



HOLMESDALE CRICKET CLUB

Links with Local Schools

Holmesdale Cricket Club has good links with Schools in the surrounding area, both within Sevenoaks and West Kent. These links have been crucial in the Club, in the community and as a means of generating playing strength in our junior age groups.

The Club and School partnership can be divided into links with Primary and Infant Schools and to connections with Secondary and Specialist Sports Colleges. An example of an established link would be that of the Club and Amherst Primary School, Sevenoaks. The link has included the use of the Club's facilities and outfield, by the Primary School for their own cricket activities and qualified Club members (coaches) have been involved in coaching clinics for the School. This relationship has now been established eight years, and the Club has provided the School with playing facilities and expert coaches.

This type of opportunity has also been offered to the staff and students at the Riverhead Infants School, who have used Montreal Park and our coaches to run successful cricketing sessions. As part of the Club's commitment to raising general cricketing standards, School staffs have been offered coaching opportunities within the Club and the chance to take coaching awards as part of the Club's own coaching courses.

Links with local Secondary Schools and specialist Sports Colleges are more detailed and far reaching. Local senior schools have been invited to send their players to the Club to enhance their cricketing understanding and develop. At the current time, the club has nurtured players from over fifteen different secondary schools. The Club has an awareness of the importance of school cricket, especially at secondary level. As such the Club is building relationships



masters of cricket at the local secondary schools, including 'The Judd School', 'Sevenoaks School' and 'Tonbridge School', to increase the effectiveness of our coaching and enhance our players development.

A strong link with the Hayesbrook School in Tonbridge, a specialist Sports College was forged when the school achieved its enhanced status in 2001. The Club now in partnership with the school and its School Sports Coordinator Scheme, which encompasses five other Secondary Schools and twenty-eight feeder Primary Schools and one Special Needs School. The arrangement has given our club a wider influence across West Kent, as players can now be directed through the Scheme's Cricket Academy to the Club and other Clubs within the district.

As well as these arrangements and links, staff from the surrounding Secondary Schools are given the opportunity to enhance their coaching skills, by attending specialist courses sessions, run by the Club.

Schools are always welcome to approach the Club for advice on coaching matters and topics related to junior cricket. Advice is readily available from qualified Club members, recognised coaches and who have attended relevant 'Safe Guarding and Protecting Children and First Aid courses.

