



ANNUAL REPORT 2021



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For Cricket Scotland and our sport in general, 2021 has been a year of real highs and lows, with significant challenges including the ongoing COVID-19 global health pandemic and the serious issue of racism within our sport.

We started the season faced with continuing COVID-19 restrictions, which undoubtedly affected our sport at all levels. Thanks to the hard work of our staff, regional associations and club volunteers, and with the support of sportscotland, we managed to deliver a dynamic and varied cricket programme. Despite those restrictions meaning we had to innovate and change how we did things, in many ways it brought us together in adversity. We couldn't have done this without the support of our partners, sponsors and all the volunteers who make the game happen across the country; to them all we are very grateful.

Spring saw clubs, development and pathway cricket return outside as soon as the frost melted. The urgency to get outdoors and reset was particularly relevant this year as the pandemic continued to reduce indoor participation opportunities. Thankfully the weather was kind to us and there were few events or games cancelled allowing a full and varied programme of domestic cricket to be delivered. Leagues and cup competitions were hard fought but played in good spirit. The club game recovered well from the fears that COVID-19 might see participation decrease. Regional programmes, both junior and senior, were successful and provided great development opportunities particularly for our young pathway athletes.

Participation highlights included the development and launch of Disability Cricket Hubs, the "Wee Bash Outdoors" producing opportunities for women and girls to play fun soft ball cricket with their friends and the progress of the All Stars and Dynamos cricket programmes for children aged 5-11.

To help inspire those domestic players, our international teams enjoyed significant success. The Women's team started off with a win over Ireland, ranked 3 places above them in the ICC world rankings, and finished 2021 with another set of wins including a further victory over Ireland to secure top spot in the ICC Women's World T20 European Qualifiers and progress to the Global Qualifiers in 2022. The Men's team finished 2021 with a great run in the World T20 Cup securing a Super 12s place and showcasing their skills on the global stage with massive positive media coverage of their performances.

As a successful 2021 season drew to a close, we considered how we could improve in terms of inclusivity and the diversity of our participants at all levels of the game. We asked sportscotland for their support to deliver an ethnically diverse communities engagement project. During that time it became clear that within cricket, as within society, people have been the victim of racism and discrimination. This has been very difficult for our sport; we are truly sorry for that but we are committed to making things better. We are continuing to work with and sportscotland who have commissioned global EDI experts Plan4Sport, to carry out an independent review of racism within cricket in Scotland. While this has been challenging, 2022 provides an opportunity for us to be open and willing to learn and change.

We are continuing to engage with Plan4Sport and we will implement the full recommendations of the review report. We are committed to changing our sport for the better so that no one feels unwelcome and that in future no one will be subjected to racism within our sport. Through these changes we will be more inclusive, more welcoming and our cricketing community will be more diverse. We will be stronger together in our diversity and that will be a key priority over the coming months.

Sue Strachan, Interim Chair

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The Club Game

Restrictions on club activities were lifted in early spring and clubs very quickly got to work preparing for what we hoped would be a full season. Many clubs reported an increase in membership following the easing of COVID restrictions and the vast majority were able to enter all their sides into their respective league competitions.

The weather was kind and, with minimal disruption from COVID, our regional associations were able to complete a full season of their leagues and cup competitions. The national cup competitions were also completed and congratulations to all our winners in 2021.

2021 Roll of Honour- Youth

U13 ECB Vitality Cup:	Carlton CC	
U14 Scottish Cup:	Grange CC	
U15 ECB Vitality Cup:	Grange CC	
U16 Scottish Cup:	Carlton CC	




2021 Roll of Honour- Senior

CS Challenge Cup:	Morton CC	
T20 Men's Scottish Cup:	Carlton CC	
BB Women's T20 Scottish Cup:	Carlton CC	
CS Men's Scottish Cup:	Heriots CC	




In the domestic Premier leagues, Carlton CC were victorious in the Women's Premier League, Clydesdale CC in the WDCU Premier League and Heriots CC in the Eastern Premier League

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Supporting Domestic Cricket

CSMOA

The newly formed Cricket Scotland Match Officials Association (CSMOA) had a successful first year completing almost 2,500 domestic umpire appointments, over 500 regional and international umpire appointments and close to 100 scorer appointments. Scotland had umpire representation on the international stage at the ICC Women's World Cup European Qualifiers in La Manga as well as the Scotland Men's home series against Zimbabwe.

