

newsletter



Welcome to the first edition of the NatWest CricketForce 2011 newsletter. We will be producing a monthly newsletter between now and the NatWest CricketForce weekend next April which will be sent out to all current registrants and also published on the ECB website. The newsletters will feature helpful hints and tips, latest CricketForce news, information about Official Supporters and special offers, competitions and much more. Make sure you give them a good read so you don't miss out on what's on offer!

CURRENT
NUMBER OF
REGISTRANTS

574

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NWCF FUNDRAISER



To further help recreational cricket clubs in their quest to increase revenue and new members, NatWest and the ECB have teamed up to expand the volunteer initiative by creating a new event, "NatWest CricketForce Fundraiser", to encourage clubs to hold a formal fundraising day over the August Bank holiday weekend to raise significant revenue to purchase products and services for NatWest CricketForce 2011.



For the moment we kindly request that should you wish to register your club to participate in a NatWest CricketForce Fundraiser this August bank holiday weekend that you email your intention to natwestcricketforce@ecb.co.uk and we will gladly send you more comprehensive literature and a guide to fundraising.

To get the ball rolling, the first 100 clubs who send in their registration e-mail will receive a souvenir mini cricket bat signed by former England Cricket Captain and NatWest Cricket Ambassador, Michael Vaughan, to be raffled at your NatWest CricketForce Fundraiser.

In addition, the cricket club who tells us their most exciting and interesting fundraising event plans will receive a visit from a current England player **following your fundraiser event**. Simply email us and let us know your plans before the 28th August and we will chose the event we think sounds like the most exciting and send you a player who might host another event or come and spend a day helping coach teams. Please email in no more than 200 words natwestcricketforce@ecb.co.uk.

More information on the "NatWest CricketForce Fundraiser' and a special NatWest Cricket Club financial guide will follow shortly.



WIN A MOBILE NET CAGE WORTH OVER £1000 FOR YOUR CLUB!!

We are offering all NatWest CricketForce 2011 registered clubs the chance to win a mobile net cage worth over £1000 and what you have to do couldn't be easier.

We are looking to find the best NatWest CricketForce quote! Something that you or someone you know has said that best sums up NatWest CricketForce in one or two lines.

Please send your quotes to natwestcricketforce@ecb.co.uk with the subject "NWCF quote competition". The email must include your name, the name of your club and the quote itself. The deadline is Saturday 31st July and once we have all entries in they will be judged and the winner will be announced in the next newsletter. Only one entry per club is allowed so make sure you pick the perfect quote to send in to us.

Good luck everyone!

EARLY PLANNING FOR NATWEST CRICKETFORCE 2011

Although most clubs will plan to have their NatWest CricketForce event on the 9th and 10th April you need to make sure that you plan well. If you haven't started planning already then start now so that you know exactly what projects you want to do, how many volunteers you will need and what resources you will need. By knowing all of this now and putting it down on paper you will give yourself plenty of time to get them in place and to make your event as successful as possible.

To help you with your early planning we have put together a Step by Step guide with easy to follow steps and suggestions to help your NatWest CricketForce event be as well planned for as possible. To see the guide please go to www.ecb.co.uk/natwestcricketforce or email the helpdesk at natwestcricketforce@ecb.co.uk as we have a limited amount of hard copies that we can post out to you.



NEW FOR
2011

BUSINESS ENERGY DIRECT

Business Energy Direct has signed up as an Official Supporter of NatWest CricketForce for 2011.

They aim to help clubs of all sizes reduce energy and telecom costs by utilising their contract procurement service. Their primary objective is to simplify an often complex process and obtain the best possible price, without compromising service.

For more information go to www.ecb.co.uk/natwestcricketforce.

With Business Energy Direct on board we now have over 20 Official Supporters all providing special offers on their products and services exclusively for NatWest CricketForce registered clubs. Go to www.ecb.co.uk/natwestcricketforce to see these fantastic offers and ensure that you and your club are not missing out!

NATWEST CRICKETFORCE AND CONSTRUCTION COLLEGES

Do you need help building a new score box, laying a new patio, renovating a changing room or simply revamping a tired old pavilion, but the quotes you have sourced are way too expensive and there is nobody at the club who can help? Why not contact the Construction department at your local college and see if they can help out.

As part of NatWest CricketForce 2009 and 2010 students and staff from Construction Colleges and



Staff and students from Derby College with Mike Gatting at Gedling Colliery CC, Nottinghamshire in 2010

Departments helped at a number of participating clubs to build score boxes, barbeques, brick benches and help paint changing rooms.



