



## England and Wales Cricket Trust Press Release

### Kings Hill Cricket Club receives Grant Award

The England and Wales Cricket Trust (EWCT) has made a grant award of £27,144 to Kings Hill Cricket Club towards the cost of a two bay practice area which will give a boost to the Club's coaching programme. The total project cost was £37,000 approximately and the Club's sponsors Balreed Managed Print Services provided the partnership funding.

The Kings Hill Cricket Club was identified by the Kent Cricket Board and by the EWCT as a club of strategic importance because of their strong junior section and their willingness to actively support the England and Wales Cricket Board's (ECB) development policies.

Kings Hill Cricket Club Director, Gary Jackson, said: "We were delighted to be awarded the grant as we urgently needed to provide some quality practice facilities at the Club. The new synthetic practice area will be to England and Wales Cricket Board specification and will give the ideal safe environment for the development of our junior cricketers."

"We anticipate that the practice area will be completed in advance of the coming season and will enable us to have a much more structured coaching programme through our ECB qualified coaches and this will benefit all age groups."

"In recent times the Club has made good progress and we have achieved ECB Clubmark status. We have two senior teams which play league cricket on Saturdays and Sundays and we also have 100 junior cricketers (Under 11) at the Club. This year we aim to increase the number of juniors through our local schools and we also hope to encourage more girls to play the game."

"We are a genuine community club and on Friday nights during the season there will be over 150 juniors and parents each week at the junior practice sessions. The ground and facilities will also be used by the Kent Cricket Board for age-group District matches, a Girls' Cricket Open Day, local cup games, school matches and inter-company matches are also played as part of our community programme."

"We consider ourselves most fortunate to have raised this money for a top class coaching facility especially in the very difficult economic climate. We are extremely grateful to the England and Wales Cricket Trust for their most generous support and we acknowledge with gratitude the support given by our sponsors, Balreed Managed Print Services. It also pleases us that we have been recognised by the ECB for the work we do in the general development of the game. We regard the grants as an investment in cricket at the Club for the future and for the long term benefit of the community."

EWCT Trustee, Brian Havill, said: "The England and Wales Cricket Trust is pleased to invest in this project at Kings Hill Cricket Club which will give a boost to their coaching programme and the development of the game. The new facility at the Club will be welcomed by all players and visiting teams. We are confident that by investing in high quality, sustainable facilities will help to attract new participants and will be key to sustaining participation in grass roots cricket over the coming years."

**For quotes from Kings Hill Cricket Club contact Gary Jackson on 01732 522112 or 07918 074547.**

**For information about Grant Aid and Funding contact Mike Turner, MBE (ECB) on 0116 283 1615.**

#### **Notes to editors:**

- The England and Wales Cricket Trust Limited is the charitable arm of the England and Wales Cricket Board Limited
- For specific guidance notes and eligibility criteria for Grant Aid Programme contact your local County Cricket Development Manager. Contact details can be found at [www.ecb.co.uk/development](http://www.ecb.co.uk/development)