

THE PRIMARY CLUB

The cricketers' charity for the blind and partially sighted



**Lois Turner of Surrey VICC
Women's Player of the Year**

BLIND CRICKET 2022

Metro's record win

London Metro denied Sussex Sharks a league and cup double when they secured the BCEW Primary Club Heindrich Swanepoel Cup for a record 18th time.

The final took place at Northamptonshire's Wantage Road ground exactly a month before the tenth anniversary of the passing of Heindrich, after whom the competition is named and who played for England and was such a pioneer of VI cricket.

Having been put into bat, Metro reached 203 for 6 off their 30 overs, thanks in large part to a cup final record stand of 139 for the third wicket between Nick Ebbeck (90) and Prem Sellathurai.

Sharks got off to a brisk start but Metro's totally blind fielders stepped up with Amit Amin taking two catches, including the captain Dan Field. Alan Turnbull took a screamer to dismiss Si Ledwith.

Sussex had reached 144 for 6 midway through the 25th over before losing their last four wickets in 13 balls. Mo Ghalib finished with four for 11 from his six overs. Ebbeck was named partially sighted man of the match and Amin picked up the totally blind award.

"BCEW would like to thank the Primary Club for continuing to fund this competition, the final of which is still considered blind cricket's blue riband event," said Dave Gavrilovic, vice chair of Blind Cricket England & Wales. "Grateful thanks also goes to Jim Hawkins, Jonathan Taylor, Derek Styman and the team at Northamptonshire Cricket for hosting the final so terrifically, especially as they had agreed to host the match at short notice after the planned venue fell through."

Hosted at Hambledon

The South and West Regional T20 final took place in the historic surroundings of Broadhalfpenny Down at Hambledon, the cradle of cricket. The match – between Dorset Dolphins and

Surrey – formed part of the 250th anniversary celebrations of Broadhalfpenny Down, where first-class cricket began in 1772 with a three-day match between Surrey and Kent.

Surrey were too strong for Dorset, for whom this was a T20 debut because their semi-final against Hampshire was a walkover. Tim McKenzie top-scored with 53 in the Dolphins' 134 all out and Surrey wasted little time in getting their chase underway. They reached 50 inside four overs and cantered home after 13.1 overs with only one wicket down. Shaqir Iqbal hit 50 off only 25 balls.

And the winner is ...

Northants' **David Howells**, 19, was named Partially Sighted Player of the Year and retained the Partially Sighted Fielder of the Year award as the Steelbacks were the biggest winners in BCEW's National Level Awards, while Kent Spitfires trebled the number of awards their club have ever won.

Dave Daniels retained Total Player of the Year following a phenomenal season with the ball, his teammates **Mark Oliphant** (Total Fielder of the Year) and **Alex Towers** (Partially Sighted Bowler of the Year for his prominent role in Sussex's National League title win) meant Sussex earned three awards.

It was also a successful season for Lancashire Lions as **Tahseen Sabir**, the top run scorer in VI cricket this season, won Partially Sighted Batter of the Year, while **Sheraz Chohan** won Low Partial Player of the Year for a record fifth time.

Lois Turner of Surrey VICC was again the stand out candidate as she won Women's Player of the Year for the sixth time.

Roger Barker was awarded the Charles Ronayne Award for Outstanding Contribution to VI Cricket, as well as being one of BCEW's top umpires and travelling all over the country to officiate matches. Roger has also taken on match manager and match referee roles in recent seasons.

BCEW ROLL OF HONOUR

Partially Sighted Player of the Year

David Howells

(Northants Steelbacks)

Total Player of the Year

Dave Daniels (Sussex Sharks)

Partially Sighted Batsman of the Year

Tahseen Sabir

(Lancashire Lions)

Total Batsman of the Year

Amin Afshari (Kent Spitfires)

Partially Sighted Bowler of the Year

Alex Towers (Sussex Sharks)

Total Bowler of the Year

Mark Turnham

(Northants Steelbacks)

Most Promising Player of the Year

Tom Barton (Kent Spitfires)

Partially Sighted Fielder of the Year

David Howells

(Northants Steelbacks)

Total Fielder of the Year

Mark Oliphant

(Sussex Sharks)

Wicketkeeper of the Year

Gerald Porter

(Northants Steelbacks)

Women's Player of the Year

Lois Turner (Surrey VICC)

The Charles Ronayne Award for Outstanding Contribution to VI Cricket

Roger Barker

Umpire of the Year

Hughie Evans

Scorer of the Year

John Egan

Competition Winners

BCEW National League Div 1
Sussex Sharks

BCEW National League Div 2
Lancashire Lions

BCEW Primary Club
Heindrich Swanepoel Cup

London Metro

David Townley T20 Cup

Somerset VICC



Success: South and West Regional T20 champions Surrey (left) and BCEW National League Division 1 winners Sussex Sharks (right).



