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Get Set Weekend powered by The Cricket Collective

The Get Set Weekend has for many years been a pre-season focal point for clubs up and down the country.

The Weekend is a fantastic opportunity to inspire new and existing volunteers to spend time at their local club, helping it to 'get set' for the upcoming season.

The Get Set Weekend is powered by The Cricket Collective: the volunteers who drive and deliver all areas of the sport. In 2023, over 20,000 people got involved across England and Wales, supporting their clubs and local communities.

In 2024 the national Get Set Weekend will take place on 23-24 March, however clubs are encouraged to take part on alternative dates if the 23-24 March is not suitable.



Why get involved in the Get Set Weekend?

Prepare your facilities for the season ahead:

- ★ Check out our task lists for ideas on helpful activities and top tips for managing the workload
- Don't own your own facilities? There are still plenty of ways to get involved

At the very heart of cricket is the Collective of volunteers who help make it happen.
Why not use the Weekend to recruit new volunteers to the club:

Check out our top tips for inspiring new and existing volunteers to <u>Build Your</u> <u>Cricket Collective</u>

We are encouraging clubs to register for the #GetSetWeekend using the short form on ecb.co.uk/getsetweekend

All clubs who register by 23:59 on Thursday 29 February will be entered into a draw to receive Jewson store credit up to the value of £500. Whether you and your club are seasoned Get Set Weekend participants, or this is your first year getting involved, this guide will support you in running a great event that prepares you, your club, and its people for the season ahead.

To help drive local engagement and support in recruiting volunteers for your Get Set Weekend and beyond, the ECB has created a number of posters, images and resources for you to use accessible via the **ECB Resource Hub**.

Further details on specific assets available can be found in the Get Set Weekend toolkit section later in this document.



Click here for Get Set Weekend branding

Use the time to future-proof your club for years to come

★ Check out our inclusive environments and sustainability guide



If these aren't reason enough to get involved, we are also offering a number of incentives to all participating clubs, including activity packs and 1000 prizes to be won.

The Cricket Collective

Cricket simply wouldn't exist without an amazing team of volunteers making the game happen week in and week out.

A recent survey highlighted the need for a volunteer identity, with only 21% of volunteers* feeling volunteering in cricket gets the recognition it deserves. To help improve the volunteer landscape across the game, in June 2023, The Cricket Collective was born.

The Cricket Collective is the army of volunteers that make cricket happen. It is the person who dedicates their life for 20 years, and the person who contributes 30 minutes every two weeks. It is the long drives to away games, making the tea, or cutting the grass. It's anyone who dedicates time to ensure that recreational cricket goes ahead and helps to connect and inspire their local community and it has never been more important.



The Cricket Collective is integral to delivering the game we all love and helping to build collaborative and cohesive communities.

This Get Set Weekend, we encourage you all to take the opportunity not only to prepare your clubhouse, sweep away the leaves, and paint the benches, but to inspire and engage your volunteers.

Cricket can't happen without its people. The Get Set Weekend is your chance to get your volunteers - new and existing - ready and feeling motivated for the season ahead.



<< Click on the image to watch our latest video online!

★ Click here for more information about The Cricket Collective





Top tips to event success

To make the most of your Get Set Weekend activities, we wanted to share some 'Top Tips' to a successful event:

Ahead of the event



- ✓ Register your event via the ECB website by Thursday 29 February and your club will be entered into a draw to receive Jewson store credit up to the value of £500.
- Promote your event among your community using the various resources on the ECB Resource Hub.

