognise their 'player of the match' so that no team left without a medal. For our Dulwich Dragons Burbage team this was Tania Marshall for bowling, Hermione Gough for batting and Rebecca Schärli-Jacob for all rounder; for our Dulwich Dragons Griffin team we gave this to Lizzie Chatterjee, for her excellent bowling, with medals also going to Vanessa Gibbin and Anju Ghosh for all round contributions to the team and to Elsa Gough for making her debut as scorer/umpire!



The Dulwich Dragons teams - Dulwich Burbage & Dulwich Griffin, and Coach Charlotte.  
 B: Charlotte L., Kat, Katy, Hermoine, Charlotte, Vanessa, Rosie, Mel, Lizzie, Anju  
 L: Rebecca, Elsa, Amanda, Tania, Abbie, Annie, Isabel, Susan

Charlotte umpired all the games but the last, where she played with the Dulwich Dragons Burbage team too.

Everyone was on a high after the festival, and there was lots of banter and chatter in the kitchen as we cleared up the lunch. This was rounded off with some well deserved cold drinks in the last of the sun, before heading home.

## **OTHER NOTABLE MATCHES**

### **Dulwich Dragons vs Old Ruts – Wednesday, 24th July**

We were the hosts of this evening summer match at DSG. 14 players were available, so we asked Old Ruts if they would mind playing two matches back to back. Another feature of the Soft Ball pairs cricket format is that the matches are quite short, so, despite starting at 18.30, we easily managed to fit in two matches. As we later realised, Old Ruts brought a relatively inexperienced team on this occasion (bringing their A team for the DCC Festival, as you will have read earlier) and we easily won both games. These were both our first home matches and home wins, but unfortunately, we did not have proper score sheets to be able to report on the actual scores. This, along with the necessity of training up more people to use said sheets, were more lessons to learn for next season.

### **Whitstable vs Dulwich Dragons - Sunday, 08 September 2024**

This game was cancelled due to heavy rain overnight and Whitstable's pitch being waterlogged. We went for a swim in the Lido instead, where rain was not a problem and, therefore, did not stop play!

## **INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENTS**

- **Player of the year:** Tania Marshall
- **Most improved player:** Lizzie Chatterjee
- **Contributions to Dulwich Soft Ball Cricket, Player:** Amanda Pitt
- **Contributions to Dulwich Soft Ball Cricket, Managers:** Katy Haile & Annie Tiranti
- **Young Coach of the year:** Charlotte Lindner

## **CHALLENGES AND LIMITATIONS**

During this inaugural 2024 season our challenges and limitations were as follows:

- Trying to organise matches for a brand new group of players was difficult, especially when everyone is juggling work, family and other demands. But despite all this Katy still managed to secure two matches for us all and establish new connections with other teams for additional matches in the future.
- As many players in the team are mums they usually have a high number of family commitments to juggle and it can be more challenging for them to commit to regular week-night and weekend matches. However with a large pool of players, the Dragons have managed to field a full team, and often with substitutes, for all the fixtures this season. The state school holiday proved the most challenging time.
- It was a shame that one of the players suffered with a broken finger in the warm up training for the Dulwich CC Festival, which meant she couldn't play in the matches. She was very disappointed - as were her team mates. Unfortunately injuries are a reality of any sport and something we will need to continue to manage- even though we are 'only' playing with softballs.

In 2025 and beyond we anticipate that the challenges and limitations will be:

- Continuing to keep up momentum and enthusiasm amongst our wide range of players, and drive new recruits. Given the feedback from the players so far, we don't think this will be too hard, however we also don't want to rest on our laurels and we are keen to continue to encourage those from all backgrounds and abilities to join the team.

## **OPPORTUNITIES**

One of the most inspiring outcomes of establishing this team has been the increased confidence that the activity and team-play has encouraged in many of the players. So moving forward it will be wonderful to expand this uplifting opportunity even further by:

- encouraging those who have already joined to continue developing as individual players, and as a team, by participating in more training and matches.
- By increasing the capacity of the team, with additional coaching support for a large group, entry into a Soft Ball League and more Festival fixtures.



