

# VOLUNTEERS' DAY



# 2023

TOGETHER, WE ARE KENT



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## COMMUNITY PARTNERS





## We'd like to extend a warm welcome to all the volunteers attending Day 2 of Kent v Lancashire today at The Spitfire Ground, St Lawrence.

Today is Volunteers Day at Kent Cricket, where we are celebrating all the volunteers in Kent that have made a real difference to the grass roots game up and down the county.

Volunteers are so important in cricket because they sustain every aspect of the game, from what happens on the pitch, to safeguarding, to the finance behind the scenes. The best thing for me is that volunteers provide support for everyone – of any ability. I remember when I first started playing cricket that it was a volunteer coach who spent time planning really engaging and fun cricket sessions that kept me coming back week after week.

People's reasons for volunteering in cricket vary from person to person – a love of playing the game, the chance to meet people, or the opportunity to use their professional skills to help their community, are just a few examples.

During the lunch interval we will present the winners of the following awards:

- Kent Cricket Volunteer Awards
- ECB Coach Awards
- Kent Cricket Community Trust Awards
- Alan Albury Memorial Awards

The following pages give an overview of who our winners are and describe the highlights of their volunteering and why they are winning awards this year.

Everyone in this room has volunteered within grass roots cricket in Kent this year and has made a substantial impact to the recreational game. We have invited you all here as a sign of our appreciation for all your tireless efforts – without you, cricket wouldn't be what it is. Congratulations to each and every one of you and I hope you enjoy your day with us.

# KENT CRICKET VOLUNTEER AWARDS



The Kent Cricket Volunteer Awards (formerly the Grassroots Cricket Awards) celebrate the efforts of those whose hard work and dedication to the game at grassroots level is invaluable to recreational cricket across the county.

Each year Kent Cricket recognises volunteers across a range of categories at county-level, before putting forward the award-winners for the ECB's National Volunteer Awards, this year known as 'The Cricket

Collective Awards'.

There were 11 Categories for nominations this year that recognise individuals, clubs, competitions, organisations and associations that make our game great for all those who play it.

The Categories for 2023 were:

- Connecting Communities
- Inspired to Play
- Growing the Game
- Lifetime Achiever
- Cricket Innovators
- Unsung Heroes
- Rising Stars
- Game Changer
- Safe Hands
- Volunteer Grounds Management Person of the Year
- Tackling Climate Change



Volunteer Cricket Awards Winners 2022

# WINNERS

## CONNECTING COMMUNITIES

### Catford Wanderers Cricket Club (Daron Kularatnam & Vishaal Patel)

We are delighted to award the 'Connecting Communities' Award to Daron Kularatnam and Vishaal Patel on behalf of Catford Wanderers.

Daron has performed a range of roles at the club since 2017, ever-present on a Saturday, he has been instrumental in making links with local schools, including giving up his time to coach children from the school to develop the community link.

As Fundraising Manager Daron instigated a Crowdfunder campaign which raised £20,010 and followed this up leading on successful grants applications with London Marathon Charitable Trust and Sport England. Left-over funds meant Catford Wanderers CC were able to also fund a new boundary rope, an electric scoreboard, and equipment for streaming. A successful County Grants Fund bid followed with the club able to refurbish the patio area as part of the club's development plan.

Vishaal has been instrumental in the survival of the club in 2017; without his actions, it is unlikely they would have been able to complete the fixtures for that season. After becoming Head of the Junior section Vishaal launched All Stars Cricket at the club which would see 45 kids between the ages of 5 and 8 playing cricket on a Saturday morning. From this base, Catford Wanderers now have a number of children playing hardball cricket and the aim of rebuilding the junior section is heading in the right direction.

Vishaal has invested a great deal of time at the club and as Chair has overseen the recent grant funding and refurbishment works. He is also a person who people at the club tend to gravitate towards. It does help that he often has a tab at the bar, so if you ever need a drink, he's the man to talk to!