Think about:

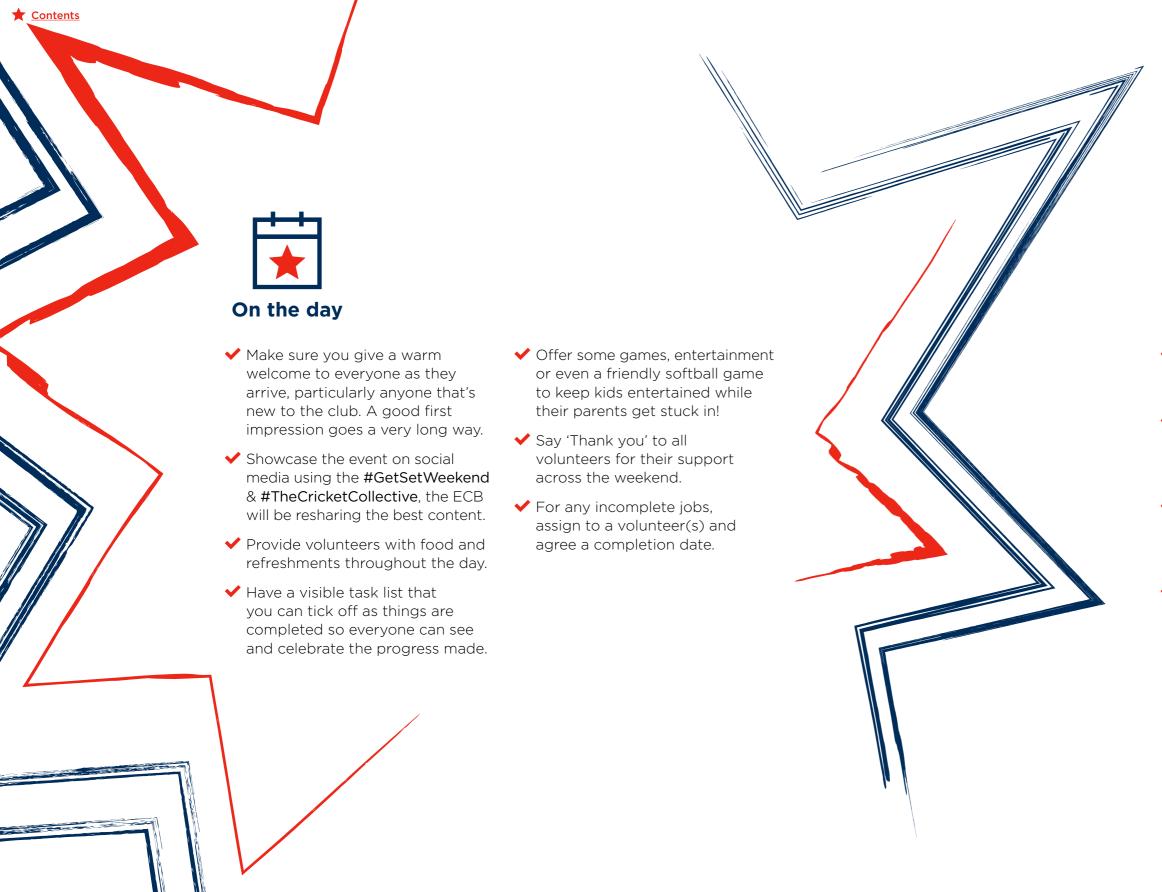
- ★ Putting up posters in your clubhouse and in local community venues.
- ★ Promoting the event on your club website and social media channels - don't forget to use #GetSetWeekend and #TheCricketCollective.

- ★ Sending an email to parents, players, and club members, explaining how important their help will be to the club but not forgetting to emphasise the fun too!
- ✓ Get as many volunteers as possible down to the club by:
 - ★ Incentivising volunteers by organising a social element too. Check out page 9 for more ideas.
 - ★ Contacting parents registered as part of National Programmes, even consider running some informal sessions for the children to keep them busy.
 - ★ Speak to the clubs/teams
 that hire or share the facilities
 and ask them to be involved
 in the event.

- Create task lists in advance and assign roles to volunteers when they arrive, to help with smooth running on the day.
 - ★ Devise a wet weather plan for indoor jobs as a precaution see wet weather contingency plan guidance.









Post event

- Don't forget to send another thank you to everyone that attended.
- Contact the volunteers who supported about ongoing opportunities throughout the season.
- Create/update task lists for ongoing roles throughout the season and assign roles to volunteers.
- Consider running a similar event to help complete the 'end of season' work once the last game has been played.

Unite your community!