## **The Dulwich CC Snow Leopards**

### **Report 2024**

The Dulwich CC Diversity and Inclusion project, also known as the “Snow Leopards”, had another great season in 2024. This report summarises the project and our successes, both on and off the field. We are grateful to all the people and organisations who have supported us (financially and otherwise) and believe we have built a firm foundation to build on in the 2025 season.

### **ABOUT THE SNOW LEOPARDS**

The project aims to make club cricket at Dulwich CC accessible to players from a broad range of cultural, racial and socio-economic backgrounds. We approach participants from different backgrounds to join us through a variety of channels (including the networks of existing participants, the Surrey Cricket Foundation and Surrey Community Talent Champion and local schools) and have also had players referred to us by youth support workers in various London boroughs. The project is not restricted to a particular ethnic group, although as the name suggests in practice we have a high proportion of Afghanistani and Pakistani young people, many of whom are refugees. This is partly because we have built on our existing group of players and the commitments we have made to them.

### **SUPPORT FOR THE SNOW LEOPARDS**

Participants in our programme receive:

- coaching and training sessions
- playing equipment
- training and employment opportunities
- matches (league and friendly)
- clothing / playing whites
- mentoring and social support

As you will see from the detailed information and – perhaps more strikingly – the photographs below, a key feature of our programme is to ensure that participants are fully integrated into the Dulwich cricket community. Our club has a strong community ethos.

## MEMBERSHIP AND PARTICIPATION

**Total participants:** during the 2024 season a total of 32 Snow Leopards registered with us to take part in our training programmes and play matches. DCC waived its membership fees for all of these Snow Leopards. Our standard membership fee is £55 for under 18s and £60 for students over 18.

**Consistent participants:** 16 out of 32 Snow Leopards trained and played with DCC on a regular basis throughout the 2024 season. These players are keen to continue their cricket at DCC and to participate in both winter indoor training and the summer 2025 season.