## INSPIRED TO PLAY

### Ben Spurgeon - Shepherdswell Cricket Club

Ben has been instrumental in expanding and developing opportunities for children and teenagers at Shepherdswell CC. In the last few years Ben has looked to grow the future of the club after having seen many village teams cease to exist due to ageing teams and poor local facilities. The set-up of a development team helps junior cricketers with the transition into adult cricket and is a continuing success story. Ben has been instrumental in the success of the club's junior training sessions on a Saturday morning; a lot of effort behind

the scenes now means there are 4 ECB qualified coaches (of which Ben is one) coaching up to 80 children.

Ben has recognised the need for improved facilities at the club in order to support adult and junior league cricket. He has worked tirelessly with the ECB, Kent Cricket, local organisations and the club's committee in order to push plans forward for better changing facilities. He is also regularly seen preparing pitches for the Sunday game after junior training sessions on the Saturday morning. Ben has supported the club in obtaining numerous grants from local bodies over the last few years; at times, difficult to navigate, Ben has done this alongside all his other work. Shepherdswell CC, particularly the junior section, has benefitted greatly from Ben's time and we wish him and the club continued success.

## **GROWING THE GAME**

### **Andy Lynch – Association of Cricket Officials**

A long-standing member and former secretary of Bromley Common CC, Andy has also been the Scorers' Officer for the Kent Association of Cricket Officials (ACO) for the last four years. In these responsibilities, overseeing scoring at Bromley and across Kent, Andy has always gone above and beyond in his commitment and service to cricket at both club and county level. As a result, he is well known and widely respected for his knowledge and passion for scoring across, not just the region, but the country.

Often taking time to answer queries at all hours, Andy is never failing in his support for scorers at every stage of their journey, and it is largely due to his efforts and energy that Kent has developed, not only an excellent pool of scoring talent, but also a reputation for scoring success and excellence that has led to other counties and the ECB seeking his counsel. Andy's personal progression now sees him scoring at a national level and this is as much a just reward for his own professionalism and effort as it is an inspiration to those who have worked with and been trained by him.

As if that wasn't enough, Andy is by all accounts also great fun to score alongside! His selflessness and passion are extremely empowering and he has played a very important part in helping grow the game and inspire and train future scorers; long may he continue to do so.

## **CRICKET INNOVATORS**

### **Hannah Crisp - Bromley Town Cricket Club**

Hannah is a dedicated coach who has supported cricket across Bromley for many years. She goes above and beyond for her club, Bromley Town, but also for her Area, Bromley Bulldogs, as Safeguarding Officer. Her passion and love

of the game is widely admired. Most recently, her commitment and involvement with the Bromley 'Super 1s' Hub delivering weekly softball cricket sessions for those with disabilities, alongside her club commitments with All Stars Cricket and Dynamos has been inspirational. Week in week out, she delivers cricket to those in the community who may otherwise never have the opportunity. Her energy and enthusiasm to bring the group together is a demonstration of how cricket can be a game for all. Kent, Bromley, and disability cricket wouldn't be the same without her.

## **UNsung HEROES**

### **Andy Chapman – Sandwich Town Cricket Club**

Andy is and has been a member of Sandwich Town's Club Executive for nearly two decades, including Chair of the cricket committee for more than 10. In that period the club have run four Saturday teams and regular Sunday, mid-week and T20 sides, so it is a significant undertaking to ensure all teams are balanced, with sufficient drivers and provided with teas, umpires and scorers. The poor man's phone never stops ringing! Amidst this, he regularly floats between sides or even drops himself to accommodate others.

Additionally, Andy is generous with his grounds maintenance expertise in supporting the club's pitches at The Butts and Gazen Salts. On wet days he will be one of the first on site to move covers and do last minute preparations to get the game on. Extending into the off-season, Andy also leads on the hire arrangements of the football pitches at Gazen Salts. It shouldn't be overlooked that previously, Andy has also been active in the junior coaching programme which he has now successfully passed on to his son, Tom.

One of the most modest individuals you'll ever meet, Andy is well-liked by teammates and opponents. They say that no-one is irreplaceable in a club, if so then Andy is the exception to prove the rule.