From the editor

John Stern

One might think the England men's Test side's new gung-ho approach to the game would yield primaries aplenty. But not a bit of it – only dear Jimmy Anderson copped a first-baller in a home Test last year. And with the Ashes upon us, I guess we should hope for more of the same, even if it might impact our coffers.

These are indeed changing times. We have two new trustees, including a new chair, Tim Kelleher (see page 8), and Chris Larlham, our tireless Hon Sec (page 7) has announced his intention to retire after 20 years in post, which he has served with remarkable dedication and efficiency.

Many of the Primary Club's beneficiaries are regulars, so to speak, such as the many VI cricket clubs up and down the land who rely on your generosity to survive. But it's always a joy to help a new venture, such as the bowls club in Airdrie (page 5) which Sharon Moncrieff has set up.

And I knew next to nothing about the Braille Chess Association which celebrated its 90th anniversary in 2022. You can read about their exploits and a brief explainer about how braille chess works on page 4.

Please enjoy the newsletter (expertly designed once again by Nigel Davies) and continue to support the Primary Club in any way you can.

You can contact me by email: editor@primaryclub.org; follow us on Twitter @ThePrimaryClub; and visit www.primaryclub.org.



The curse of Rule 5 (c)

The curse of Rule 5 (c) has struck again! The rule, under which members are asked to **add £2** to their annual donation for each primary achieved by an England player in a home Test, is invoked by:

- **JM Anderson** lbw Rabada, England v South Africa, Lord's, 18 August 2022

Fifty not out

Metro Blind Sport is home to the country's most successful VI cricket club – but plenty more besides. We pay tribute as the club raises its bat for a well-deserved half-century

In the spring of 1973 a group of eight friends met in a pub in Victoria to discuss what they could do to improve the opportunities for vision-impaired people to participate in recreation and sport in the Greater London area.

At that time, St. Dunstan's (now Blind Veterans UK) participated in the Stoke Mandeville BSAD games, and there were three or four VI cricket teams operating. There was also a VI football evening class operating at Holland Park School and that was about it!

At that time, most children and young people with a vision impairment were educated in specialist VI schools and colleges where sport and physical recreation was available to all. On leaving school or college there was very little available even in London.

So the eight friends decided that rather than moaning about the lack of provision they would set up a new sports and social club, stuck £5 each into the kitty and thus the Metropolitan Sports and Social Club for the Visually Impaired was formed.

"Metro came to the notice of various celebrities in the cricket world," recalls Mike Brace, Primary Club trustee and a Metro founder, "and in 1976 only three years after formation, we felt that we needed a president – who better to ask than the voice of cricket Brian Johnston?"

"He accepted and thus began an 18-year relationship with a fantastic advocate for the club and what we wanted to do. Brian never ceased to mention Metro and also promoted the Primary Club.

"We have played some incredible matches over the years against wonderful opposition. North Middlesex had Mike Brearley, Ilford Colts had Nasser Hussain, John Lever and John Childs. We had a celebrity XI at Dorton House which included such legends as Derek Underwood, Dennis Amiss, and Patrick Moore."

These days Metro has a membership base of approximately 400 and offers opportunities to get involved in a wide variety of sports, primarily located within Greater London.

We soon became the team everyone wanted to beat" Mike Brace



In addition to core sports, which include archery, athletics, bowls, cricket, football, tennis and swimming, Metro Blind Sport plays a vital role in the provision of information about wider sporting opportunities to members and the extended blind and partially sighted community. The charity also supports many other sporting initiatives through partnerships with a vast array of community providers. For example, tandem cycling is also offered in association with Merton Sports and Social Club.

They are also the most successful VI cricket club in the land. "Perhaps we were a bit too competitive, I do not know, but we soon became the team everyone wanted to beat!" says Brace. "At the time of writing Metro have been in the final of the BBS Knockout Cup on 28 occasions and won it 18 times."