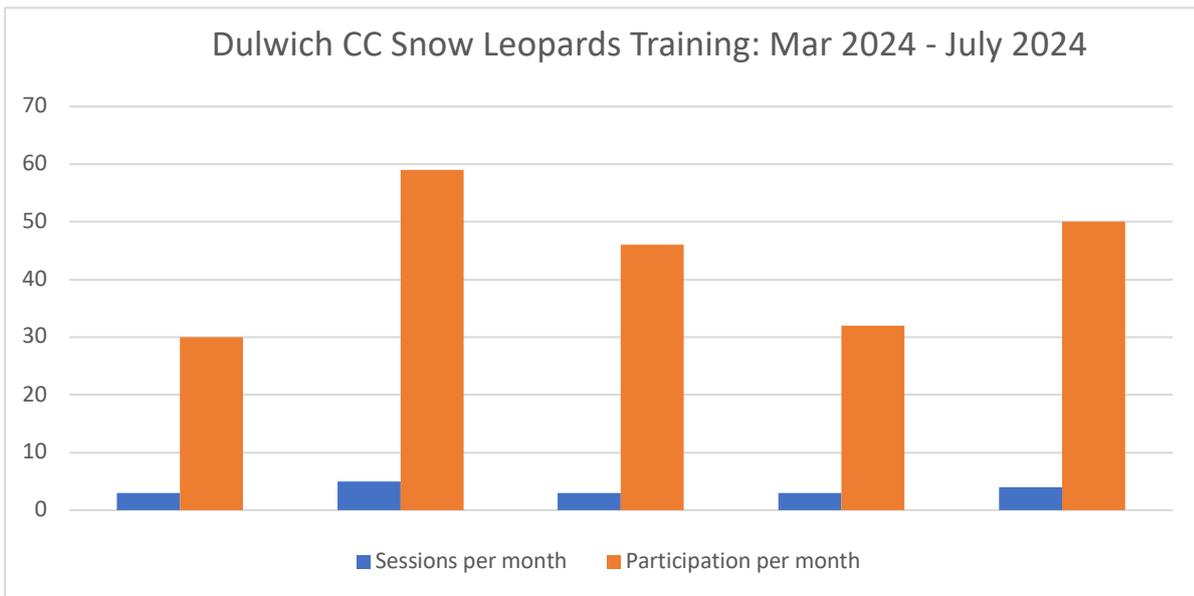
## OUTDOOR TRAINING SESSIONS

**Focused Coaching Sessions:** From early March 2024 until end of July 2024, we ran weekly focused coaching for the Snow Leopards as a separate group, to develop and improve their cricketing skills and enable them to bond as a group. The sessions were led by qualified coaches including our head coach, Assan Crawford-Khan, Alex Peggie, and our overseas player, Apoorv Wankhade. A total of 18 focused training sessions were delivered to 16 extremely committed and another 16 very enthusiastic cricketers. Further four sessions were cancelled due to bad weather.

The Snow Leopards also took part in a T10 tournament, as part of Refugee Week at the Oval.

Special thanks to coach Alex Peggie and assistant Abdullah Miakhail

Outdoor Training Attendance March 2024 - July 2024							
Numbers of / months	March	April	May	June	July	Cancelled	Total
Sessions per month	3	5	3	3	4	Four	18
Participation per month	30	59	46	32	50		217



Dulwich Snow Leopards with Coach Alex Peggie – Training evening in April 2024

**Age Group Sessions:** several Snow Leopards are under 15 years old, and in addition to our weekly focused coaching sessions they are also given opportunities to train with our mainstream junior training sessions for under 10 to under 15 players. This enabled them to meet junior players and age group managers, and a wider range of coaches, with a view to including them in our junior league and friendly fixtures.

**Club Night Training:** We encourage the older Snow Leopards to integrate with different teams/groups at DCC. These Snow Leopards played in various different teams in midweek and

weekend competitions and friendly games. Therefore, they were encouraged to train on Thursday nights with other Dulwich senior players (1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> team). Lastly, a handful Snow Leopards who were of a suitable standard were invited to train with the first and second team, and Sunday Academy team on Tuesday training nights. Training with mainstream members not just improved their cricketing skills but also helped them to create bonds with their teammates and integrate with the wider club. These training sessions were well attended, as they give a challenging but very positive learning environment. Some of the Snow Leopards described training with our overseas player, Apoorv, and other strong DCC players as one of the highlights of their season.

### **MATCHES FOR SNOW LEOPARDS**

**Saturday:** The Snow Leopards play league matches in different senior teams depending on their ability and role within the teams. There are many aspects we consider whilst selecting Snow Leopards in Saturday teams, including transportation, game opportunities and selecting a couple of them in the same team so that they could accompany one another.

**Sunday:** The Snow Leopards play friendly matches in Sunday development (mixed ability team) and league matches in Academy Tier 1 and Tier 3 teams (stronger players).

**Midweek:** The Snow Leopards are also part of midweek teams and matches, particularly Surrey Slam matches (T20 league) and under 17 matches. In the 2025 season we will also be running an under 19 team and expect they will play regularly in this team as well.

**Junior Age Group:** Those Snow Leopards attending junior age group coaching, are also involved in relevant age group matches. They help field under 14 and under 15 teams regularly.

