



The Dulwich CC Snow Leopards

Report 2023

The Dulwich CC Diversity and Inclusion project, also known as “The Snow Leopards”, had another great season in 2023. 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 2024 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, Surrey cricket foundation and cricket platform, local schools), and have also had players referred to us by youth support workers in different London boroughs. Several participants have now been involved in our programmes who were referred to us by these channels. The project is not restricted to a particular ethnic group, although as the name suggests, in practice we have a high proportion of Afghanistani young people, many of whom are refugees. This is partly because we have built on our existing group of players and the commitment, we had made to them.

SUPPORT FOR THE SNOW LEOPARDS

Participants in our programme receive:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1- Coaching and Training sessions | 2- Playing equipment (Kits) |
| 3- Employment opportunities | 4- Matches (League & Friendly) |
| 5- Clothing / Playing Whites | 6- 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.

PARTICIPATION

Total participants: during the 2023 season a total of 35 Snow Leopards registered with us to take part in our training programmes and play matches.

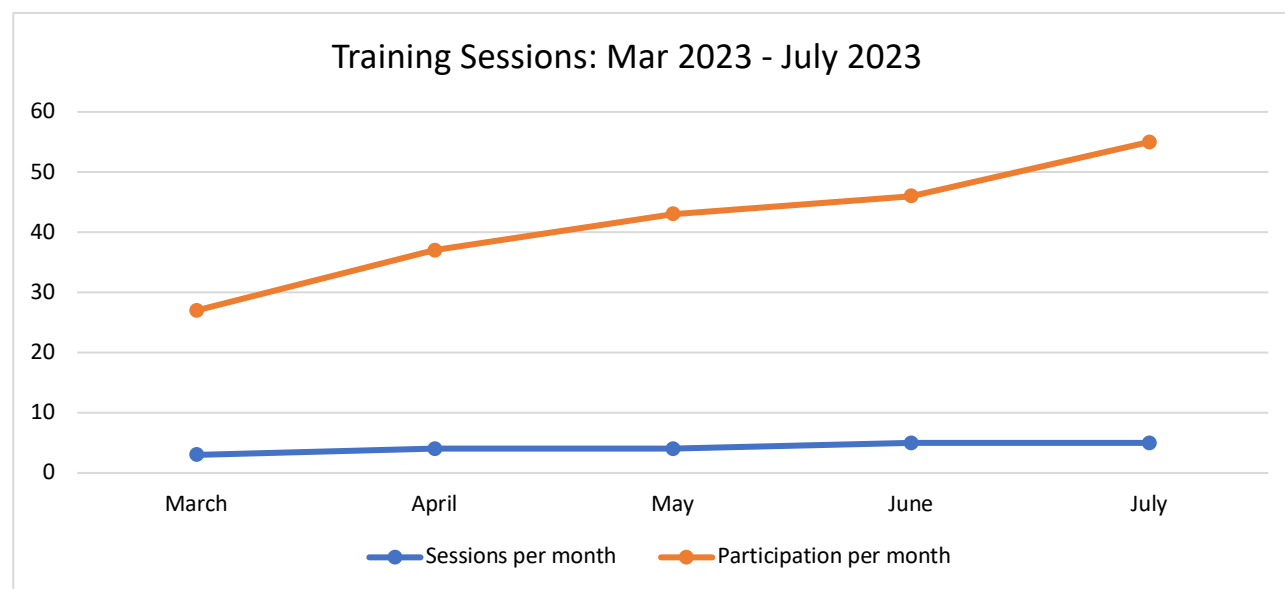


Consistent participants: 15 out of 35 Snow Leopards are categorised as regular members who trained and played on regular bases throughout 2023 season. These players are keen to continue their cricket at DCC and will take part in our upcoming winter indoor trainings and summer 2024 season. Dulwich CC waived its membership fees for all Snow Leopards for the 2023 season. As an indication, generally fees for students over and under 18 are £50.

OUTDOOR TRAINING SESSIONS

Focused Coaching Sessions: From March till July 2023, we ran focused coaching weekly sessions to train 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 mainly delivered by our qualified coaches including our head coach, Assan Crawford-Khan, Rehan Malik (ECB level 3), and our overseas player, Apoorv Wankhade. A total of 21 focused training sessions were delivered to 15 extremely committed and 20 very enthusiastic cricketers during summer 2023. Further three sessions were cancelled due to bad weather and Eid calibration.