Serial winners: London Metro with the 2022 BCEW Primary Club HS Cup

All your donations help

BRILLE CHESS

Check mates

In its 90th year, the Braille Chess Association returned to pre-pandemic activity that included a tournament with players from around the world. Norman Wragg reports

We are pleased to say that 2022, our 90th anniversary year, was very successful. For the first time since the pandemic we were able to run our full programme of over the board events, concluding with a very enjoyable tournament at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Solihull at the end of October. It was so good to meet face to face again and return to playing chess over the board. We are still committed to holding remote events. In such events, games are played over the telephone or via an online platform such as Skype or Zoom, which helps our members who are less mobile.

The 90th anniversary tournament produced an excellent turnout, including players from Sweden, Ireland, Iran and Spain. The Open tournament attracted reigning champion, Stan Lovell, and three former champions. Steve Burnell won the Open tournament and Simon Highsmith the Challengers' event.

At the end of January we held our annual Chess Theme Break, this time at the Lauriston Hotel in Weston-super-Mare. The week started with small groups of trainees receiving coaching over a few days. Some members of the local chess club came in one afternoon to play simultaneous displays against the trainees. The chess activities culminated in a mini tournament so the trainees could put what they had learnt into practice. The week also included

“The BCA helps people meet their aspirations in the chess world”



Board level: Simon Highsmith (above), winner of the Challengers' event at the Braille Chess 90th anniversary tournament, and Steve Burnell (left), winner of the Open tournament. (Below right): competitors at the tournament; (bottom right): Steve Burnell receives his trophy from Norman Wragg

social activities such as a visit to a local museum where we were allowed to handle some of the exhibits.

We recently held our AGM weekend and chess congress at the Old Swan Hotel in Harrogate. This was our first in-person AGM since 2019 and we were pleased to have some members joining in our AGM remotely. There were five rounds of chess and the results were sent to the English Chess Federation for inclusion in the national chess ratings.

In July we are holding our Chairman's Cup at the Marsham Court Hotel in Bournemouth. This is a week-long event with one round of chess each day. Players of any level can enter but competition

for the Chairman's Cup is limited to those players who have not yet attained the highest levels of playing ability. In 2024 we will hold our British Championship where the winner is crowned the British Visually Impaired Champion.

Alongside these events we have continued providing chess coaching over Skype and Zoom, supplying adapted chess equipment and producing our quarterly newsletter (available in various formats). We are proud that we provide a friendly and supportive environment for visually impaired people to learn chess, to improve their playing ability and to meet their aspirations in the chess world.

to fund these projects...

How it works

Chess is a very accessible game for people with a vision impairment.

Tactile chess sets

The dark squares on a tactile chess set are slightly raised above the light squares and the black pieces are capped by a small spike or pin. Pieces are secured in place by pegs that fit into holes in the centre of each square. There are also sets that use magnets, one in the base of each piece and another in the centre of the square.

Two boards

Two boards are used if either player has a vision impairment. This is because a visually impaired player needs to feel the board at all times which prevents their opponent from seeing or feeling the position. Each player moves all of the pieces on their own board – including their opponents – so that both boards always reflect the same position. When a player makes a move, they announce it so their opponent can copy it on their own board.



BOWLING

Bowling for a better life

Primary Club support helped set up a new bowls club in Airdrie, east of Glasgow, bringing sporting and social benefits. Sharon Moncrieff reports

I've been visually impaired since birth and when I stopped working in 2017, I was introduced to indoor bowls. I was quickly smitten and joined a local bowling club for the visually impaired.

However, I moved house in February 2021 and though I still attended the VI group when I could, I really wanted to set up a bowling club for adults who are VI. I had joined a member-only outdoor bowling club along with my husband in May 2021 and was made to feel very welcome.