The Get Set Weekend isn't just about your physical facilities. It's also a brilliant moment to unite your players, volunteers and members and get them ready for the season ahead too!



Use it as an opportunity to build team spirit ahead of the busy season.



Organising a pre-season activity is a brilliant way to get people ready and excited for the season ahead. You can use it as a chance to set your goals and ambitions as a club both on and off the pitch.



Register your club/team for Get Set Weekend 2024 and receive a Resource Pack from ECB to help make the most of your event and check out the Inclusive Environment page to learn how you could create a more sustainable and welcoming club.



Build your Cricket Collective - invite parents and players who don't currently volunteer to an intro day. Find out a bit more about their skills and interests, explain the areas your club could do with a helping hand, and inspire more people to get involved!



Offer refreshments and demonstrate the fantastic community they will be joining by getting involved.



Give back to the community - check out the <u>Lord's Taverners</u>
<u>Sports Kit Recycling Scheme</u>
and encourage members to donate old kit to those who don't have access.



Want to get involved but don't have your own ground or know where to start?

- Contact the club or organisation whose facilities you use and ask if any support is needed. Alternatively ask if your club/ team/group can run an event on the day using the facility.
- ✓ Use the Weekend as an opportunity to get to know other local teams and groups. Check out social media or speak to your local County Cricket Board officer to see if there are other nearby events you could get involved in.
- ✓ Even if you do not have your own ground, we have over 250 Urban Hub locations that would be perfect to help you get involved. Urban Hubs are designed to allow diverse communities in urban environments to play cricket all year round. They are aimed to be at the very heart of communities and encourage as many people to get involved as possible.
- ✓ We also have a range of programmes designed to help you maximise your engagement with diverse communities such as: the Core Cities Programme, ACE, and the South Asian Female Volunteer Programme.

- ✓ These programmes have given the opportunity for over 37,000 people from diverse communities up and down the Country to pick up a bat and a ball!
- ✓ If you would like to know more, please contact us via <u>this form</u>.



Ahead of time: Promote your event

All clubs that sign up to run their Get Set Weekend by Thursday 29 February will receive a marketing pack in the post to support their event and the recruitment of volunteers. There are also plenty of resources available on the <u>ECB Resource Hub</u> to help you promote your event.



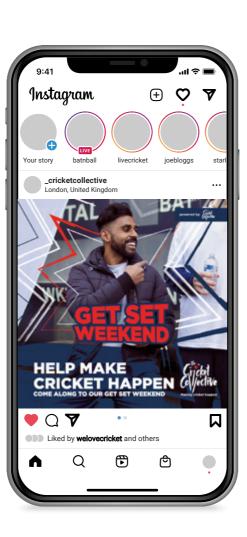
Who are the assets for?

Use by clubs/teams, including players, volunteers, coaches, and officials. This could include promoting your Get Set Weekend and calling all volunteers interested in making cricket happen to come down to the club to help out and understand more about what it means to be part of the Cricket Collective.

What assets are available?

Social Media Assets

- ✓ Use these images on your social media channels to tell people about your event.
- ✓ Tag your players and volunteers and local organisations in posts to maximise reach.
- ✓ Use the hashtag #GetSetWeekend and #TheCricketCollective across all posts, this will ensure your events will be captured, encouraging more people to get involved.
- ✓ Ask everyone to use the same hashtag in their posts.



Editable Assets

- ✓ There are some assets available that you can edit to make it specific to your club's activity.
- ✓ You can personalise the images by adding in your county or club logo or editing the text:
 - ★ To edit the text, simply start typing in the text boxes.
 - ★ To add a logo, click on the space allocated for the logo and select the logo file you wish to use from your computer.
- ✓ You can print these assets in A4 or A3 size. For A3 size, set your printer settings to 200%.
- ✓ Use the hashtag #GetSetWeekend and #TheCricketCollective across all posts, this will ensure your events will be captured, encouraging more people to get involved.
- Ask everyone to use the same hashtag in their posts.