### **Bob Bowman – Canterbury Cricket Club**

Bob has been part of Canterbury CC for 25 years both as a player and more recently as a junior coach. He has also been a sponsor at the club for some years. He has been an amazing member in a number of aspects at the club and this year is no exception. Diagnosed with Parkinsons over the last year, he wanted to ensure he threw himself into all things cricket and volunteer more for the club. He assists each week with junior training, runs one of the under 15 teams, leading them to a local cup win this year, and he's there whether his own children are in attendance or not. He has done this for a number of years, but this year his efforts should not go without recognition. He is always the first to help out if other coaches are unavailable for any particular reason and has helped run a number of social events, always the first behind the BBQ! He



also assists with helping run the social side of the All Stars Cricket sessions on a Friday evening which has been a huge success for the club this year.

Over the summer months he has helped out with the preparation and maintenance of the grounds and pitches at Polo Farm, giving back to cricket and the club in more ways than one. On weekends, he plays for the club's 4th XI, with the main purpose of helping the juniors that he coaches develop into adult cricket. Overall, Bob has made a real difference this season, the junior section has thrived with his help, and he is a huge asset to the club. He enjoys being involved and it's shown him that he can overcome challenges that are thrown at him.

## **RISING STARS**

### **Jessica O'Shea – Penshurst Cricket Club**

Jessica is responsible for coaching the youngest members of Penshurst Park Cricket Club at their weekly Saturday morning sessions. She has worked tirelessly during her free time, whilst studying for A levels, to bring on the next generation of youngsters at the club. She is adored by the juniors, who are learning so much about team ethos and having fun, whilst also developing fantastic bat & ball skills. This huge devotion to her club also extends to playing where she represents Penshurst in the Ladies Softball Cricket team. Jessica is a tremendous asset to the club and huge inspiration to the juniors.

### **Noah Woodrow – Old Elthamians Cricket Club**

Noah has been a player at the club for many seasons, growing through the age groups and becoming a regular member of the Men's 1st XI. This year, Noah has grown to fill big shoes at the age of just 17, by taking on the Lead Activator role for our All Stars Cricket Programme. Without Noah's dedication and commitment, this very important gateway into our junior age groups, would have been a real struggle, if not altogether impossible. All Stars this year has been such a success that parents of the under 7s have even expressed a strong desire for it to continue past the mandatory 8 weeks. We are all grateful to Noah for this success and for bringing a whole new audience to the club.

## **GAME CHANGER**

### **Tom Carey – Bapchild Cricket Club**

For many years Tom has helped out with the club's junior section coaching at Saturday morning training sessions whilst also giving up his time to facilitate games on Monday and Thursday evenings. Tom also runs our Sunday team and is influential in bringing on our younger players and helping them grow and develop.

If you can't find Tom on the field it's because he is often first to help out behind



the bar or can be found busy helping out around the club. To add another string to his bow Tom has recently started learning how to prepare pitches and even took on the responsibility of preparing the pitch for a 1st XI fixture when the club's regular groundsman was away.

Tom's commitment is fantastic and commendable at such a young age. Without his help the club would really struggle and we want to thank him for his efforts.

## **SAFE HANDS**

### **Liz Ogilvie – Deal Victoria & Barns Close Cricket Club**

Liz is a very proactive Club Safeguarding Officer who always adopts best practice. She is always at the club on junior nights ensuring she is fully visible so everyone knows who she is and how to contact her. She constantly liaises with parents and prospective parents, with children, coaches and other members of the club. In 2019 the club only had an U15's side and around 14 players across this age group. Four years on, and with Covid in the middle, they now have 80+ juniors of all ages including an U18s, U13s, U11s and U12 Girls' team too - Liz has been a massive part of making this all happen.

Always willing to get involved she encourages youngsters to come and try cricket through events like the local carnival and "Sports Spectacular" showcase. Liz also organises out of season events, such as Easter Egg Hunts, to keep young players and their families engaged. She is the driving force behind the Carnival, where the club has a float, and the "Sports Spectacular" and is constantly pushing to improve the junior section by getting other coaches and volunteers onboard. Others have played their part, but Liz has been an integral part of the success of the junior section which continues to go from strength to strength.

