



Dear Members and Supporters,

It is a great pleasure to welcome you to the 2025 Annual General Meeting of the Isle of Wight Cricket Board (IWCB). As we reflect on the past year, I am incredibly proud of the strong progress we have made against our strategic objectives, driving growth across participation, talent pathways, and club sustainability.

A Significant Farewell

Before outlining our achievements, I must acknowledge a significant change to our Board. This year, we bid a heartfelt farewell to Kate Barton, who is stepping down from her roles. Kate has been a cornerstone of Island cricket for many years, serving with distinction as a former Chair and, most recently, as our Board lead for Women and Girls' cricket.

As a leading strategist, Kate has been instrumental in shaping our current direction. Her vision has influenced the very foundations of how we operate today, and her legacy is evident in the thriving programmes now established across the Island. While she will be greatly missed, the structures she helped put in place ensure we remain firmly on a path to continued success.

Strategic Recognition and Strength

Our strategic direction has received strong external validation through the ECB Countywide Strategic Plan presentation. The feedback highlighted several core strengths of the IWCB, including:

- **Insight-led strategy:** Excellent use of insight to focus our work on the needs of Island communities.
- **Compelling vision:** A clear and well-articulated vision and mission that effectively communicates the Board's purpose.
- **Structural clarity:** A simple and coherent structure that clearly defines the key pillars of our strategy.
- **Partnership development:** Strong identification of current and future partnerships—such as those with the Youth Justice Service, Community Action IOW, and local charities—essential to delivering our objectives.

Our Dedicated Team and Governance

I would like to express my sincere thanks to our outstanding staff team — Alex, Ash, Martin, Tina, Sarah, and Mark — along with all of our casual coaches. Their dedication and forward-thinking approach have been central to our success, with their work repeatedly recognised by the ECB.



This year, we have made vital improvements to our staffing structure, securing key roles that allow for greater consistency in coaching delivery and monitoring across the Island. In addition, we are in the final stages of transitioning to a Community Interest Company (CIC), a significant step in ensuring the long-term sustainability of the Board.

Strategic Progress and Inclusion

Our commitment to Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) remains a central focus, supported by strong relationships with community groups and local government partners.

- **Women and Girls' Cricket:** Participation has increased significantly, supported by enhanced coaching provision and a strong emphasis on grassroots engagement, with new playing offers regularly introduced.
- **Talent Pathway:** Continued growth in the player base has increased access to county-led training opportunities for talented players from U10 to U18.
- **Disability Cricket:** Our Super 1s Hubs and Super 9s squad continue to provide excellent competitive opportunities, with two teams now competing in indoor leagues.
- **Health and Wellbeing:** Walking cricket sessions at Ventnor continue to grow, providing valuable community engagement. Our table cricket hub ensures there is a format of cricket available for all abilities.

Cricket Club Development and Sustainability

We continue to work closely with our local clubs and have developed audit tools to better understand individual club strengths and challenges. We plan to use this insight to offer bespoke support to clubs to achieve their aspirations of growth. Over 750 fixtures were played across the Island last year, across a mixture of friendly, competitive and county fixtures, showing how the game is growing across the Isle of Wight.

While delays in scheduling Hampshire fixtures at Newclose have created some uncertainty for summer planning, resolving this remains a high priority for the Board. We are confident that, despite the scheduling challenges, our growth of club cricket will continue in 2026.

Celebrating Our 2025 Competition Winners

I would like to congratulate all the winners of our 2025 competitions. Your achievements are a testament to the commitment and hard work of players, coaches, and volunteers across the Island.



- Eastmount Hall Hotel Division 1** - Newport
- Eastmount Hall Hotel Division 2** - Newport II
- Senior Cup** - Newport
- Fred Winter Cup** - Porchfield & Island Bakeries
- Women's League** - Newport
- U12 Indoor League** - Ryde
- U12 Indoor Cup** - Ventnor
- U14 Indoor League** - Cowes
- U14 Indoor Cup** - Cowes
- U15 Girls Indoor League** - Ventnor
- U15 Girls Indoor Cup** - Ventnor
- U11 Plate** - Arreton Hawks
- U11 Cup** - Ryde
- U11 Girls League** - Ryde
- U13 Plate** - Ryde
- U13 Cup** - Newport
- U13 League** - Newport
- U15 Cup** - Ventnor Hurricanes
- U15 League** - Ventnor Hurricanes & Ryde
- U15 Girls League** - Arreton Rebels
- 6-a-side** - Wight Whizzers
- 100 League** - Ventnor
- Men's Beach** - Wight Whizzers
- Women's Beach** - Ventnor
- Indoor Division 1** - Island Bakeries
- Indoor Division 2** - Ventnor B
- Indoor Division 3** - Wight Whizzers
- Indoor Cup** - Ventnor A



Looking Ahead

As we move towards the 2026 season, we are finalising our Operational Plan alongside a new income generation strategy to diversify our funding streams. We also look forward to capitalising on the Women's T20 World Cup to create a lasting legacy for cricket on the Isle of Wight.

As ever, Island clubs remain our number one priority. We are here to support them, because it is at club level that the game truly grows. We welcome your feedback and would love to have conversations with clubs about how we can help you achieve your goals for 2026 and beyond.

Finally, I would like to thank the many volunteers, umpires, coaches, captains, scorers, and supporters who ensure cricket continues to thrive at every level. I look forward to another year of progress and growth.

Yours sincerely,

Charlie Bennett
Chairperson
Isle of Wight Cricket Board