All umpire training & development courses were completed via Zoom with excellent participation numbers: ECB Level 1 – 51 participants, Open CSMOA Level 1 – 48 participants and the first ever Female only CSMOA Level 1 – 27 participants. Continued development of umpires and scorers remains a key area of priority CSMOA using assessors, observers and an advice panel.

Cricket Scotland would like to thank all committees within the CSMOA for their voluntary time given to this vital component of cricket in Scotland.

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MATCH OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION

CS Live



Following a competitive tender in 2019, CSLive powered by Interact was piloted in 2021. The digital platform offers a solution for player & team management for clubs, leagues & fixtures administration for regional associations and the ability to live score matches ball by ball via phone or tablet

The Women's Premier League, senior regional series and selected Eastern Premier League clubs all trialled the scoring platform and it is now being rolled out to each of the regional associations who will have their own match day centre. A fan app will be launched in spring 2022 enabling cricket fans to follow their team ball by ball on match day and clubs that choose to invest in video technology via a *Frogbox* will be able to stream matches live on the match day centre.

Workforce Development

Early 2021, with COVID restrictions permitting online delivery, a new *Introduction to Cricket* Coaching course was launched and 14 online courses were delivered pre-season.

The initiative to offer female only courses was a huge success with 109 female learners out of a total of 189. Workshops for clubs included "Volunteer Management" and "Getting coaches ready for Sport" (post COVID).

The new ECB Foundation Coach course was delivered in the second half of the year with 56 new coaches certified in 2021.

COACHING IN NUMBERS

14 Introduction to cricket coaching courses

189 Attended the courses

109 Female learners attended courses

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COACHES ASSOCIATION

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Clubs and Schools

Our team of Regional Development Officers were tasked with supporting all clubs in Scotland in getting back to cricket for the 2021 season. Due to COVID restrictions, access to schools was limited but many clubs saw a good return of their junior membership across All Stars Cricket, Dynamos Cricket and the various junior competitions. Many fixtures were played as friendlies, intra-club or between neighbouring clubs, taking into account the ever-changing COVID and travel restrictions.

40 All Stars and Dynamos centres, both club and community based, delivered to 1542 5 to 11-year-old girls and boys.

Community Engagement



Our Wicketz hubs in Glasgow (Pollokshields, Govanhill and Springburn) continued to improvise, finding ways to stay connected with participants throughout the pandemic. Unwanted laptops were donated to participants to support school learning and attending online workshops. Beyond Boundaries charity once again provided free *All Stars Cricket* and *Dynamos Cricket* spaces for 240 boys and girls across the three hubs.

A second Wicketz Community Engagement programme was launched, with the formation of the first Edinburgh Wicketz hub in Liberton in the autumn.

A new partnership with the charity *Chance to Shine* was officially launched early summer, with delivery of “all school programmes” including teacher training in the Aberdeen City and Shire area and in Edinburgh. A year-round *Street Cricket* programme was also established in Peterhead, offering free cricket to children in a community setting.

We are grateful to partners *Lord's Taverners* (Wicketz), *Chance to Shine* and *Beyond Boundaries*, as well as a number of local organisations including *Active Schools* for enabling us to offer free cricket in communities and change lives through sport.

ALL STARS & DYNAMOS



LORD'S TAVERNERS SUPER 1'S ENGAGEMENT



CHANCE TO SHINE



LORD'S TAVERNERS WICKETZ PARTICIPANTS



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Perhaps hardest hit by the pandemic, our disability cricket programmes like our Lords Taverners *Super 1's* hubs, took a little longer to get back up and running,

A new initiative aimed at integrating disability cricket into clubs was launched in partnership with *Beyond Boundaries*. Three clubs: Dumfries CC, Westquarter & Redding CC and Strathmore CC received funding, equipment and training to support the delivery of disability cricket in a club setting.