## **VOLUNTEER GROUNDS MANAGEMENT PERSON OF THE YEAR**

### **Jamie Brown – Southborough Cricket Club**

Jamie took over as grounds-manager of Southborough Cricket Club at the end of 2020, taking the reins fully for 2021 and was welcomed to the role with a drought! With limited knowledge at that time, but some experience of helping a former groundsman, he's really thrown himself into it and left no stone unturned in seeking advice and support. He is absolutely dedicated to the role, with a passion to prepare wickets that play well, but also that are aesthetically pleasing, given the club's picturesque setting on Southborough Common. This can only be done with significant time and substantial flexibility, two things which Jamie is incredibly generous with.

Not only should he be commended for the sheer number of hours that he gives to the club, but for how he has approached this role. Often, maintaining

the ground has been a solo effort and whilst Jamie is very much the centre piece, he's building a team of volunteers to share the workload. This is a well-timed manoeuvre, as demand for cricket pitches at the club continues to grow with the recently developed women's and girls section, creating new teams that require additional pitches.

Jamie is truly a dedicated servant to his club and to cricket. Even local passers-by regularly pause to comment on the high standard to which the ground is prepared as a result of his devotion.

## **TACKLING CLIMATE CHANGE**

### **Sidcup Cricket Club**

We are recognising Sidcup Cricket Club's volunteers for their tremendous efforts to create an environmentally-friendly club and bring in a range of measures to tackle climate change.

The volunteers in Sidcup's sports club committee along with their fellow constituents (rugby and tennis club) successfully launched a crowdfunding campaign to secure motion-sensor LED lighting, bar-cellar insulation, energy-efficient boilers and solar panelling. So far the club have saved 35% on their collective energy consumption which should only increase over time.

Sidcup CC have created a specific area of the club where they are encouraging wildlife and boosting biodiversity by hanging birdfeeders, planting native wildflowers to encourage pollinators and by cutting grass less frequently to encourage insects and wildlife. A hedgerow has been planted to support the local eco-system. A plant identifier will soon be available so those walking round the grounds can find out what is growing in the area. Volunteers at the club are committed to reusing kit via a secondhand kit sale reducing what is sent to landfill. Items that were unsold but in good condition were then donated to the Lord's Taverners Kit Recycling Program at The County Ground Beckenham.

We congratulate Sidcup CC on implementing a coherent strategy and committing to creating a green club of the future.

## **LIFETIME ACHIEVER**

### **John Palmer – Catford & Cyphers Cricket Club**

John has made a massive contribution to cricket and the development of many young people in our community by providing quality coaching across a variety of schools, clubs and venues in South East London. From delivering fun and engaging PE lessons and after-school sessions, to inspiring young people to join local cricket clubs, John would always be there to provide the exact support needed to bring out the best in people. Whether you are playing cricket to have fun, or your ambition is to become the next superstar, John will make

sure he helps you reach your goals.

For many years, John has been a true role model in the Lewisham cricket community. Always entering any coaching setting with a big smile on his face and his old school, oversized coaching uniform, John is easily recognisable from afar.

John has worked tirelessly to create an environment in which people from disadvantaged backgrounds feel welcome and respected and has always been ready to help whether you need guidance on how to improve cricket performance or support with something in your personal life.

John proudly inspires the next generation of cricketers, and trained Kent Women, Southeast Stars and Oval Invincible super-star Grace Gibbs and others who have gone on to play for various clubs across the Kent League.

Despite recent personal challenges, John persevered and returned to coaching at his long-time local club, Catford & Cyphers CC, the same club where a lot of his players have ended up playing for the 1st XI. In 2021, John received a lifetime members award from the club for all the great work he has done over the years. John has dedicated his retirement to being there for the children of Lewisham, inspiring and aiding players and coaches in their development, and providing a positive and safe environment in a disadvantaged area.

John has truly demonstrated the impact of a coach going above and beyond and will always be a true role model for future generations.