Outdoor Training Attendance: Mar 2023 - July 2023						
Numbers of / months	March	April	May	June	July	Total
Sessions per month	3	4	4	5	5	21
Participation per month	24	33	39	41	50	187



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, U8-U15 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.

Summer Holiday Camps: several Snow Leopards (U8-U15) are given opportunities to attend our summer Holiday camp course during summer holidays. This gave them an opportunity to develop their skills and also play matches with our typical holiday camp attendees.

Club Night Training: We encourage the older Snow Leopards to integrate with different teams/groups at Dulwich. These Snow Leopards played in various different teams in midweek and weekend competitions and friendly games. Therefore, they were encouraged to train on Tuesday nights with other Dulwich senior players (1st – 6th 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 Thursday training nights. Training with mainstream members not just improved their cricketing skills but also helped them to create bond with their teammates and integrate as group at Dulwich. These training sessions were well attended, as they give a challenging but very positive learning environment, and SLs described training with overseas, Apoorv, and other strong DCC players as one of the highlights of 2023 season.



From Left: Assan Crawford-Khan, Cllr Jim Dickson (Lambeth), Cllr Marianna Masters (Lambeth), Nighat Khan, during an early season Snow Leopards outdoor training session at Dulwich Cricket Club's Nets

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 SL in different

teams that includes 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 teams (stronger players).

Midweek: The Snow Leopards are also part of midweek teams and matches, particularly Surrey Slam matches (T20 league) and U17 matches.

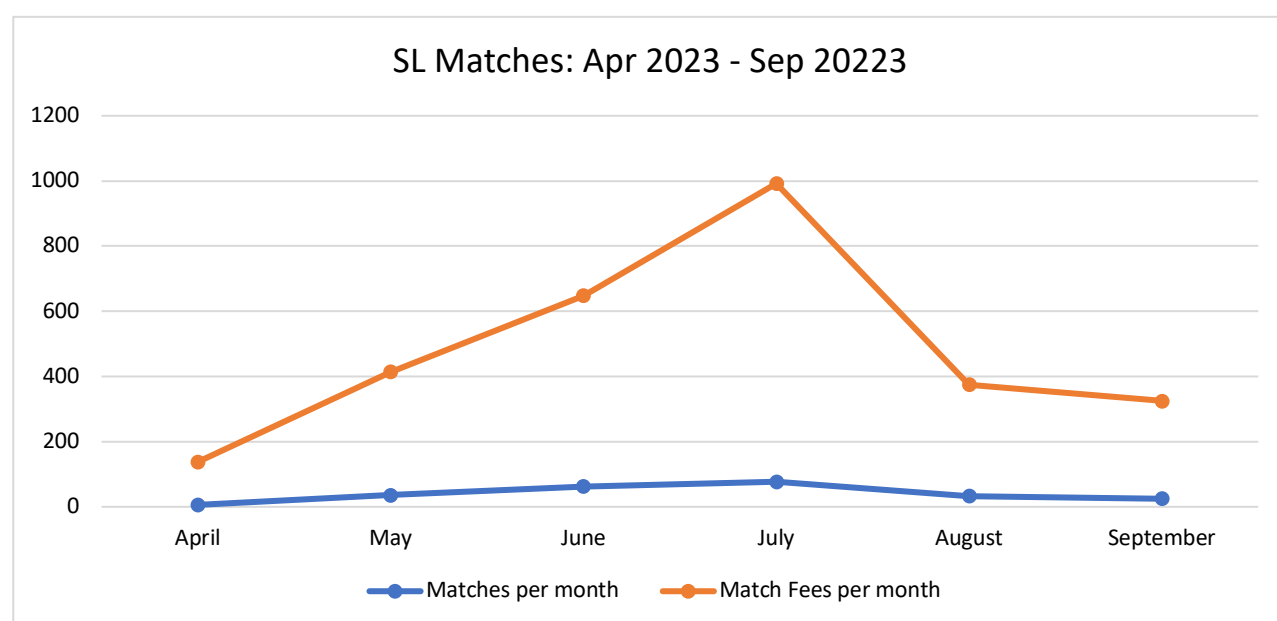
Age Group: Given that some Snow Leopards attend age groups coaching, because of this they play age groups matches (U12-15 and U17 teams).

