



SOMERSET CRICKET BOARD

Covid-19 Support Document for Clubs – 17th April 2020 Update

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Somerset Cricket Board updates

As we continue to adhere to Government guidelines and help to play our part in combating the spread of Coronavirus, we have reverted to reduced operations. The impact that this will place on our services is as follows:

- **Somerset Cricket Board staff:** We are now running at a much-reduced staffing structure and a number of staff are uncontactable. All enquiries should be directed to one of the following:
 - Executive Director – andy.fairbairn@somersetcricketboard.org – 07557783682
 - League & Club Development Officer – matthew.counsell@somersetcricketboard.org – 07772538068
 - Summer Community Coach – emily.vickery@somersetcricketboard.org
- **Upcoming events:** All Somerset Cricket Board courses and related cricket activity is currently suspended until further notice.
- **Somerset Cricket Board offices:** The Somerset Cricket Board office will be closed to the public until further notice. We are still contactable by telephone or email, although our response times may be slower than usual due to remote working practices.

As you may have read, the recreational cricket season has been postponed until further notice. We must stress that all dates are fluid and subject to change dependent on this evolving situation. We will continue to evaluate these working practices and timescales on a weekly basis.

We will continue to support our clubs and communities. Based on the feedback you gave us we will be focussing on three main areas:

1. People

- Players – Communicate ideas and activities to keep players engaged with cricket and developing their skills.
- General membership – Encourage and support clubs to engage with their general membership and continue to bring people and communities together (remotely of course)

2. Finance – Communicate regularly about funding pots, ways to cover fixed costs and reduce general outgoings.

3. Facilities – In particular maintenance of grounds and squares. Collate and distribute latest information and guidance for clubs and groundskeepers.

With the above in mind this document has been created to help provide the most up to date info on Covid-19 and the three focus areas for us. The situation with Covid-19 is fast-moving, so clubs should check key sources of info including Government, ECB & Sport England.

Note to clubs: We are operating in unprecedented times and the information within this document, while accurate to the best of our knowledge, may contain details that are no longer 'current'. If clubs have any comments or suggestions for future content, please do not hesitate to contact us at the following address: Matthew.Counsell@Somersetcricketboard.org

Latest News

There have been many updates from in the last month from the ECB for Clubs & Leagues including National Programmes All Stars & Dynamos. The links to these can be found in the table below:

ECB: Clubs and Leagues	17/4/20	https://ecb-comms.co.uk/1FT6-6U0PJ-FEGKQU5QF1/cr.aspx
ECB: Clubs and Leagues	10/4/20	https://ecb-comms.co.uk/1FT6-6TRSg-227FV2NZ7B/cr.aspx
ECB: Clubs and Leagues	2/4/20	https://ecb-comms.co.uk/t/1FT6-6TD5E807DM4VQ7F/cr.aspx
ECB: Clubs and Leagues	27/3/20	https://ecb-comms.co.uk/t/1FT6-6SY0X807DM4VQ7F/cr.aspx
ECB: All Stars & Dynamos	27/3/20	https://ecb-comms.co.uk/t/5ZQF-UWO-5CFFBPHBC/cr.aspx
ECB: All recreational cricket 'suspended'	18/3/20	https://www.ecb.co.uk/news/1646355

Safeguarding

Despite the break in activity, we remain fully committed to keeping our players, coaches, officials and volunteers 'safe' within cricket environments in the County. We have had to make some changes to the standard practices during the pandemic, and these changes are outlined in the below article

<https://www.somersetcricketboard.co.uk/ecb-guidelines-around-interim-safeguarding-measures/>

People

From the "How is your Club?" Questionnaire and club phone calls, staying connected with players and membership during Covid-19 was a concern for many clubs.

We have put together several resources and examples of what clubs are doing to engage with players and members.