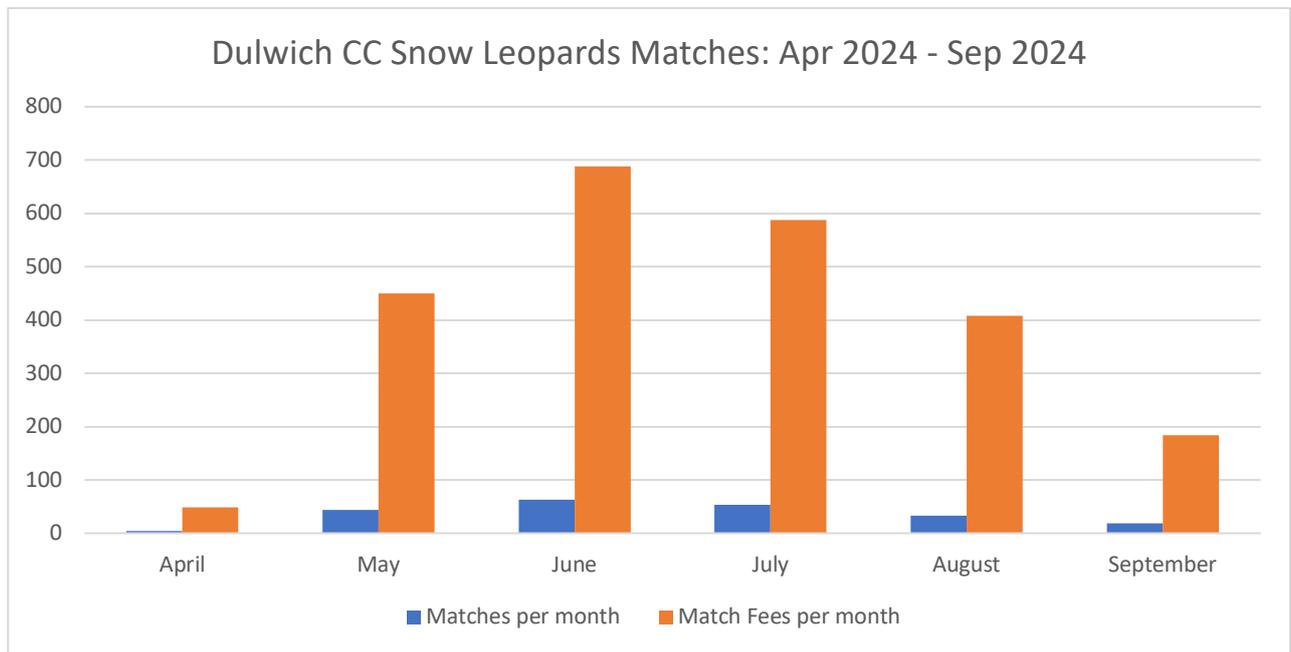
Having the Snow Leopards involved has really helped the club in getting out 7 Saturday teams rather than the usual 6 Saturday teams in 2024 and also being able to field an under 17 team. We are looking forward to 2025 season in which Snow Leopards would really help us to have regular 7 Saturday teams, have under 17 and under 19 teams.

In total, the Snow Leopards in total played 216 matches in the 2024 season. The matches for senior teams are summarised in the table below – note that this does not include the many games that younger Snow Leopards played for junior teams.

DCC covered the cost of match fees for Snow Leopards in all of these fixtures. Our usual match fee (designed to cover pitch costs and, where relevant, match teas) is £12 for standard matches and £9

for T20 and £6 for junior matches. The match fees for the entire 2024 season (Snow Leopards only) added up to a total of £2366. This match fees don't include any junior matches the Snow Leopards have played for BU14 and BU15 in 2024.

Dulwich CC Matches: April 2024 - Sep 2024							
Numbers of / months	April	May	June	July	August	September	Total
Matches per month	4	44	63	53	33	19	216
Match Fees per month	48	450	688	588	408	184	2366



## DULWICH SNOW LEOPARDS MATCHES 2024

### Surrey Slam matches, 2024

The Snow Leopards produced strong performances throughout the Surrey Slam competition. A number of Snow Leopards play in this competition – in fact our team is named after them! They showed great spirit contributing to team’s success and gained valuable learning experiences. Unfortunately, this season the Snow Leopards lost in the knockout stages of the competition.