# ECB COACH AWARDS

The Coach Development Programme continues to grow - this year we have over 20 courses helping 300+ coaches to progress on their coaching journey.

We have again held a Female-only Foundation Course with 15 new coaches trained, and in October we are hosting our first ever female-only Core Coach Course.

In a year of firsts we have also held a Support Coach Course specifically for refugees that had been part of the Kent Cricket Community Trust's 'First Change Programme', with 8 Afghan refugees taking part.

This year we have given out over £4000 of bursary funding which has helped those from underrepresented groups or those experiencing financial hardship to gain qualifications.

The Kent Coaches Association continues to grow in numbers, and we are delighted to be holding a full Kent Coaches Association Conference here at the Spitfire Ground on Sunday 8th October, featuring CPD delivered by our new Director of Cricket Simon Cook, white ball specialist Alex Blake, former Kent and England international Geraint Jones among others.

Thanks to all the coaches in the Kent Cricket community who work so hard throughout the year to inspire and develop the next generation of cricketers - we wish we could recognise everyone for their efforts.

Congratulations to our 2023 Award Winners, we hope you enjoy your day at the Spitfire Ground.



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## WINNERS

### YOUNG COACH OF THE YEAR

#### Ryan Lucas - Addington Cricket Club

Ryan has really helped to bring on the development of a great group of sixteen boys in Addington's under 15's squad. He has been at every net session, every game, and is always on hand to provide help and advice to the young players. He has taken the time to not only work on the players' technical abilities, but to help some with quite severe self-confidence issues. His encouragement and positive reinforcement have made a real impact to these players, and they are starting to show signs of developing into very capable cricketers. His energy and patience with the children has been fantastic to see, and his love of the game really shines through when he is helping the young players.

Ryan has also gone out of his way to help with the running of the All Stars

Cricket and Dynamos sessions at the club this year, being present for every session despite juggling work commitments and battling traffic in a round trip of 40 miles! Ryan's assistance has been invaluable in ensuring that we have been able to give time and attention to each child. He has been able to engage a group of very young children and instil a love of the game into them that has gone beyond an 8-week programme. Some of these children have gone on to register for U11 cricket next year because of his support and encouragement - which will help to safeguard the future of our club and grow the game for a new generation.

## **COACH OF THE YEAR**

### **Nik Le Marechal – Tenterden Cricket Club**

Nik works tirelessly across the Tenterden Colts and with local schools to provide cricket training for local youngsters. He has significantly grown the colts' section and has created a pathway for talented individuals to play in the senior teams.

He umpires, scores and coaches with all age groups from under 9 to under 15, as well as training the youngest of children on Sunday mornings. He makes the sport as accessible as possible, driving down the cost by raising sponsorships and support of the local community. He is inclusive, inspiring, and supportive. A real driving force behind a thriving grassroots junior section.

This year he has had a serious operation on his knee, did this stop or slow his commitment? Not a chance! A couple of days after he had to be driven to Cranbrook to lead the U9 team in the Forty Competition where they qualified for finals day. Somehow, he manages to squeeze in a full-time job too!

## **OUTSTANDING SERVICES TO COACHING**

### **Graham Burrett – Nonington Cricket Club**

Graham is receiving this award for his outstanding contribution to the development of cricket for young people at Nonington CC over more than 15 years. Graham leads coaching at both Friday night softball sessions, where he supports All Stars Cricket and Dynamos activators, and Monday night hardball training where he can be found in the nets developing and encouraging young players' talent. He supports every age level. At home games he is at the ground before anyone else, getting the wicket ready and putting out the boundary. He umpires and scores and provides support and encouragement to the junior cricketers whatever the result.

Graham is committed to providing new opportunities for the junior cricketers; he initiated the Development Team as a pathway for older junior cricketers into the longer game and adult cricket. He single-handedly arranges fixtures which enable the development of their skills against appropriate but challenging

opposition. The development team is hugely valued by the club's young players and without Graham and his contacts it just wouldn't happen.