Activities and challenges for juniors

In the below are a few free online resources that have drills that are suitable to be carried out at home. There are a nice mix of activities that cater for all ages, abilities and spaces which you can send out to your junior players to get them to try at home:

<https://www.somersetcricketboard.co.uk/lockdown-fun-for-kids/>

Communication with members

One challenge that many clubs are facing during the lockdown period is maintaining engagement with members. It is very important that communication with members is regular and ideally a mixture of formal and informal. The clubs that have done this really well are those who have come up with innovative ways of staying in touch that puts a smile on people's faces

Below is a link to some ideas and examples to help keep all your members engaged with cricket and with your club:

<https://www.somersetcricketboard.co.uk/communicating-with-members/>

Please stay in touch with us and let us know of any other clubs who you think are doing a great job of staying in touch with their players and members so we can keep on sharing best practice. Please let us know by emailing emily.vickery@somersetcricketboard.org

Finance

With no date for recreational cricket to restart there are lots of club who have concerns over the about the potential financial impact of Covid-19. Whilst there are some savings clubs can make whilst cricket is suspended (detailed in the Facilities section), the lost revenue from membership subscriptions, match fees and social activity is a very live concern.

Below we have attempted to summarise the schemes available at present which clubs should investigate:

Government support

All clubs should look to explore the support for businesses which the Government have put in place due to Covid-19. Cricket falls within the 'leisure' or (for some of bigger clubs) the 'hospitality' sector and as such you may be eligible for support under one or more of the following schemes:

1. **Cash grants for retail/hospitality/leisure sector** - The Small Business Grant Fund (and the Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant could provide clubs with grants of between £10,000 and £25,000 depending on the rateable value of your property and your current business rates arrangement with the local authority.
<https://www.businesssupport.gov.uk/cash-grant-for-retail-hospitality-and-leisure/>
2. **Business Interruption Loan Scheme** - Supports small and medium-sized businesses to access loans, overdrafts and other financial support.
<https://www.businesssupport.gov.uk/coronavirus-business-interruption-loan-scheme/>
3. **Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme** - If your club employ any staff, Government will cover 80% of the salary of retained workers up to a total of £2,500 a month. A system will be administered by HMRC and should be up and running by end of April, with any grants backdated to March 1st. For more information visit
<https://www.businesssupport.gov.uk/coronavirus-job-retention-scheme/>
4. **Business Rates Holiday** - Businesses in the retail, hospitality and leisure sectors in England will not have to pay business rates for the 2020 to 2021 tax year. For more information and to check eligibility <https://www.businesssupport.gov.uk/business-rates-holiday-for-retail-hospitality-and-leisure/>
5. **Deferral of VAT payments** - The government has announced temporary changes to the VAT payments due between March 20th and June 30th to help businesses manage their cash flow. See <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/deferral-of-vat-payments-due-to-coronavirus-covid-19>

Clubs can check their rateable value at: <https://www.gov.uk/correct-your-business-rates> and we advise clubs to contact their LA to clarify the eligibility & timing of any grant:

BANES	Bristol	Mendip	North Somerset
Sedgemoor	Somerset West & Taunton	South Somerset	

Sport England

Sport England recently unveiled a £195m financial package to help sport and physical activity combat the impact of Coronavirus. Included in this package is a '£20m Community Emergency Fund' with grants of between £300 and £10,000 available to sports clubs.

What the scheme can fund?

The fund has been developed to help community sport and physical activity organisations meet their obligations, in particular fixed costs, which are no longer supported with revenue as a result of coronavirus. This might cover expenditure on:

- Rent
- Utility costs
- Insurances
- Facility or equipment hire
- Core staffing costs (including casual workers) that cannot be met elsewhere by other government funds
- Retrospective losses dating from March 1st, 2020 What the funding cannot be used for
- Activities or costs which are already covered by other government funding, including rates
- New activities or events
- Capital works
- Costs beyond the end of July 2020.

On the application page, clubs are reminded to exhaust all government support schemes before making a bid them & makes it clear this funding is to provide revenue for those "most in need" –clubs who are have short term financial hardship to the ongoing crisis.