### MCCF Dulwich Hub vs Dulwich Snow Leopards – Wednesday, 29 May 2024

Dulwich Snow Leopards hosted the MCC Foundation (MCCF) at Dulwich CC. Here is a short note from Simon Talbot, MCCF coach and manager. *“In May 2024 we were lucky enough to get a midweek fixture against the Dulwich Snow Leopards, a Dulwich Cricket Club refugee project run by our own Assan Crawford-Khan. A great match ensued, and to be fair, the leopards were the stronger of the teams, but it was great to see some fantastic all-round performances from the younger MCCF lads. Stand outs in this match were Mustafa Arabi (3-17) and Miles Egelnick (3-19) with the ball”*. From the Snow Leopards team the stand outs were Mukhlis Niazai (41) and Shabir Stanikzai (33). Special thanks to Dr Sarah Fame OBE, director of the MCCF for attending this match and supporting the teams and the players.



MCCF players, Dulwich Snow Leopards, Dr Sarah Fame (MCCF), Simon Talbot (MCCF) and Assan Crawford-Khan

## Dulwich College vs Snow Leopards – Friday, 14 June 2024

In what has become an annual fixture, Dulwich College hosted Snow Leopards for a friendly T20 match. Another great experience for the Snow Leopards to play at Dulwich College versus a skilled and disciplined College team. Dulwich College batted first and scored 164/5, Alfie Veysey (42\*), Ed Brydon (41) were the top run scorers. In reply Snow Leopards scored only 57, Ed Hargrave took 4 wickets and give away only 2 runs. The game was following by generous tea/dinner. The College's services were hugely appreciated! Special thanks to Robert Craze for supporting and arranging this game.



Dulwich Snow Leopards, Dulwich College players, Graham Starkey (umpire), David Lane (umpire), Sam Krafft (DCC), Sean Keaton (DCC) & Assan Crawford-Khan

## Surrey Kia Oval Refugee Week – Tuesday, 18 June 2024

Surrey CCC celebrated National Refugee Week by inviting south London refugee teams including the Snow Leopards to compete in a cricket tournament at the iconic Kia Oval. Refugee Week celebrates the contributions, creativity, and resilience of refugees and people seeking sanctuary across the globe. An important objective of the annual festival is to bring people together and inspire them to have a deeper knowledge and understanding of what refugees and displaced people go through. The Snow Leopards played two T10 matches, unfortunately lost both matches to strong opposition (one of the oppositions team was full of ringers!). Nevertheless, Snow Leopards had a great fun at

the Oval and thoroughly enjoyed the experience of playing the Oval main ground. Special thanks to Surrey CCC and Elliott Rousen for the invite, hospitality and organising the day.



Dulwich Snow Leopards Team at Surrey Kia Oval - Refugee Week, Tuesday, 18 June 2024

### **Dulwich Snow Leopards vs The Norwood School – Tuesday, 16 July 2024**

The Norwood teacher, Benjamin Parsons, after the game stated, *“Just wanted to send a quick note to say thank you for the game on Tuesday. Our boys have not stopped speaking about it and some of them are telling me they are going to join clubs over the summer which is great news. I particularly wanted to say how impressed both me and Mr Clements were with the conduct of the Snow Leopards. Most older students would have been frustrated that the experience and skills of our team were quite limited. However, the Snow Leopards were outstanding role models throughout for our younger boys. They demonstrated excellent leadership and teaching skills throughout, boosting their morale and giving them tips and pointers in a constructive and helpful way. They taught our boys more in that one game than I have taught them all year. You should tell them that they should consider a career in teaching! Thank you very much again for the opportunity, hopefully we can set something similar up for next year.”* Special thanks to Ben Parsons for bringing his school team and assisting during the day.



The Norwood School players, Dulwich Snow Leopards, teacher Ben Parsons and Assan Crawford-Khan

### **Dulwich Cricket Club T20 Tournament - Monday, 26 August 2024**

Dulwich CC hosted its yearly T20 tournament in which 6 teams took part including Dulwich Snow Leopards and Dulwich 804. Each team played at least 2 matches, Snow Leopards won one and lost one match, narrowly missing out on playing in the finals. The winner of the tournament was Dulwich 804 which was led by Husnain Ramzan. Congratulations to the winners! Feedback from the team captains and players were very positive. Dulwich CC provided the match balls and lunch for all the players and officials which was much appreciated by all. Special thanks to our neighbours Alleyn CC and their officials for letting us use their ground, to umpires Graham Starkey and Andrew Carnegie, and to Dulwich CC overseas, Apoorv Wankhade for their support.