Static Assets

- ✓ These are best for e-comms, newsletters, and websites.
- ✓ Use the hashtag #GetSetWeekend and #TheCricketCollective across all posts, this will ensure your events will be captured, encouraging more people to get involved.
- ✓ Ask everyone to use the same hashtag in their posts.

Selfie Board

- ✓ We have provided the design, including dimensions of a Selfie Board.
- ✓ You can take this design file to your local printers to have a Selfie Board produced and have some fun with it at your event.



Suggested social media posts







Liked by welovecricket and others _cricketcollective Next weekend we are registered for #GetSetWeekend. 'Pop in any time between 12-3. Guaranteed fun! #TheCricketCollective #GetSetWeekend









Liked by **welovecricket** and others

_cricketcollective Your club needs you! Come and help us on 23/24 March to prepare for the season ahead. Refreshments and food available for all volunteers who support. #TheCricketCollective #GetSetWeekend







Liked by **welovecricket** and others

_cricketcollective We can't wait to bring our cricket family back together as we prep for 2024 season. You bring a brush, we'll provide the refreshments! See you on 23rd March. #TheCricketCollective #GetSetWeekend









Liked by welovecricket and others

_cricketcollective Whatever the weather, head to our club this weekend to learn how you can lend a hand. From helping out the grounds staff to sprucing up the club house, we can't do it without you. All ages welcome - snacks provided! #TheCricketCollective #GetSetWeekend











_cricketcollective We can't make cricket happen without your help. From coaching to catering, gardener to grounds manager, scorer to social media, we'd love to have you involved. Come down this Get Set Weekend and find out more. #TheCricketCollective #GetSetWeekend









Liked by welovecricket and others

_cricketcollective XX days countdown now until our #GetSetWeekend! We have created the task list and we have some roles to fill. Can you spare an hour to help us get ready for the season? #TheCricketCollective



Where do I find the assets?

All assets are housed on the ECB Resource Hub, please go to following links:



Click for Generic Cricket Collective branding



Click for the
Get Set Weekend
branding





Build your Cricket Collective

Be direct

of people in cricket have not volunteered because they have not been asked.

Be flexible

While it's important to be clear on what you need as a club, if someone is unable to commit to the full role, be flexible! Try to find arrangements that suit both your club and the volunteer.

Start small

People might be nervous to help out at first. Give them smaller tasks to ease them into the role and familiarise themselves with the club.

Be specific

Create task lists and project groups so people understand what they're agreeing to.

If you can, indicate how much time might be required.

cricketactivators.co.uk

Use

For more advice on recruiting people to support your All Stars and Dynamos sessions. There is advice specifically on getting more women and girls involved too.

Role models

Role models can inspire new volunteers, particularly among women and girls who may feel underrepresented - and therefore unwelcome within sport.

Plan ahead

Try to think about your volunteers before you are in a crisis! Having a Volunteer Coordinator or adding 'volunteering' to all your committee meeting agendas can be key to building a more sustainable approach.

Say thank you!

It doesn't matter how big or small the role is, make sure everyone is made to feel valued by showing your appreciation.

Task lists

Health & Safety

We all want to make a difference on Get Set Weekend, and it's crucial to carry out jobs safely and look after each other and our volunteers.

Think of three key steps: Pause, Think, Plan

Before starting any task, just pause, take a step back and think by assessing potential risks. With your task list in hand, examine each job, pinpoint potential hazards, and devise a plan to minimise those risks. This may involve:

- Providing training to volunteers on equipment usage, such as machinery, strimmers, and hand tools.
- Ensuring volunteers are familiar with good ladder safety protocols if ladders are utilised.
- Educating volunteers on the safe handling of potentially harmful chemicals.
- Organising the activities in stages to prevent simultaneous tasks that could pose risks to others.

So, take a moment to Pause, Think, and Plan, ensuring a harm-free and successful start to the upcoming cricket season.