Sport England expect to decide on each application within 7-10 working days. Full details of the scheme, including some FAQs, are included on the following page:

<https://www.sportengland.org/how-we-can-help/our-funds/community-emergency-fund>

We would also recommend that you take time to watch Somerset Activity & Sport Partnership's webinar as it will help you with any application you make to this fund which is available below

The recording of the webinar viewed [here](#) and the slides are attached.

If you club is successful in receiving funding from the Government Schemes or Sport England we would appreciate it if you could inform Matt Counsell on matthew.counsell@somersetcricketboard.org as it will help with future support.

ECB financial support

ECB have launched their Emergency Support Programmes for Clubs in the form of their Loan Scheme and Return to Cricket Grant.

Full details of these Programmes including Eligibility Criteria & Applications process are available at: <https://www.somersetcricketboard.co.uk/ecb-emergency-funding/>

It is important to note that the advice from ECB is the Government Schemes and the Sport England Fund should be clubs initial port of call.

EWCT Interest Free Loans

The Trustees of the England and Wales Cricket Trust (ECB's subsidiary charity) have agreed that all repayments on existing loans for capital projects will be suspended until May 2021. All other terms & conditions remain in place. Any questions, please contact loans@ecb.co.uk.

Other sources of funding

There have been some superb examples of income generation from sports clubs up and down the county many which help with member & player engagement.

Listed below are a few suggestions of what we have picked up from clubs:

- Online quizzes – virtual 'pub quiz' (can be cricket themed) with members
- Virtual Horse Racing- Set Cash Prize and people pay predict the top 2/3 placed horses for a share of the prize pot/
- Bonus ball – return of the once popular National Lottery game
- Voluntary membership donation/Reduced membership – those who are able contribute part of season's membership
- Renewed sponsorship – club sponsors continue to support via the digital sphere
- Remote prize draws – Members donate prizes, tickets sold in aid of club funds
- Easy Fundraising– raise money via online shopping:
<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/>
- Sport England Funding ideas - <https://www.sportengland.org/how-we-can-help/our-funds>

Facilities

Whilst no cricket is being played clubs have sort information on maintenance of grounds and squares as well as ensuring their Clubhouse is safe. This section has advice/guidance on these areas.

Maintenance of grounds

Both ECB and The Grounds Management Association have released guidance for clubs on how to manage the maintenance of grounds during the current situation which is available at:

<https://www.somersetcricketboard.co.uk/important-advice-to-clubs-regarding-ground-maintenance/>

Managing temporarily closed / unoccupied buildings

Temporarily closed or permanently unoccupied buildings can be at greater risk from arson, antisocial behaviour, theft, and escape of water. ECB-appointed broker Howden have provided some advice and solutions to manage this increased risk.

Please click [here](#) for further advice on these areas or visit Howden's dedicated COVID-19 information hub [here](#).

Short term savings and utilities

Whilst your clubhouse isn't being used there is the opportunity to save money by turning off gas, water, heating – especially if the club is shutting for a prolonged period. It is also worth exploring if it is possible for your club to pause payments with agreement of your supplier?

Some providers are allowing customers to pause subscriptions:

- BT customers [click here](#).
- Sky customers [click here](#).
- Virgin Media customers [click here](#).

If you have a bar contact your supplier as we are aware of breweries offering to replace any stock which goes out of date during this time.

Contact your insurers to discuss whether your current policy is appropriate during this period. Can payments be delayed or deferred? Does the policy cover 'loss of earnings'?

Other resources of use

- Government - <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>
- ECB - <https://www.ecb.co.uk/news/1648243/ecb-covid-19-announcements-and-updates>
- Sport England - <https://www.sportengland.org/news/coronavirus-information-sector>
- Club Matters Club Support Resources- <https://learn.sportenglandclubmatters.com/course/view.php?id=71>
- Sport and Recreation Alliance Resources- <https://www.sportandrecreation.org.uk/news/covid-19>