In 2023, Graham brought back Nonington's Cricket Week with a focus on junior cricket. Graham has organised activities for each age group as well as a game against a touring side for the Development Team. He can also be found cheering the adult teams at home on a Saturday afternoon – a familiar sight in his specially printed T-shirt with 'Country Roads' written on the back – a tribute to Nonington's theme song. A more stalwart supporter you could not hope to meet.

These are just some examples of how Graham has demonstrated outstanding commitment to the development of cricket opportunities for everyone at the club and beyond. It is no overstatement to say that without Graham, Nonington CC, would not be the thriving club it is.



ECB Coach Awards Winners 2022



## KENT CRICKET COMMUNITY TRUST

With cricket having the unique ability to connect communities and improve lives, it is a sport that transcends generations and can reach beyond a diverse range of social boundaries in a way that few other sports do. Kent Cricket Community Trust (KCCT) aims to make a positive impact in the community by delivering projects and initiatives that engage hard to reach groups and provide programmes that support mental health, well-being, social inclusion and getting active.



KCCT Cricket and Tea Event



## KCCT FUNDRAISER OF THE YEAR

### Jacob Freeman

Jacob, who admits to being 'crazy about cricket', is currently playing for the Kent Boys' County Age Group U12's squad, the Eastern Vikings Area team and local cricket clubs, Whitstable CC & Preston & Elmstone CC. At just 10 years old, Jacob planned and completed a gruelling 10K inflatable obstacle course at Brands Hatch to raise money for the Kent Cricket Community Trust. Jacob set a target of raising £1,870 and smashed that figure by raising £2,350 in May of this year. Jacob's aim was to help fund the work the trust delivers in the community especially with a focus on the First Change programme, which supports refugee and asylum-seeking young people. Jacob has shown true commitment in raising this money, with the knowledge of how cricket as a game can help improve lives.

## KCCT COACH OF THE YEAR

### Malcolm Porter

Malcolm supported the first KCCT 'Cricket and Tea' event that the Trust ran through his club Folkestone CC. Seeing the value in what the Trust was starting to develop in the community and the introduction of Walking Cricket, Malcolm has gone on to coach most of the KCCT Walking Cricket groups and at various events across South-East Kent. He has also been a champion for those living with dementia and the positive benefits that not only cricket can have as an activity but the social element of 'Cricket and Tea' bringing people together to connect. Malcolm is a great role model for Walking Cricket and his involvement has been a major part of the success of the growth of Walking Cricket in the last year.

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### KCCT's priority projects include:

**NO BOUNDARIES PROGRAMME** – aimed at young people at risk

**FIRST CHANGE PROGRAMME** – engaging with refugees & asylum seekers

**50 OVERS PROGRAMME** – Walking Cricket & Cricket and Tea events aimed at those at risk of becoming socially isolated & vulnerable

**The thread that runs through all the priority projects include, empowerment, inclusion, well-being & social cohesion.**

KCCT works alongside the Kent Cricket Community Team and other partners to deliver a variety of themed programmes that strategically link with national and local government agendas, that are a powerful force for change. For further information on the trust please visit [www.kentcricket.co.uk/kcct/](http://www.kentcricket.co.uk/kcct/) or scan the QR code.



# ALAN ALBURY AWARDS

Alan Albury was a founding Trustee of the Kent Recreational Cricket Welfare Trust (KRCWT). He was also Chairman of both the Kent Cricket Board and the Association of Kent Cricket Clubs for over 15 years, during which he made an immense contribution to recreational cricket.

Alan was keen that there should be recognition of those who give their time voluntarily to cricket and so these awards are given to those who have made an outstanding contribution to the life of their club over many years.

The Awards came into being in 2004 and are managed by the KRCWT. To date there have been more than 150 volunteers recognised.



Alan Albury Award winners 2022

## WINNERS

This year the Kent Recreational Cricket Welfare Trust (KRCWT) is recognising the outstanding contributions made by volunteers at Selsted Cricket Club, Bexley Cricket Club, Elham Valley Cricket Club, Headcorn Cricket Club and Catford Wanderers Cricket Club.