Wednesday (Women): In addition to our women's hard ball squad, we have set up a soft-ball team for female cricketers. We have about 12 softball players who had been attending our women's training sessions on Wednesdays.

In the 2023 season the Snow Leopards in total played 240 matches. The matches included Surrey Championship league, Trust league matches, Surrey Slam matches Sunday development matches, U13, U14, U15 and U17 league matches.

The Dulwich CC 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 2023 season (Snow Leopards only) added up to a total of £2652.

Dulwich CC Matches: Mar 2022 - Sep 2022							
Numbers of / months	April	May	June	July	August	September	Total
Matches per month	6	36	63	77	33	25	240
Match Fees per month	132	378	585	915	342	300	2652



Surrey Slam Champions, 2023

The Snow Leopards produced strong performances throughout the Surrey Slam competition. Eight of the Snow Leopards played in this competition at different times. They showed great spirit contributing to team's success and gained valuable learning experiences. Unfortunately, Snow Leopards lost in the quarter finals, a close match, to a strong opposition.



Dulwich Snow Leopards at Horsham CC, participating in regional finals day

OTHER NOTABLE MATCHES

Snow Leopards vs Dulwich CC: Dulwich hosted a T20 match to play verses Snow Leopards on 17th September 2023. At the end, after a very exciting match between two closely matched teams, SL defeated Dulwich XI by 4 Runs. SL was captained by Shabir Stanikzai, one of our assistant coaches.



Snow Leopards (captain Shabir Stanikzai) and Dulwich XI before their T20 game

Snow Leopards vs Dulwich College: On 23rd of June 2023 Dulwich College hosted Snow Leopards for a friendly T20 match. It was a great experience for the them to play at Dulwich College versus a young but very able and disciplined college team. Who won the toss and scored 210 runs batting first. In reply Snow Leopards scored 164, M. Amin was top runs scorer who registered his maiden fifty. The game was following by generous tea/dinner. College's services were hugely appreciated!



Toss time: From left, G. Starkey (Umpire), A. Miakhel (SL Captain), Andrew Carnegie (Umpire), R. Keaton (DC Captain)



Snow Leopards and Dulwich College teams after the game at Dulwich College

Snow Leopards vs Lyon Academy: Lyon Academy, an Australian touring team visited Dulwich Cricket Club on 18th of June 2023, and played four T20 matches. The touring teams included Girls U16-18 team, Boys U15, Boys U17 and a U18 team who played their counterparts. Snow Leopards faced the U17 team, a well-prepared and determined squad. This match produced a nail-biting finish which narrowly ended in favour of Snow Leopards, the only match Dulwich had won that day.



Dulwich Snow Leopards vs Lyon Academy Boys U17 squad at Dulwich Sports Ground

Oval Ramadan tournament 2023: Dulwich CC had entered a team to take part in Ramadan indoor competition at Oval during the month of Ramadan. Several Snow Leopards participated in the competition along with other Dulwich players. The competition provided short matches after IFTAR (breaking fast during Ramadan after sunset) which proved to be very famous and valuable activity during fast month of Ramadan.

COACHING COURSES AND OPPORTUNITIES

We are ending an extremely successful year as far as providing coaching courses and opportunities to a diverse group of cricketers are concerns. This year we have supported one male and 5 female cricketers to attend ECB Foundation Coach and Core Coach coaching courses. Five of them have already stated coaching with us and one of the female coaches will start coaching in early 2024. We have been encouraging our female cricketers to obtain coaching qualifications and the pre-requisites for certification. This is to meet the demand of female coaches and presence of female role model to our ever-growing girls and women's section. We plan to continue helping a diverse group of cricketers who are looking to take part in cricket, as a coach, to developing skills and

knowledge to help young cricketers at and outside the club, and also progress their careers as cricket coaches.

INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENTS

Shabir Stanikzai, one of Snow Leopards and one of our new assistant coaches, states “I feel so lucky to be able to play and coach cricket, my favourite game. Until few years ago this was one of my dreams but now it is reality. This is made possible by Dulwich Club and the people at the club. I would thank everyone who have supported me!”



Alex Gledhill (DCC, Director of cricket) is presenting “John Lawrence Award, 2023” to Shueib Anwer for being of the most consistent Dulwich player in Surrey Championship matches.