Teams: Dulwich 804, Dulwich Snow Leopards, London Red-Ball, GMV, Bobby XI and the Whalers



Team Dulwich 804 winners of Dulwich CC T20 Tournament 2024

### **Surrey Performance Squad**

We are pleased to report that following on from the CTC programme, one of the Snow Leopards, Mudasir Amin, has been selected for the Surrey under 15 performance squad. Mudasir joined the Snow Leopards at Dulwich CC as an under 12 in the 2022 season. He is a talented cricketer and has shown a great commitment and progress over the years. As result he has also been selected for the Dulwich Academy squad and has a bright future at Dulwich CC. Congratulations and very well-done Mudasir!

### **Surrey Community Talent Champion (CTC) Squad 2024**

The Community Talent Champion (CTC) is Surrey project that focuses on identifying and developing young, talented cricketers from diverse communities, particularly within South Asian communities, and ensuring their access to the county's talent pathway. The trials for the CTC squad 2024/2025 were held at DCC in September 2024. Sixteen players were selected from more than 70 players who attended the trials on different occasions. Successful trialists will have indoor and outdoor training sessions once a week from October 2024 to August 2025, after which the coaches (Assan Crawford-Khan and Rehan Raees) will assist the players with their video submission for the Surrey talent pathway. We are pleased to report that five Dulwich Snow Leopards were selected for the CTC squad 2024/2025 . Congratulations to Abdul Arabi, Ahmad Gul, Mohammad Danial, Mohammad

Uryakhil, and Mudasir Amin on that selection. Special thanks to Judy Wallis and Surrey Cricket Foundation for this amazing initiative and opportunity.



The Community Talent Champion (CTC) trial day at Dulwich Cricket Club, September 2024

### **MCC Foundation Hubs**

Nine Dulwich Snow Leopards have been selected for MCCF Croydon, Clapham and Dulwich hubs' under 14 and under 15 squads 2025. The MCCF organise and run a 10-week indoor training programme which is from Sunday 19 January to Sunday 30 March 2025. Dulwich CC now works in partnership with local MCCF Hubs to support these players and provide them with indoor training sessions, outdoor training sessions and outdoor matches. Special thanks to Simon Talbot and Adam Davidson for their cooperation with Dulwich Cricket Club.

### **COACHING COURSES AND OPPORTUNITIES**

We continue to support a diverse group of cricketers by providing them coaching courses and opportunities at the club. Currently we have two Snow Leopards and 3 female coaches as part of our coaching team and more are due to start their coaching qualifications in April 2025. We always encourage a diverse group of cricketers to obtain coaching qualifications and become role models for their groups and young cricketers at and outside the club.

## **MENTORING AND SUPPORT**

As per previous years, we continue to mentor and support Snow Leopards on and off the cricket field in many ways. Team captains ensure that the Snow Leopards are aware of match situations, and clearly understand their roles in the team and relevant match regulations. We encourage and give leadership opportunities to certain Snow Leopards to manage and lead teams on the field and off the field to prepare them for future possible captaincy roles. Abdullah Miakhail and Shabir Stanikzai were given captaincy roles in the 2024 season.

## **FUTURE CHALLENGES**

As in previous years we continue our dedication to diversify our participants and support cricketers from a wide range of backgrounds. Our next big challenge is to reach out to the women and girls of our Snow Leopards family to explore and minimise any barriers, they might have in order to encourage and motivate them to play cricket.

We have made significant progress over the years to address our challenges and limitations. We have a much bigger woman's hard ball squad and run two league teams on Sunday now. This is evident that we have been successful in retaining and recruiting new female cricketers. On a women's Soft Ball front, we now have fifty players who play Surrey Soft Ball leagues, festivals, and tournaments. For more information on this, please read our Dulwich Dragon (Women Soft Ball group) report 2024.

