



NORTH DOWN CRICKET ACADEMY



North Down Cricket Club
The Green, Castle Lane, Comber
www.northdowncricketclub.co.uk

FRIENDSHIP • HEALTH • SPORTSMANSHIP • TEAMWORK • DEVELOPMENT



CLUB HISTORY

North Down Cricket Club is one of the oldest, and historically one of the most successful, clubs in Ireland.

Formed in 1857, the club currently fields four men's teams, two ladies teams and has a thriving youth section all based at what is widely regarded as one of the best grounds in the country, The Green in Comber.

The club has been a mainstay of the local community throughout its existence and can count among its membership famous names both on the field and off it, ranging from Thomas Andrews of Titanic fame more than a century ago to Paul Stirling who currently plays for our 1stXI, who has been ranked as high as 8th best batter in the world in One-Day International cricket!

Youth cricket has always been a mainstay of the short, but busy, summers at The Green and there have been some notable successes. The club won the Graham Cup (Under 15) for the first time in 1995 and since then further trophies have been won at both local and national level.



ACADEMY BACKGROUND

In 2015 the club found itself in the unusual position of having a lack of young players enjoying the sport, the 'conveyor belt' had stopped turning.

New thinking was needed and various projects were put in place which included the hugely popular Friday evening 'introduction to cricket' scheme and an outreach program into local schools which has seen hundreds of hours coaching done by club coaches in the last few years in both the primary and secondary sectors, all supplied free of charge.

Since then, numbers have grown consistently year on year, new coaches have been brought on board, more parents have got involved and more games have been played.



Lots of kids are now having great fun and staying active whilst enjoying all the benefits of team sport:

- Communication Skills. ...
- Develops Self-Esteem. A high-five, pat on the back, thumbs up, or even a nod of approval – these are simple gestures that can help build confidence in kids. ...
- Regular Exercise. ...
- Teaches Leadership Skills. ...
- Teaches Respect. ...
- Teamwork. ...
- Sense of Community. ...

The club is extremely proud of what we have achieved in recent years, but we want more!

Welcome to our new project, the North Down Cricket Academy...

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The ongoing benefits of sport for the individual and community are well documented. As an active participant in the community, North Down Cricket Club has made a leadership decision to extend the positive benefits of sport for the youth in this area and establish the North Down Cricket Academy.

Our exciting vision is to strengthen and enrich the quality of cricket being played at the club.

The Academy focuses on encouraging, preparing and developing cricketers of all ages and abilities to help them to fulfill their potential in the sport, whether that be to play for school, NDCC, Knights representation, or at the highest level as a professional.

The primary philosophy of the Academy is to develop and enhance individual skills and allow the player to progress according to their natural ability. This is achieved by providing specialist coaching/mentoring to participants in the areas of batting, bowling, fielding, fitness, and leadership skills; while providing an insight into the game, its culture and playing philosophy.

By providing junior players this opportunity, the Academy aims to retain young people in cricket and help them to maintain and improve their ability and skill level, affording them the opportunity to progress within the sport.





COACHES

The Academy will have at its disposal a fantastic, and diverse, selection of coaches who boast a variety of expertise, specialisms and experience of coaching and playing cricket at the top level all around the globe.

In 2021 this will include Sri Lanka 'A' team batter Gayan Maneeshan, the 1st XI overseas player and Thomas Mayes who at 19 is not much older than some of the players but has trained in the Titans Academy in Pretoria and is a fast bowler of huge potential, as well as an enthusiastic coach.

What Academy Co-Ordinator Neil Dalzell lacks in cricketing experience he is more than making up for in sheer enthusiasm – over the last couple of years his involvement has led to a dramatic increase in the numbers of games the club's teams have played, much to the delight of all the boys and girls.

We're delighted that former senior players John Gilliland and Billy Dale have been joined by Taimur Khan on the panel. A legend in his playing days at The Green, TK is a former Pakistan 'A' team captain and hugely experienced coach.

Current 1stXI players Ryan Haire (ex-Ireland), Carl Robinson (Zimbabwe U19 & NCU Knights) and Staci Maxwell (NCU & NCU U17 Coach) are joined by new wicketkeeper/batsman Aniruddha Chore, and it's exciting to be able to call on the services from time to time, when they are not jet-setting around the world playing cricket, of Ireland vice-captain and opening batsman Paul Stirling and opening bowler Craig Young.

And just for good measure, Cricket Ireland Lead Analyst Scott Irvine is going to help us with the video technology!



FACILITIES

The Academy will benefit from the practice facilities at The Green which include a 3-bay artificial practice 'cage' and two grounds, as well as having available a bowling machine and the club is in the process of acquiring video analysis equipment. We also have additional use of indoor nets at Regent House School, Newtownards and Grosvenor, Belfast and indoor facilities at Comber Leisure Centre

THE FUTURE

North Down's Cricket Academy has been introduced in 2021 to reinforce the club's long-term policy of developing talent from within. With lots of effort and enthusiasm, quality coaching and the use of new technology, the Academy will strive to support, develop and above all else give opportunities to local children to experience and enjoy the game, with the added incentive of producing the 1st XI cricketers of the future.

For information about joining the Academy please contact
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