Sixth Form: We congratulate Samargul Ahmadzai and Abdullah Miakhail for being accepted for a cricket programme for sixth form education. The programme is available to young people, both male

and female, that have a developing talent for cricket and are looking to take their skills to the next level. It supports those that have an interest in cricket and want to learn more about a career in the sport. We are working with Surrey and the schools, who offer students the opportunity to complete their sixth form academic studies alongside access to quality cricket coaching, and strength and conditioning training. We are encouraging more cricketers to explore this option. We are confident that Samar and Abdullah will do well at courses and are always happy support in future.

London School Trials: It is proudly report that four of our Snow Leopards are nominated by the club for London School trials. They are now invited by London School management for the trials that will take place at The Middlesex CCC Indoor School at the end of October 2023. We wish Samar Ahmadzai, Abdullah Miakhail, Ahmad Miakhel and Mudasir Amin a very good time and success.

MENTORING AND SUPPORT

We continue to mentor and support Snow Leopards on and off cricket field in many ways. Team captains ensure that they are aware of match situations, understood their roles and match regulations. We encourage and give leadership opportunities to certain Snow Leopards to manage and lead teams on the field and of the field to prepare them for future possible captaincy roles.



BBQ time at the club: Riaz Ali (Left) and Abid Stanikzai (Right)

CHALLENGES AND LIMITATIONS

We continue our dedication to diversify our participants and support cricketers from a different, culture, race, gender and socio-economic backgrounds. We are glad to report that we have made huge progress in recent times. Our girls and women's section are going strength to strength and contains both highly talented and competitive cricketers who play representative cricket, and also many cricketers who play for fun and socialise at club. We started a soft ball team for female cricketers who are either not ready for hard ball cricket or are not keen to play hard ball cricket. In addition to our regular women's hard ball squad, we now have attracted about 12 soft-ball female cricketers who are very keen to continue and build a stronger and bigger soft-ball squad at the club with aim to eventually take part in soft-ball competitions. For cultural reasons we are yet to engage women in SL programme and would be keen to hear from Surrey about appropriate contacts to refugee groups (South American, Ukrainian etc) in the borough.

We are also engaging with Platform Cricket who mirror our aim and mission, increase number of children from disadvantages and ethnic backgrounds to participate in cricket. Despite all this, we feel that there is more needed to be done and achieved to make cricket accessible to young cricketers, especially young girls. We are determined to reach out to as many girls and families as we can to understand and minimise their barriers in order to encourage and motivate them to play cricket. We are aware of the sensitivity some cultures and religions may present when it comes to young girls playing cricket.

PROJECT EXPENSES

Coaching Cost qualified coaches delivered all planned training sessions and were paid accordingly

Coaching Equipment, particular coaching equipment were purchased for coaching sessions

Playing Equipment was purchased so the participants can use them during training and matches. It included bats, gloves, balls, bags, bat grips and protector.

