



Report from the Chair Year 2023 – Kate Barton

My yearly report is a little late this year and I do apologise. Due to circumstances beyond my control, I was unavailable during November and December and for this reason the AGM has been postponed until February 2024. I have been looking back on 2023 with mixed emotions, however, I would like to see the positive and relay that to you all in my report.

Firstly, I would like to give thanks to the many people who give their time and talents to our game of cricket many of whom are volunteers. I know what this involves as this is where I started many years ago. The time the encouragement the cost – it never ends but you are the backbone of any club or county. In 2023 we saw brand-new volunteers recruited to help with coaching / umpiring / scoring / taking courses and even playing. A big well done and thank you from me! I would also like to thank the many clubs that strive to keep our game being played at every level for boys, girls, men, women, young & old. Thanks also to ACO, ECB, Sponsors, clubs and supporters.

It's a proven fact that any youngster's first experience of seeing professional sports men and women in action stays with them for life. With Newclose hosting a Southern Vipers match in early July, IWCB had an ideal opportunity to inspire young players by giving them the chance to see England's top women cricketers in action, over 200 children came to watch the game from IW schools. Hampshire v Kent in a semi-final of the Metro Bank Cup was also another excellent opportunity for everyone to see some fantastic cricket. I hope many of our youngsters have been inspired by these matches and have gone on to join their local clubs.

Our recruitment of a CDM began early in the year and we were happy to receive so many applicants from across the country and IOW. Nick hit the ground running in June, taking on the CDM role with ease. With me out of action due to personal reasons and a shortage of coaching staff it was not the easiest time to start the job. However, with help from our workforce and ECB we managed to keep things running and overcame the challenges. I must give thanks to director Charlie Bennett for stepping into my shoes as interim chair during the summer.

It was obvious that we needed help with admin and social media as the amount of work out grew the time Jasper had. Ash Goldsmith was taken on and has made a tremendous difference to our social media platforms increasing our exposure with regular informative postings. Ash is also keeping our PlayCricket up to date with county fixtures, booking ferries, venues, officials and much more. It's so important that all fixtures and results are uploaded onto PlayCricket as this is how the ECB check our fixtures throughout the



season over all genres and this ultimately reflects our funding. I would like to personally thank Ash for doing a fantastic job.

IOW County Cricket

After discussions with the ECB we made the difficult decision to cancel the U14 and U16 National County fixtures and replace with our U12, U14 and U16 Boys playing in the Hampshire District Pathway competition against the best players in those Districts. This equates to more matches, less travel and two Hampshire coaches attending every game. Our Isle of Wight most talented players will have greater exposure to Hampshire coaches and their Pathways.

Despite losing many fixtures by withdrawing from the competitions (and the rain getting in the way), we still saw a great deal of talent and success on our CAG pathway as well as our Senior and Over 50's teams. I would like to congratulate all of the players that represented the IOW in 2023 and I believe that we should be proud of the county cricket that we have on offer here.

Domestic competition Winners:

I would like to congratulate each of the winners of all the IOW competitions hosted in 2023. Thanks to all clubs supporting the IWCB by entering.

- IW Division 1 - Newport
- IW Division 2 - Cowes
- Senior Cup - Newport
- Fred Winter Cup - Northwood
- 2nd/3rd XI Cup - Newport II
- U12 Indoors - Ventnor
- U14 Indoors - Ventnor A
- U15 Girls Indoors - Ryde
- U11 Plate - East Cowes
- U11 Cup - Ventnor
- U11 Girls Dynamos - Ventnor
- U13 League - Ryde Ridgebacks
- U13 Cup - Ryde Ridgebacks
- U15 League - Ryde Rattlers
- U15 Cup - Ventnor Hurricanes
- U15 Girls League - Arreton Rebels



Disability Cricket:

Our disability players had a fantastic Year with our Super 9's squad winning the South East Region ECB competition beating Hampshire, Middlesex and Kent before beating Essex in the Final held at Northwood CC. This was one of the matches I was able to attend and felt very proud of the squad playing great cricket, supporting each other and enjoying the occasion.

Our disability cricket will almost double in size this coming season as we are now entering the D40 league and the Super 9s. IWCB coach Martin Blackman has done an amazing job helping this team grow and achieve. Well done ALL involved and thanks must go out to Lord Taverners who help to make this possible.

Women & Girls:

It has been another strong year for women and girls with an increase to playing opportunities at all levels. We introduced an U11, U15, and Womens league which saw Island clubs striving to create and develop teams to compete. This has created a pathway for IOW women and girls to follow their cricketing journey and increase clubs resilience by opening their doors to new members. We continue our county offer with some great success to allow our best players to challenge themselves. I am very proud of the progress we have made in women and girls cricket but we can not become complacent. I hope that in the not-too-distant future, all Island clubs will have a girls team that plays in at least one of our IOW competitions.

Coach Development:

This year we have seen an impressive uptake on Coach Development courses which includes:

- 10 new Support Coaches
- 16 new Foundation Coaches
- 9 new Core Coaches

This is a huge feat in ensuring that the people delivering cricket to children in clubs are trained and capable of doing so. I am immensely proud of the clubs that have supported individuals to train as coaches this year and I hope this continues to ensure that all individuals that would like to attend a coaching course, are able to. The IWCB will also continue to provide bursaries to support individuals.



What's ahead?

We are continuing to develop in all areas of the game. The work we have done in the last few years to develop women & girls and disability cricket has shown that effective support and investment can create incredible results. We will continue to provide this for our clubs. We need to ensure that our Saturday league teams have sufficient support to allow growth and resilience.

Our CDM has been busy scoping projects - for example: -

- Supporting NHS & Health Services by organising and delivering Dementia cricket.
- Walking Cricket for O65s.
- Community cricket in our parks and nearby housing estates and
- Working with Hampshire Constabulary to offer cricket to children who may need some direction.

We now have an exciting staff roster:

Nick Heelan	CDM
Alex Barton	Women & Girls Development Officer
Martin Blackman	Disability and county coach
Ash Goldsmith	Administrator
Sam Hillier	County Safeguarding officer
Mark West	Head of Finance
Andy Day	Chance 2 Shine

New Directors appointed during 2023:

Mark Turtle	HR
Desi Tagliaboschi	Policies
Brian Jennings	EDI



I feel very confident leaving my post as Chair with an extremely talented passionate and committed board of directors who encourage innovative and fresh ways of thinking and recognise that by having a welcoming, supportive, safe and fair workplace for everybody, we enhance our capacity for innovation and creativity. IWCB aims to be effective, open and accountable in the way it operates and to achieve the highest standards. Working alongside the ECB, our national governing body and other partners to grow and develop the game of cricket.

I am proud of what has been achieved in my three years as Chair, including strengthening and transforming our governance and operational structures. Increasing the numbers of women & girls playing cricket and creating a workforce of exceptional quality.

Kate