Women & Girls' Cricket

The success of the (indoor, soft ball) *Wee Bash* tournaments over the past years led to an extension of the programme into the summer months in 2021: The Wee Bash-summer edition.

In partnership with *Beyond Boundaries*, we were able to expand the programme driven by our Regional Development Officers, tournaments were played all around the country. It is great to see so many clubs in Scotland being more inclusive and diverse by offering women & girl's cricket.

The Women's Premier League and Beyond Boundaries Women's T20 Scottish Cup continue to show improved standards of play, with the Scotland Women players available for both competitions. In 2021 the finals were streamed and live scored on CS Live app, further raising the profile of these competitions.

A project to develop an online Activator training course for our cricket and HIIT fitness programme *CricHIIT* was undertaken in 2021, with the launch planned for spring 2022 – watch this space!

Female-only coaching courses and umpire courses were some of the great success stories of 2021 and are essential to growing the female game.



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Open to all – Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

Equality Action Plan

Early 2021, our EDI Advisory Group was rebranded to Equality Delivery Group and expanded to include representation from more sections of the wider cricket community. Led by President Sue Strachan, staff members with expertise in disability cricket, community engagement, ethnically diverse communities and women & girls cricket joined representatives from our match officials, our coaching network, our national teams' players and an external independent group member to deliver the actions needed to make cricket truly inclusive and welcoming to all.

Our Equality Action Plan was completed in March 2021, with the key areas for action identified as: **ethnically diverse communities, women and girls, disability.**

Other areas included in the Equality Action Plan were communications, commercial and events, talent and performance, recruitment and retention, policies, staff, board and monitoring.

One of the main projects in the plan was to conduct a stakeholder consultation with wider cricket community, with help from external expertise, to seek opinion in how we might address inequalities and perceptions, particularly around ethnically diverse communities.



Our ambitious plans underpinned by a commitment throughout the organisation to progress becoming a more inclusive, diverse organisation and to be able to welcome any person no matter their age or protected characteristics to join us and gain the enjoyment and health benefits of being part of our cricket family.

In order to be truly inclusive, we feel the time is right to not only consider the profile of our present members but also to reach out into communities such as the ethnically diverse, disability and LGBTQ+ communities to learn from them how we might be more welcoming. To do that, we plan to embark on significant engagement projects by working with members of each community in a structured manner. The output of these projects will be used to inform our future actions.

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Senior Regional Cricket

The regional programme changed in format this year to align with the strategic priorities of our men's and women's national programme. The men's series introduced the Performance Academy as a fourth team who competed admirably with the three established sides. After a round-robin group stage, Western Warriors got the better of the Eastern Knights in the final winning by 7 wickets.

TEAM	P	W	W2	T	L	L2	PTS	NRR	RF	RA
1  Western Warriors	4	3	0	0	1	0	6	2.03	998	751
2  Eastern Knights	4	3	0	0	1	0	6	1.8	1257	723
3  Caledonian Highlanders	3	1	0	0	2	0	2	-2.26	592	938
4  Performance Academy	3	0	0	0	3	0	0	-2.55	657	1092

To make for a more competitive series, the women's series changed from being regionally structured and focused on splitting the best players in the country into two evenly balanced teams. Coached by Peter Ross and Dan Sutton, the two sides competed with back-to-back matches over five weekends resulting in a 5-5 draw.

This new format produced a competitive and exciting senior women's series and contributed massively to the development of the womens national squad and their success at the ICC Womens World Cup T20 European Qualifier in winning the tournament.

TEAM	P	W	W2	T	L	L2	PTS	NRR	RF	RA
1  Sutton XI	10	5	0	0	5	0	10	0	1353	1306
2  Ross XI	10	5	0	0	5	0	10	-0	1306	1353



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National Squads

Restrictions on 'Elite' sport were reduced by **sportscotland** in the spring of 2021 allowing our men's & women's national squads to resume training.