Match Fees: in total Snow Leopards played more than 240 matches in 2023 season

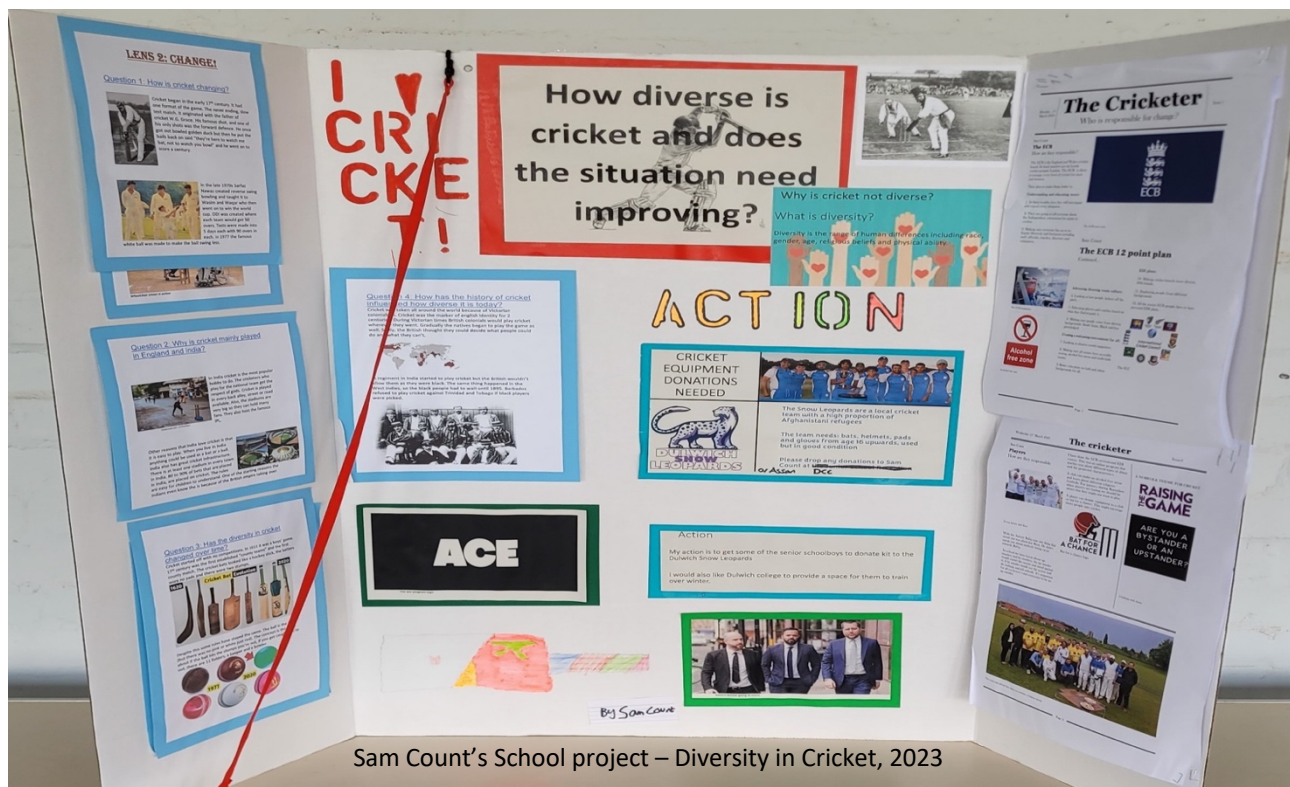
Annual Subscription: Dulwich CC waived subs for 15 players

Surrey Slam Kit playing kit was purchased for Snow Leopards squad

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

SUPPORT FOR THE PROJECT

Special thanks to Sam Count for supporting the project by creating a school project that focused on diversity in cricket which was shortlisted in "Young Volunteer making a difference (11-16 years olds)". Sam's project highlighted our diversity and inclusion project, Snow Leopards, which resulted in two great outcomes; a) secured regular donation of spare cricket equipment and, b) Dulwich College has promised DCC winter net facilities for its project.



Sam Count's School project – Diversity in Cricket, 2023

Sam Count (front row, in the middle,) with Snow Leopards at DCC



Surrey Champs Fund: provided cricket equipment through Aj Sports on 23rd October 2022. We are extremely thankful for this support.

Surrey Cricket Foundation: funded us £1500 on 27th of July 2023. We appreciate their continuous support for our project.

Southwark Council: has awarded us £3000 through the Neighbourhoods Fund, 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 and we look forward to working with Southwark Council for years to come.

Lambeth Council: has awarded us £2500 through its Changing Lives social value fund. We appreciate its generosity and support and look forward to working with Lambeth Council in the future!

Dulwich College: hosted Snow Leopards' match, provided equipment and have pledged indoor net facilities for SL's winter trainings. We greatly appreciate their collaboration and support.

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.

Allen Blackford: donated his training and playing gears which was appreciated very much.

The Individuals (in random order): Abid Jafri_(AJ Sports), Rehan Malik_(DCC Coach & AJ Sports), Apoorv Wankhade_(DCC Overseas player), Sean Keaton_(DCC Pathway Co-ordinator), Crispin Lyden-Cowan_(Surrey Champs Funding), Mark Babb_(Surrey Foundation), Elliott Rousen_(Surrey Cricket Foundation), Richard Kendall_(Surrey Cricket Foundation), Chris Morris_(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 Co-ordinator), David Moore_(Former Women & Girls' Co-ordinator), Eleanor Moore_(Women's captain), Jenny Pratt_(DCC), Sam Krafft_(DCC Membership Secretary), Anne Foley_(Club Welfare Officer), Nighat Khan, Jenny Count_(DCC) Dulwich Executive Committee members, Snow Leopards 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

We are seeking funds to continue this project. Interested parties please contact Assan Crawford-Khan on 07551009703 or ghcrawfordkhan@gmail.com

By Assan Crawford-Khan and Sam Krafft