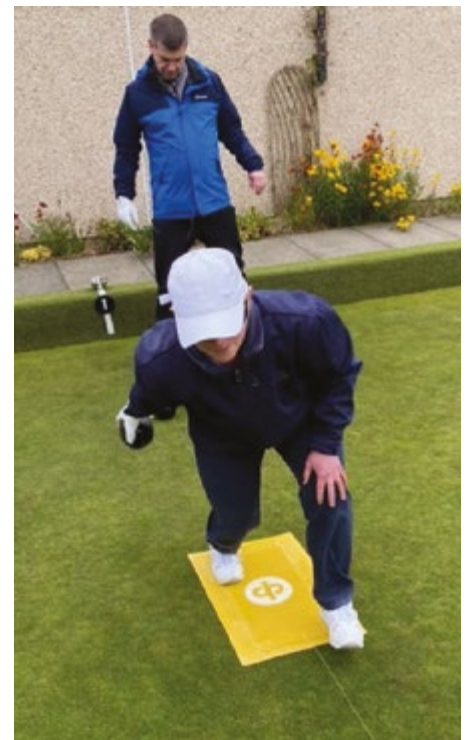
I decided to look into starting a VI club in Airdrie and Coatbridge. Following meetings with both clubs, local talking newspapers and social services, I began to get a trickle of adults who are VI. We started playing weekly in March of last year and now there are eight regular bowlers and four sighted directors. With money from the Primary Club so far we've bought bowls, shoes and bags for five bowlers who had never bowled before.

We are members of Visually Impaired Bowlers Scotland (VIBS). Some of our

bowlers have attended national and local competitions while our members who are new to bowling are really enjoying coming along on a Friday morning and learning how to bowl.

We are a very happy bunch, making each other laugh. Each Friday we have a match between ourselves which is always great fun with plenty of banter. Some more experienced bowlers will be entered into national outdoor competitions during this summer and it's hoped to enter more bowlers into national and local competitions during the winter months.

Without the funding from the Primary Club I wouldn't have been able to start up ACVIBC so the bowlers are very grateful for your generosity. Not only are they playing a sport, they are getting out of their homes and socialising and reducing their isolation.



Green shoots: Airdrie's new VI bowling club provides great social value

Exceptional generosity

Last year we received a legacy from the estate of lifelong cricket supporter and volunteer Ken James. His friends and executors Bob Baxter and Bill Boyes explain the background

Kenneth George James, late of 5 Cecil Rd, Willesden in north-west London, was born on 17 May 1936 and died on 6 April 2022. He was an only child and lived with his parents in Willesden until his father died in 1986 and his mother in 1988.

Ken would have been the first to admit that he was not the most talented of sportsmen. He rightly often captained teams that he had organised but only occasionally treated himself to a bowl. When he did, the 19th century “lob” bowlers would immediately have recognised a practitioner of their trade and most of his victims were caught on a deep boundary. However, his commitment to organising sport, especially club cricket and football, was far greater than that of anybody else that we knew. Until he became incapacitated, he was a central figure in the administration of South Hampstead Cricket Club and Old Uffingtonians Football Club (the Old Boys club for Willesden High School), both based at the cricket ground in Milverton Road, Brondesbury. He must have become involved with those clubs in the 1950s, long before we became members in the mid-1970s, and served both clubs in many different, unremunerated roles.

He specialised, in the days before email and WhatsApp, in the weekly task of phone calls to round up a couple more footballers on Saturday or Sunday morning on a wet or frosty day in the middle of winter for a game at Gunnersbury Park (made even less tempting by the post-match horror of the shower block) or persuading cricketers to play when there was a more attractive option of watching the cup final or meeting the girlfriend’s parents. He was a constant presence in front of and behind the bar in the pavilion and served on every available committee of both clubs. He was the committed member without which no amateur sports club, indeed organisation, can survive but who never acquires the fame which more talented players achieve.

Ken rarely needed legal advice as he lived in the same house for all his life but on and off for many years he told Bill that he needed help with making a will. Sadly, he became mentally incapacitated before

he could decide to whom he wanted to leave his estate. He was moved into a nursing home by Brent Council and in November 2019 Bob was appointed as his Deputy by the Court of Protection. Thereafter the property at 5 Cecil Rd was sold and the proceeds invested. An application to make a statutory will was made by Bob to the Court and, pursuant to an order, the will was made on 17 January 2022. The residue of the estate has been divided between two cricket charities, namely the Primary Club and Chance to Shine. Each has received approximately £180,000.

If the will had not been made before his death, his estate would have been shared between the many descendants of his paternal and maternal grandparents, none of whom he had ever met. Fortunately, this outcome was avoided and we hope that Ken would have been happy with the outcome. He is a man who deserves to be remembered for his untiring efforts. Through his teams a few sportsmen progressed to achieve national fame and countless others enjoyed games and occasions which would never have taken place without his efforts.