In May the men's national squad headed to the Netherlands for their first competitive cricket in nearly 18 months, drawing the ODI series.

Our women's national squad headed to Ireland in May for a four match T20I series which resulted in a well-deserved win for Scotland in the first match. Despite losing the series, the squad gained much confidence heading to the ICC T20 World Cup European Qualifiers.

In their opening qualifier match in Spain, Scotland reduced the Netherlands to 98/3 and reached their target of 99 in the 17th over after a tidy batting performance from Sarah Bryce (46). Scotland knew their match versus Ireland was crucial and after an exceptional bowling performance, they restricted Ireland to 89/9. Kathryn Bryce produced a captain's unbeaten innings of 46 to lead the team to an historic win in the 20th over. Wins over France and Germany completed their unbeaten tournament, and we look forward to the global qualifier in 2022.

SENIOR NATIONAL TEAMS

13	MENS INTERNATIONALS	7	MENS A MATCHES
8	WOMENS INTERNATIONALS	8	WOMENS A MATCHES



Scotland women's A side competed in the ECB county championships and started with two excellent wins versus the North East Warriors. After abandoned matches versus Cumbria and then Lancashire they succumbed to two defeats to Lancashire. Our Men's A side had several fixtures which succumbed to the weather including Lancashire 2nds and MCC. They recorded a good six wicket win versus Gloucestershire 2nds in a 2-day match at Rockhampton and followed this up with a five wicket win versus Worcestershire Academy and a two wicket win versus Leicestershire 2nds.

In September, Scotland hosted Zimbabwe at the Grange in three Men's T20I's. After a win by seven runs in the first match, Scotland suffered back-to-back defeats to ultimately lose the series. This however marked yet another crucial win versus an ICC full member.

Having been postponed in 2020, the 2021 Men's ICC T20 World Cup moved from India to the UAE and Oman. Our men's national side produced one of their finest performances to beat Bangladesh and followed up with wins versus Papua New Guinea and Oman to progress to the Super 12's as group winners.

The Super 12's proved to be a demanding environment for the squad and in challenging conditions Scotland were not able to build on their group successes, however their performances in the group stage has automatically qualified them for the 2022 event in Australia.

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Pathway

Although the winter training programme was severely disrupted by COVID, we managed to complete a whole UK based summer fixture programme with only a few matches succumbing to the weather. Unfortunately, both the boys Celtic Cups and the Girls u17s Tri-Series were unable to go ahead due to COVID.

In total, 82 of the scheduled 86 fixtures in the pathway were completed, however, particularly in the early part of the summer, it was evident that the lack of cricketing opportunities over the last year has impacted the development of the players.

This summer also introduced a new concept of 2-day white-ball cricket in the boy's regional programme. The format combines the rules of 2-day red-ball cricket with coloured clothing and white balls. The programme's main aims are to allow batters to bat longer, bowlers to bowl more overs, and all players to become more tactically aware—the format as well-received by all players and coaches.

The season finished in the disappointment of the Men's U19s failing to qualify for the World Cup in the West Indies. We were outplayed in both games v Ireland; however, following a late withdrawal from New Zealand, Scotland were invited to replace them as the highest ranked team.

Future Developments

- Changes to the structure of the National Pathway with the introduction of a Women's u19s to replace the Performance Academy.
- Expansion of our partnership with Glasgow Caledonian University for Sport Psychology support. Students from their Masters in Sport Psychology course are now supporting both the male and female pathways.
- Increased access to strength and conditioning for both male and female pathway players.
- Continuation of the partnership with 'Support Within Sport' has been an invaluable welfare support service for players and staff at all levels.
- A new partnership agreement with Dollar Academy to be facility provider for our National Pathway teams.
- A new partnership agreement with Dumfries Cricket Club to host the Celtic cup series for the next three years.