However, despite the success of our Snow Leopards project with male cricketers, we do not have many female cricketers drawn from similar cultural backgrounds. This is despite the fact that there is now a fairly well developed culture of women from Pakistani and Afghanistani backgrounds playing cricket, and representing their national teams. We are aware of the cultural sensitivities that can act as a barrier to girls and women from these cultures playing cricket in London. We plan to work with existing Snow Leopards to reach out to girls and women in their communities and act as ambassadors for the work. We will onboard them and support them in how to have recruitment conversations and ensure we are following safeguarding measures. We also plan to carry out a community mapping exercise, mapping out relationships and potential relationships with community leaders who will be able to act as sign posters to the work. Community organisations such as mosques, schools, cultural organisations, mother and baby groups.

## **OUTREACH PROJECT EXPENSES**

Our expenses include both out of pocket costs and the cost of waiving membership and match fees designed to cover such costs:

**Coaching Costs:** Training sessions are delivered by qualified coaches who are paid by the club.

**Coaching Equipment:** Certain coaching equipment purchased for training sessions.

**Playing Equipment:** were purchased for the participants who attend our outreach projects

**Match Fees:** In total Snow Leopards played more than 216 matches in the 2024 season.

**Membership Fees:** Dulwich CC waived subs for all Snow Leopards

**Accounts:** account figures are not shared in this report but for transparency and accountability purposes accounts will be shared if requested.

## **SUPPORT FOR THE OUTREACH PROJECTS**

**Surrey Cricket Foundation:** funded us £1500 in 2024. We appreciate their continuous support.

**Southwark Council:** yet again, Southwark Council awarded us £3000 through the Neighbourhoods Fund in 2024, which provides financial support for local community-led projects that enhance inclusion and encourages stronger communities. We proudly report here that this project certainly has achieved the objectives. We look forward to working with Southwark Council in 2025.

**Dulwich College:** We greatly appreciate DC hosting Snow Leopards for a T20 match in 2024 season.

**Will Jacks and Oliver Sykes:** kindly donated an enormous amount of their cricket clothing and equipment (helmets, shoes, gloves, pads, bags) which is greatly appreciated by us and the SLs.

**Dulwich Cricket Club:** the club carries on with its important role of making sure the Snow Leopards project is sustainable and is committed to comfort as many cricketers possible. Yet again, it provided financial support, training facilities and homely environment for these players. Where they train, play matches, socialise, and feel part of the club and community.

**The Individuals** (in a random order): Alex Gledhill(DCC Chair of Cricket), Apoorv Wankhade(DCC Overseas player), Elliott Rousen (Surrey Cricket Foundation), Harjot Sidhu (Surrey Cricket Foundation), Chris Morris(Surrey Cricket Foundation), Gavin Reynolds(Surrey Cricket Foundation), Gavin Reynolds(Surrey Cricket Foundation), Assan Crawford-Khan(DCC Coach, Diversity and Inclusion Officer), Rob Craze(Dulwich College), Chris Lindner(DCC Treasure), Nidhi Misra Basu(DCC Juniors Coordinator), Sam Krafft(DCC Membership Secretary), Melissa Fife(Club Welfare Officer), Nighat Khan, Amanda Pitt(DCC), Annie Triranti(DCC), Charlotte Lindner(DCC), Katy Fox(DCC), Mark Henderson(DCC), Dulwich Executive Committee members, DCC captains, Snow Leopards, Dulwich Dragons, The Griffin Sports Ground Staff, and anyone who are unintentionally not acknowledged here. We would like to thank everyone for their support, efforts and commitment towards this project.

### **FUTURE FUNDING**

As before, we are seeking funds to continue this project. Interested parties please contact Assan Crawford-Khan on 07551009703 or [ghcrawfordkhan@gmail.com](mailto:ghcrawfordkhan@gmail.com)

By Assan Crawford-Khan and Sam Krafft