For more information on how to leave a legacy visit the Primary Club’s website.

“He specialised, in the days before email and WhatsApp, in the weekly task of phone calls to round up a couple more footballers for a game at Gunnersbury Park”

“About much more than cricket”

As the World Blind Games comes to Birmingham this summer, John Garbett from Blind Cricket England & Wales highlights the progress of the women’s cricket set-up

After their successful trip to the West Indies in 2018, the UK Women and Girls squad have worked hard since Covid and finally get their chance to shine again on the world stage, as the International Blind Sports Association games come to Birmingham in August.

It’s been a long road, with many early starts and long trips on cold mornings but the effort and dedication of the players has been fantastic throughout.

The programme has had the continued support of the Primary Club and Johnners



Effort and dedication: UK women training

Trust and the wonderful surroundings of Lambrook School in Berkshire at which to train.

Preparations are going well for the games, as we will be pitted against

Australia and India for the first time in what promises to be a fascinating event.

Fifteen players will soon be chosen with others being on standby but there will continue to be opportunities for all in future as the ECB takes over the main squad and BCEW carry on with the development of female VI cricketers around the country.

While the aim is to lift that world trophy in 2023, our own programme is about much more than cricket, with the chance to make lifelong friends and to improve all round mental and physical health along the way.

**THE PRIMARY CLUB
FORECAST RESULT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

	2022/23 £ (forecast)	2021/22 £ (actual)
Joining subscriptions and donations	98,139	114,204
Legacies	207,635	19,978
Profit on sale of merchandise	942	530
Tax claim under Gift Aid	19,535	21,571
Interest receivable	387	48
Total income	326,638	156,331
Publicity and administration costs	(9,372)	(10,510)
Surplus for the year	317,266	145,821
Surplus from earlier years	107,027	102,556
	424,293	248,377
Grants (details below)	172,170	141,350
Surplus to carry forward	252,123	107,027

Note: Copies of the Club's full accounts may be obtained from the Honorary Treasurer.

**2023 GRANTS TO SCHOOLS AND CLUBS
FOR THE BLIND AND PARTIALLY SIGHTED**

Airdrie Coatbridge VICC	Set up costs and equipment	5,000
Berkshire County Blind Society	Season expenses	3,500
Birmingham Goalball Club	Season expenses	3,000
Birmingham Sports Club	Season expenses - futsal	3,000
Birmingham Stars VICC	Season expenses	3,500
Blind Cricket England & Wales	Equipment, development programme, PC Cup	17,800
Bradford & District VICC	Season expenses	3,500
Braille Chess Association	Coaching, chess sets and clocks	3,700
British Blind Sport	Archery and tenpin bowling	10,320
Cambridge Dons	Goalball expenses	2,000
Cheshire Cobras VICC	Season expenses	3,500
Derbyshire Assoc for the Blind	"Active" programme	5,000
Devon Bowling and Social Club	Season expenses	2,500
Devon Devils (SW Vipers) Bowling Club	Season expenses	2,500
Dorset Dolphins VICC	Season expenses and sports wheelchair	5,450
Durham VICC	Season expenses	3,000
English Blind Golf Association	Matchplay championship	3,500
Gloucestershire VICC	Season expenses	3,500
Hampshire VICC	Season expenses	3,500
Kent Spitfires VICC	Season expenses	3,500
Lancashire Lions VICC	Season expenses and goalball	5,000
London Futsal Club	Season expenses	3,000
London Sports Club	Swimming	1,000
Merseyside VIFC	Weekly sessions	4,000
Merton Sports & Social Club	Hall hire and insurance	1,850
Metro	Season expenses for two teams	7,000
Northants Steelbacks VICC	Season expenses	3,500
North West Scorpions FC	Season expenses	5,000
Open Country	Tandem to e-bike conversion	2,000
Outlook Trust	Residential weekend and sailing week	5,000
SAVI Northwest	Venue hire and equipment	6,000
Somerset VICC	Season expenses	3,500
Staffs Wolves VICC	Season expenses	3,500
Surrey VICC	Season expenses	3,500
Sussex Sharks VICC	Season expenses	3,500
Tandeming Together	Tandem maintenance and expenses	4,000
Taunton Deane VI Bowls	Season expenses and equipment	2,000
VIB Somerset	Bowling Club season expenses	2,000
Vision of Adventure	Canoeing and cycling	3,000
Wavertree CC	Season expenses	3,250
West Glamorgan Sports Club	Tournament expenses	2,300
Worcs Elizabethans VICC	Season expenses	3,500
Yorkshire VICC	Season expenses	3,500

£172,170

From the Hon Sec...



