

Press Release – Sale Cricket Club

Sale Cricket Club receive Development Fund Grant

The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) is pleased to announce that the Sale Cricket Club has been awarded a grant from the Government's £9.4m Community Club Development Programme – monies which have been pledged to the ECB and are targeted at upgrading cricket club facilities.

The Community Club Development Programme is a funding package developed by Sport England and the Government to develop stronger links between the country's leading clubs and their local communities. The funds are then allocated to ECB to distribute to selected clubs.

Sale Cricket Club was identified by the England and Wales Cricket Board as a club deserving support because of the strength of their junior cricket development programme.

The Club benefited to the tune of £38,912 which has provided for the 12 pitch cricket square to be relaid. Previously the club received a grant for a four bay synthetic practice area.

The Club Chairman, Rob Moore, said "We were really delighted when we heard we had been awarded a second grant because one of our priority needs was to up-grade the square. The whole square has been relaid in two stages over a twelve month period and we are delighted with the quality of the work done."

"We have made good progress in recent times. The installation of the synthetic practice area meant that we had excellent facilities for the development of young cricketers and now the up-grade of the square will also give us much improved match play conditions."

"We are a genuine community club and we have over 80 junior cricketers. We are also a 'Chance to shine' club which means that during the year we will provide coaching and play opportunities in five local primary schools and one secondary school. As a result we aim to increase participation in the playing of the game."

"We are grateful to the ECB for their generous support as we could not afford the up-grade in our facilities from our own resources. We regard the grants as an investment in cricket at the Club for the future."

The Chief Executive of Sport England, Jennie Price said, "We are delighted to make this award to Sale Cricket Club. The facility is key to the local development of cricket"

"The Community Club Development Programme represents a new way of working for Sport England whereby national governing bodies are involved in the initial selection of possible projects that should receive funding based on their new strategic plans. This programme is an innovative way of helping to ensure that community clubs – the heart of grass roots sports development in the country – receive the capital investment they need," she added.

The £9.4m which has been allocated to cricket will be distributed to selected focus clubs, which all work towards the ECB's Agenda of increasing accessibility of cricket to wider sections of the community, particularly junior players.

Projects included in the scheme fall into three categories: (1) the upgrade of grass pitches, outfield and/or grass net facilities, (2) the installation of artificial pitches and/or net facilities, or (3) the upgrade of changing rooms and/or shower facilities.