Number of volunteers needed	Tick when completed
2	
1	
4	
5	
1	
6	
2	
1	
4	
	volunteers needed 2 1 4 5 1 6 2 1

Around the ground	Number of volunteers needed	Tick when completed
Gardening Work e.g. cut bushes, plant flowers	3	
Empty bins	1	
Tidy garage	2	

Clubhouse	Number of volunteers needed	Tick when completed
Paint interior walls including changing rooms	4	
Deep clean of changing rooms	2	
Deep clean of clubhouse area	2	
Repair any damages	1	
Check all lighting	1	
Prepare bar area (if applicable)	2	
Clean kitchen	1	



Wet Weather Contingency Plan

We've all been there. You're fully prepared for a full day's cricket activity and the sun is shining when you leave your house. But on arrival at the ground, it's wet and miserable. Cricket's cancelled.

Unfortunately, we can't guarantee perfect weather for the Get Set Weekend any more than we can the rest of the year. What we can do, is provide some top tips on how to make sure you can make the most of your Get Set Weekend, whatever the weather.

While some of your outdoor jobs might need rescheduling, our Emergency Wet Weather Contingency Plan will ensure your Get Set Weekend is still a success by putting the focus on inspiring and celebrating your Cricket Collective.

Showcasing volunteer roles:

- ✓ Despite the inclement weather, still use the weekend as an opportunity to bring volunteers together and thank them for their support to help the club.
- ✓ Showcase how volunteers could lend a hand throughout the season. You could provide informal training by getting existing volunteers to explain their roles, why they enjoy it and how others could help them out.

Clubhouse:

✓ Utilise the volunteers and work on jobs inside the clubhouse including changing areas, toilets/ showers, social/bar areas ensuring they are ready for the first ball to be bowled.

Administration:

The wet weather provides an opportunity to complete those administrative tasks including:

- ✓ Update the Safe Hands Management System and completing DBS checks for volunteers.
- ✓ Further jobs include 'stock checks' of playing kit, coaching kit bags and items for the pavilion and shopping lists can be created.

And finally, despite the weather, make it a great social gathering catching up with friends and parents and provide volunteers with food and refreshments throughout the day.



Creating welcoming and inclusive environments

Cricket should be a game for everyone. The Cricket Collective should be inclusive and welcoming to all. The strength of a team – both on and off the pitch – comes from the difference and individuality within it.

The Get Set Weekend is a fantastic opportunity to set the tone for your club and demonstrate your commitment to creating a club for everyone.

Why does this matter?

There are many benefits to creating an environment in which everyone using and visiting your cricket club feels welcome:

It helps your club to grow

Encouraging more people to get involved will help to create a more sustainable future for your club.

It helps tackle social exclusion

Sport brings so many positive physical, emotional, and social benefits, yet participation rates among particular groups are still relatively low. You can play your part in enabling everyone, irrespective of their background, to enjoy the benefits of sport and the magic of cricket.

It helps grow women's and girls' participation

It's an exciting time for women's sport, but without a conscious effort to make your club more welcoming, women and girls can still face barriers to participation. A lack of suitable facilities or visible role models are just some of the potential challenges.

It improves the game for everyone

Creating welcoming and inclusive environments does not only attract new people, but it can also have a positive impact on those already using the club. Improving the facilities and culture benefits everyone.

How do we do it?

★ Find out about Creating Welcoming Environments



- Click here for the Welcoming Environment PDF
- ★ Click here for EDI Toolkits



- Read here about Raising the Game
- ★ What is a Disability
 Champion Club?



Sustainability

We are committed to building more resilient cricket clubs, reduce environmental harm and maximise benefits for a more sustainable game. We each have a role to play in creating an environmentally responsible game.

The Get Set Weekend is a fantastic opportunity to build your plan for the season and years ahead and to get the input and support of your club members.

Climate change is already impacting on cricket in England and Wales. Increased flooding and more frequent periods of drought have affected cricket from test match venues to grassroots cricket clubs.

A recent study by Cranfield University found that over a third of cricket clubs are at risk of flooding and many others are at risk of drought. Players, coaches, match officials and volunteers are having to adapt to hotter conditions with more frequent extreme-heat events.

We have to act now, but sometimes it's difficult to know where to start.