Helpers from Derby College with England's Nicky Shaw at Highway CC in 2009

This year we have produced a Service Level Agreement to further help to establish links between colleges and County Boards in order for clubs like yourself to reap the benefits. Please contact your County Cricket Development Manager for more information.

SWARKESTONE CRICKET CLUB WOOD FUELLED BOILER SYSTEM

As part of the new pavilion construction, Swarkestone Cricket Club, Derbyshire has installed a bespoke wood fuelled boiler system which enables the Club to burn log/wood supplies to provide plentiful supplies of hot water and central heating, as and when required. The system was funded substantially via the Big Lottery (Community Sustainable Energy Programme) and via the Low Carbon Building Programme. The Boiler ensemble was supplied by a Government Framework Distributor, Econergy, who are based in Bedfordshire and the system was fitted by a local Heating Engineering Company.



The system has enabled the Club to substantially reduce energy costs and contributes to the ECB's aim of encouraging Cricket Clubs to raise standards, with a view to becoming 'Carbon Neutral' by 2019. The boiler installation is hugely efficient and has contributed to the Club gaining a Grade A rated 'Energy Performance Certificate' (EPC), which is a very high rating for a Public/Community building. The Club receive many donations of logs/timbers from members and local business, all of which will allow the Club to be self sufficient and sustainable.

The system has created considerable interest locally and the Club are very willing to demonstrate the system or assist with advice to other local Cricket Clubs or interested parties.

If you'd like to get in touch with Swarkestone CC to find out more about this project please contact the helpdesk and we will provide contact details.

COMMUNITY AMATEUR SPORTS CLUBS

At present cricket has 1094 Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASC) currently growing at approx 3 clubs a month. This is the largest number of CASCs for any Governing Body of Sport. The ECB are keen to see this number grow if it suits the needs of the individual clubs. There are many advantages to our clubs not least of which is Mandatory Rate relief of 80% and in the current financial climate and with Local Authorities being squeezed it is perhaps an important point to make. The second major reason is that CASC clubs can claim Gift Aid on all donations and fundraising which currently at 28p in the pound is a significant income stream. Only 10% of CASC clubs are currently accessing the gift aid primarily because in the past there was apathy, it was not at the forefront of club priorities or thoughts, there was a fee to pay and it was seen as bureaucratic or too much administration. Well, we have resolved all of this to make it 'FREE OF CHARGE', and a simple online application which creates more opportunity for people to donate no matter where they live (or indeed which country they live in). This should result in more fundraising/donations and therefore more gift aid for your cricket club.

For more information please go to <http://charities.justgiving.com/justgiving-for-sports-clubs/>

VOLUNTEERS!!

Ok – a big question for you here. How many of you out there have noticed that we have a new strap line for NatWest CricketForce - More Volunteers, Better Facilities?

Yes, we all know that it is a fantastic self help event where clubs can regenerate and improve their facilities by taking advantage of the numerous discounts offered by our official supporters and partners, but in terms of setting the club up for the future and creating a legacy, it can also offer much more.

Volunteers. Without a band of willing volunteers, your club, and grassroots cricket in general would struggle to survive. NatWest CricketForce provides the perfect opportunity for you to introduce your club to a whole host of people, and by putting some thought into volunteer recruitment and retention; you could quite easily see your bank of volunteers grow following the weekend in April 2011.

These new volunteers could be friends and family of existing club members, they could be from the local schools or colleges (young people are always looking for ways to enhance their CV), they could be from voluntary organisations (involved, Volunteer Centres), they could be from anywhere in the local community, and now we want to help you go out and find them.

The ECB's vCricket Team are dedicated to helping clubs recruit and retain more volunteers, and NWCF certainly provides clubs with the best opportunity to do this. Please to go www.ecb.co.uk/development/volunteering for more information and contact details.

"...we've now got 20 new volunteers that previously had no involvement with the club."

Mike Nield, Tamworth CC

"...it's a catalyst to getting parents and children involved in the club."

Brian Stalker, Workington CC



fundrazor.com

Fundrazor.com specialises in helping sports clubs, at a grassroots level, raise money. Their offer is simple and extremely effective. Teaming up with leading companies in the entertainment industry they provide high value low cost tickets to various entertainment events and venues. Part of the Fundrazor offer is 'Razorlot', a comprehensive online toolkit to help make your fundraising more successful. It brings with it a host of resources such as a club database facility, an event calendar, an ecommerce facility and much more!

If you are interested please go to www.fundrazor.com or email andrew@fundrazor.com.