PATHWAY IN NUMBERS

11

SQUADS

Men's Performance Academy
Women's Performance Academy
Men's U19s, Boys U17s & U15s
Girls U17s, U15s
Girls Regional U18s, U15s
Boys Regional U17s, U15s

FIXTURES IN 2021



Men's PA	12	Women's PA	8
Men's U19s	12	Reg Girls U18s	11
Boys U17s	6	Reg Boys U17s	9
Girls U17s	6	Reg Boys U15s	9
Boys U15s	9	Girls U15s	4

WHAT A MATCH



615

RUNS IN ONE GAME

Caley Highlanders v Eastern Knights game at Aberdeenshire which saw 320 (CH) play 295 (EK) – Lister (88), Rennie (86) & Walsingham (160)

WHAT A PERFORMANCE



TOM MACKINTOSH V DURHAM

124

UZAIR AHMAD V YORKSHIRE

88

IN 77 BALLS

NIAMH MUIR V BUCKINGHAMSHIRE GIRLS

5

FOR 1

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Looking Forward to 2022

As we commend this annual report to our members we look forward to what 2022 will bring. The pandemic remains present and will impact on all activities this year too but with restrictions lifted we hope things will start to really get back to normal.

We will continue to support club and association volunteers to rebuild and grow despite the challenges that the current economic and social environment will bring.

We will review our strategy for the game in Scotland and will be seeking input from all parts of the game so that everyone can identify with a strategy not just for Cricket Scotland but for cricket in Scotland.

We also intend to progress with our Equality Action Plan which was agreed in 2021. The 3 main pillars are:

- 1 Ethnically Diverse Communities
- 2 Disability
- 3 Women and Girl's

Within the plan there are milestones and targets. Progress towards these will be regularly reviewed by the Equality Delivery Group and reported at each meeting of the Cricket Scotland Council Ltd and Cricket Scotland Ltd.

There is much to look forward to for everyone associated with Cricket Scotland and cricket in Scotland. Some of the highlights will be as follows.:

- A full and varied domestic cricket season with opportunities for everyone to play at all levels.
- The roll out of CS Live, our national scoring and results platform, to make life easier for club volunteers.
- The global launch of CricHIIT
- The CS Live fan App so that everyone can keep up with events as they happen.
- Scotland Women's U19 Team competing for the first time in a World Cup Qualifier.
- The New Zealand BLACKCAPS, who are currently the number one ranked ODI side in the world, are coming to play our men's national side in July
- Scotland Women competing in the Global ICC WT20 Qualifier
- Scotland Men competing in the ICC T20 World Cup in Australia



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Beyond Boundaries
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Independent Review of Racism in Scottish Cricket

In December 2021 Scotland's national agency for sport, **sportscotland**, commissioned global EDI experts Plan4Sport to carry out an independent review into racism within Scottish cricket. That process is now well underway and is being fully supported by Cricket Scotland. We are committed to improving our game and will act on all the recommendations brought forward by Plan4Sport.

As part of the review process, Plan4Sport is currently carrying out a full review of cricket policies and procedures at national, regional and club level, to help identify where racism or racial inequalities could occur. They have also launched a confidential contact service and are conducting an in-depth consultation exercise covering all levels of Scottish cricket.

A significant number of people have already reached out to the independent review team and we would encourage anyone who has experienced or witnessed racism, inequalities or discrimination to come forward. By sharing your experiences, you will help shape the report's final recommendations and ultimately make a difference.

Anyone who has been affected by racism or racial inequalities within Scottish cricket should contact cricketreview@sportscotland.org.uk in the first instance. All contacts will be treated confidentially and will be responded to by the independent review team.

Of key importance to our future growth and success and the health of cricket in Scotland will be for us to listen to the recommendations made by the Plan4Sport Team in the wide reaching review and to act upon them.

Some of the actions will be easy and quick and some will be more challenging but we are committed to improving our future sporting environment in accordance with those recommendations so that, in future, no one will experience racism within cricket in Scotland and our cricketing community will be stronger in our diversity.



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