Building on the <u>ECB Environmental</u>
<u>Sustainability Plan for Cricket</u>,
launched in November 2023, we have included some top tips on building your own club sustainability plan.

1

Take stock of your current environmental impact - this could be based on your use of energy, water, single-use resources, or transport. 2

Plan the key actions you want to take and identify who needs to be involved. Consider sustainable and responsible consumption, becoming more energy and water efficient, and protecting the natural environment. 3

Act on your plan. Have a think about which actions are quick wins that you can implement straight away, and which might need longer. Plan ahead and schedule in a check-in to hold yourself accountable and see what is and isn't working. This might be mid- and post-season.

4

Engage your players, volunteers, and members in your activities. Acting as a team will increase your impact and the sustainability of your plan. It also is much more fun!

5

Communicate about your actions and progress, share experiences and lessons learned. This helps to create a legacy and inspire others to follow your example.

Top Tips for becoming more sustainable

To help inspire you and your sustainability plans, check out some of the fantastic examples that were nominated for Tackling Climate Change in the 2023 National Cricket Collective Awards:

Simplify your recycling

Clearly label your bins for glass, paper, card, plastic, and cans. Make them visible and accessible in all areas of your club.

Recycle kit

Run a second-hand kit sale or set up a collection point to donate to the Lord's Taverners Kit Recycling Programme.

Harvest rainwater through water storage tanks

This reduces water usage and can help improve the condition of the square.

Switch to solar energy

One club has installed 25 solar panels and a battery system. The forecasted environmental savings were equivalent to planting 84 trees with 1.82 tonnes of carbon per year plus £170,000 in utility bill savings over their lifetime.

Encourage biodiversity

Minimise the maintenance work and grass cutting around the edge of the ground to encourage wildflowers and grasses.



Install bird feeders.

Celebrate your work

This is a great way to inspire other people and clubs to get involved, as well as give yourself a well-deserved pat on the back!

Move away from single-use plastics

Avoid using disposable glasses, cutlery, and plates except for large events.



Encourage your team to use reusable water bottles.

Adopt rechargeable and electric tools

These could include mowers, strimmer's, hedge trimmers.



Paper towels could also be replaced by high efficiency driers.

Run a Community Eco Day

Hadleigh & Thundersley Cricket
Club in Essex worked with the local
council and community groups to
host a fundraising and awareness
event, including a litter pick, bird box
making workshop, cake sale and quiz.

Grounds Management Advice

Pre-season preparations for the square and outfield are normally well underway by the Get Set Weekend, but there are still lots of jobs around the ground where volunteers can help to get things ready.

This is a great opportunity to support your grounds management team, introduce new people to grounds management and learn some new skills. Work on the square and outfield should always be led and supervised by the experienced grounds management team at the club, this is because some work is specialist and done wrongly can affect pitches all season, and specialist machinery, requiring training for safety, is used.



Draw up a list of jobs, the skills, equipment and any personal protective equipment (PPE) needed. You can then match these to people you know about or when advertising for help, include the skills you are looking for (this could include transferrable skills that people have from their working lives too).

For example, your job list could be as simple as the list opposite.

Task	Skill level	Skills needed	Equipment needed	No. of people	Who could do this?
Put the sheets and hoses on the covers	Low	General tools, manual handling	Spanners/ sockets/ screw drivers	2+	Anyone
Strim around the pavilion	Medium	Safe strimmer technique, safety (this is one of the highest risk operations on the ground and needs to be done safely)	Strimmer, cord, fuel	1-2	Anyone trained to use a strimmer
Strim around the nets	Medium		cord, ruei		to use a striminer
Put the netting back on the net frames	Medium/ High	Working at height, netting install	Ladders/ towers Zip ties, cord etc, hand tools	4-6	Mix of people working at height safely and manual handling
Weeding and planting	Low	Basic gardening and weed identification	Gardening	4+	Anyone
Weeding the nets/non turf pitch	Low	dentification	tools		
Painting or assembling the sight screens	Low/ Medium	Assembly, working at height, painting, manual handling	Tools, paint, paint brushes	6+	Anyone (except when working at height - better to lower the sight screen)
Cutting the outfield	High	Grass cutting, machinery operation	Outfield mower(s)	1-2	Trained grounds manager
Cutting the square	High	Grass cutting, machinery operation	Square mower(s)	1-2	Trained grounds manager
Pre-season rolling on the square	High	Grass cutting, machinery operation	Mowers and rollers	1-2	Trained grounds manager
Tidying the grounds shed	Low	General cleaning, waste identification	Broom, dustpan, etc	1-2	Anyone (but some supervision/tasking required)