## John Arter - Selsted Cricket Club

John has been a member of Selsted Cricket Club since 1965 and has been Club Chair from 1999 to 2023. In the late 1990's John took over the role of groundsman and continues in this role to this day. John is one of three long-serving stalwarts of the club and, although he recently stepped down as Chair of the Club, still continues as groundsman, ensuring that the club can meet its fixture commitments and continue to 'live within its means'. It is fair to say that the club would struggle to continue without his loyal input and service.

## Graham Fairweather - Selsted Cricket Club

Graham has been a member of Selsted Cricket Club since 1985 and has been Club Treasurer from 1987 to the present day. His playing career started when he was asked to 'fill in' when numbers were short in the side his son was playing in. He has continued to 'fill in' when required and last did so in June 2023. He can be found at the club every match day ensuring that equipment is ready for use and secured away at the end of play. Most importantly, he retains the crucial role of barman.

## Sue Green - Selsted Cricket Club

Sue has been a member since 1990 and has held the posts of Club Secretary and of Fixture Secretary over the years. Sue regularly assists in the preparation of the ground for match days and during the pandemic she ensured that the club met all health and safety requirements, and, more importantly, ensured that cricket was played and everyone was safe. She continues to act as the Safeguarding Officer for the club and is a member of the Committee. Sue's loyalty and contribution to the continuation of Selsted CC is greatly appreciated by the membership.

## John Trice - Bexley Cricket Club

John has been Chair of the Grounds and Pavilion Committee for 40 years. Despite being in his 70's he still sits on the roller twice a week, and is the guy who, between innings, cleans, sweeps and paints the line for the 2nd innings. John is Bexley through and through.

## Paul Hewagama - Bexley Cricket Club

Since moving from Sri Lanka when he was in his 20's, he has been the ever-present of the club. Paul has not only been 1st X1, 2nd X1 and Sunday Captain, he has coached and managed the Colts, organised many a cricket tour and carried out countless positions on the club's committee. He has given so many years to a game we all love but has given so much of his time trying to make the youngsters not just better players, but better people.

## Chris Tutton - Elham Valley Cricket Club

Chris has been a member of the club since 1980 and was Vice Chair from 1994 to 2001. He became President in 2021 and serves as such to the present day. In the early 2000's Chris helped organise the Shepway Kwik Cricket Competitions at Elham and has been part of the ground crew for over 40 years. He served on the sub-committee to help with fund-raising when the club moved ground in 2000. Chris has had 41 continuous seasons as a player, bowling 5840 overs and taking 820 wickets.

## Bob Westrop - Headcorn Cricket Club

Bob has been a member since 1961 and has been Fixture Secretary, Bar Secretary and Club Committee Member for over 30 years. He has been Club President since 2017. His voluntary tasks have included organising and participating in club work days and working behind the bar on match days. Bob was Head Groundsman from the 1970s up until 2000 and still assists when required. Over the years he has become somewhat of a legend amongst clubs all around the county, particularly those teams who competed in the Invicta League where everyone knows Bob Westrop.

## Debbie Dixon - Catford Wanderers Cricket Club

Debbie has held the offices of Chairwoman and has been a representative for the Cricket Section on the board over many years. Where many other members have come and gone, Debbie has remained a constant source of support and strength to the club. She joined the section as a social member in 2004 and quickly volunteered to provide teas for both Saturday and Sunday matches. There was hardly a game missed, and her teas were known throughout Kent as one of the best! The club will always be grateful to Debbie for her pivotal role in helping in its survival in 2016 and seeing it go from strength to strength.

## Norman Freeman - Catford Wanderers Cricket Club

Norman has been a member of Catford Wanderers since 1987, first as a player and then gradually as someone who supported the club in various positions. He was a coach at the club from the early 2000s to the mid-2010s. At least ten of the current 1st XI and 2nd XI teams were coached by him. Norman now volunteers behind the bar. He has supported many of the younger members, who come from poor socioeconomic backgrounds, financially allowing them to continue playing. For many years he has been a mentor, father figure and role model to many of the young men who have come through the club.



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