Dear Member,

What a difference a year makes. Much to my surprise and delight, Surrey managed to win the county championship and are currently joint top this year after four matches. However, unlike last year's dry weather, we have had a very wet start to the season, with many matches at club level having to be cancelled or rearranged. England, to general astonishment under the new regime of Key, McCullum and Stokes, have had an amazing year, winning most of their Test matches, as well as the T20 World Cup and reducing this year's Rule 5 (c) levy to just £2.

The results for the financial year just ended have been transformed by legacies totalling £207,635, most of that accounted for by a single legacy from the estate of a non-member about whom there is a separate article on page 6.

This newsletter will be mailed to 3,250 members, all those whose last donation was seven or more years ago having been excluded, though they will receive the email edition if we have a current email address, thus saving getting on for £1,000 in the cost of production and distribution. Our core income has fallen again, from £136,000 to £119,000. However, the overall surplus has enabled us to meet all grant requests and increase the standard amount we pay to cricket clubs from £3,000 to £3,500. Please do continue with your generous donations.

We have appointed two new trustees: Tim Kelleher, who takes over as chairman, and Clive Fieth. You can read more about them on page 8. By this time next year I will have served 20 years as your Hon Secretary and I would very much like to retire. If any of you reading this would be interested in taking over, please contact me in the first instance. The job would suit someone recently retired who would like to keep busy.

I wish all of you, whether playing, watching or just following the game, a happy and enjoyable season.

Yours sincerely,

Chris Larlham

Chris Larlham





“A wonderful legacy for a momentary aberration”

Introducing our two new trustees, Clive Fieth and new chair Tim Kelleher, who both want to increase the profile, membership and fund-raising of the Primary Club

The Primary Club recently welcomed two new trustees: Tim Kelleher, who joins as our new chair, and Clive Fieth, who brings global marketing experience.

Tim is a recently retired solicitor, having specialised in shipping and international trade and been a partner at Thomas Cooper and Penningtons Manches Cooper. He has been a Primary Club member for more than 30 years, though he says his technical qualification occurred on his under-12s debut when he dispatched his first ball straight to cow corner's eagerly awaiting hands.

A passionate cricket player and follower, Tim has the improbable distinction of never having seen England lose a Test overseas, including



Tim Kelleher

Melbourne, Sydney, Cape Town, Barbados and Antigua. “I’ve seen them lose plenty at home!” he adds.

“While the Primary Club might be seen by some as an idiosyncratic English institution that rewards failure with membership of a Club, that misses the point,” Tim says. “Failure is important to success. One should not be embarrassed by one’s failures,



Clive Fieth

you just have to learn from them. Donations to the Club allow blind and visually impaired people to play the games – not just cricket – that they love. That is a wonderful legacy for a momentary aberration by a batter at the crease.

“It should also be remembered that being out first ball is not the only way one can become a member. This is an inclusive club for

those who just love cricket and those who support the objectives of the Club to fund blind and VI cricket and other sports clubs.”

Clive played school and village cricket in Derbyshire and Herefordshire, trained as an accountant and was later a company managing director in Zambia, Greece and Argentina as well as the UK.

He is an honorary life member of Worcestershire CCC and was the club’s public-address announcer at New Road for a number of years. He is a long-standing member of the Primary Club and a former chair of the governors of the Royal National College of the Blind. Clive’s aim – echoed by Tim – is the “immediate requirement to improve awareness and increase support for the Club”.

MEMBERS' OFFER

Get the best cricket writing delivered to your door

Primary Club members can get exclusive discounts on **Wisden Cricket Monthly** and **The Nightwatchman**, Wisden’s quarterly.



Wisden Cricket Monthly

is the independent voice of cricket. Every issue includes exclusive interviews, hard-hitting columns, in-depth analysis, coverage of all 18 counties and a club cricket section.

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is a quarterly collection of long-form cricket writing including contributions from an array of renowned journalists and authors, as well as ex-players, academics, musicians, and even the occasional knight of the realm.

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