By planning ahead, everyone can get involved in getting the ground ready which can free up time to carry out more specialist work.

You can find out more about pre-season preparation in our Grounds Management Toolkit for Cricket at the <u>Grounds</u>
<u>Management Association website.</u>

The toolkit contains lots of key information on working on the ground safely.

How to get involved

If you are interested in getting involved in cricket grounds management, or want to find out more:

- Speak to grounds managers at your club - they will be glad for your help.
- Speak to other grounds managers at local clubs - everyone is in the same boat and usually happy to share tips and tricks.
- Attend a Grounds Management Workshop - most County Cricket Boards run them, they are 2-3 hour sessions that are normally free or the cost of a coffee to attend and you can meet people who are keen to learn and help out on the grounds - contact your County Cricket Board for more details.
- ✓ Visit the <u>Grounds Management</u>
 <u>Toolkit for Cricket website</u> to
 find lots of advice on how cricket
 grounds are managed.
- Speak to your County Pitch
 Advisor you can contact them
 through your county cricket club.

You can find out more about 2023's winners here

Keep your eyes out for more information on the criteria and nomination process for 2024 which will be shared with Counties, clubs, and teams in early 2024.

The Cricket Collective Awards

The Get Set Weekend is a platform to kick-start the season ahead and get your volunteers ready and motivated. However, we encourage you to continue to celebrate and thank your volunteers all year round.

Some of the best ways to show your gratitude?

- ✓ Social media shout outs
- Personalised letters of thanks
- ✓ Awarding vouchers or prizes
- ✓ Organising fun social activities
- ✓ Nominating them for The Cricket Collective Awards

The Cricket Collective Awards recognise the hard work and dedication of volunteers across 14 categories:

★ Connecting Communities

A club or community organisation which has gone above and beyond to #raisethegame and support communities/groups.

★ Inspired to Play

An individual or group within your club or community organisation going above and beyond to #raisethegame and open the game up to new audiences.

★ Growing the Game

A league volunteer, committee member, or administrator going above and beyond to support clubs and help increase the number of games played.

★ Lifetime Achiever

That one individual who has given many years of service to your club or community group and who you could not do without.

★ Cricket Innovators

Someone who has brought new ideas and/or implemented new systems to improve your club or community group.

★ Unsung Hero

Those heroes who impact our game from behind-the-scenes and help us make cricket happen.

★ Rising Star Award

A young volunteer making a difference in the game (for 11-16-year-olds).

★ Game Changer

A young volunteer making a difference in the game (for 17-25-year-olds).

★ SafeHands Award

An individual that has gone above and beyond to create a positive and inclusive environment for young people to enjoy the game.

★ Volunteer Grounds Management Team of the Year

An opportunity to reward and recognise those volunteers who are working hard and improving the places where the game is played.

★ Tackling Climate Change

A club or community organisation that is addressing the threat climate change poses to cricket, by making sustainable changes to operations, adapting their facilities and/or engaging and educating their local community.

★ Young Coach of the Year

A young person who is already passing on their enthusiasm for the game and inspiring the next generation of players (16-25-year-olds).

★ Coach of the Year

A coach who goes the extra mile and is a true coaching hero to their club, league, county or school.

★ Outstanding Contribution Services to Coaching

This person is the life and soul at your club, in your league, your county or at your school, coaching and making a difference to players.

County Cricket Boards oversee the county awards throughout the season, with local winners being submitted for the National Cricket Collective Awards.



