

BIRDLIP & BRIMPSFIELD DEVELOPMENT PLAN

2026-2030

INTRODUCTION

This plan aims to set out the framework and key milestones for the development of Birdlip & Brimpsfield Cricket Club (BBCC) over the next 5 years.

The plan will be reviewed and developed on an annual basis to ensure that it remains a live and realistic document.

A review will be provided at the AGM within the Chairman's report, summarising achievement of milestones for that year, refinement / amendment of milestones for future years.

Where the achievement of milestones requires funding, budgets will be identified at the start of the budget year to support this.

BBCC has been a successful club over the years on and off the field. BBCC first team finished runners up in Division 1 of the Gloucestershire County League back in 2007. BBCC teams have experienced promotion and relegation because of performance and league restructuring over the past decade.

During recent years, levels of participation in cricket has dropped and is now the subject of a number of English Cricket Board (ECB) innovations. BBCC has been successful in maintaining two Saturday league teams and unlike similar level clubs, has never conceded games due to lack of numbers. The club management ethos is to provide a consistent level of cricket within a welcoming atmosphere delivered within our means. This is now our benchmark for success.

BBCC is a village cricket club with a strong (although small) management committee who are responsible to the Trustees for ensuring the safe and effective stewardship of the club. The club is well placed to move forward into the future with its own ground and facilities and a broad range of players. However, no senior players, committee members or grounds team live in Birdlip or Brimpsfield and the club is reliant on players travelling to the club.

MISSION

Birdlip & Brimpsfield Cricket Club is a village cricket club, with teams playing in the Gloucestershire County League pyramid.

The club will strive to be successful on and off the field, based on teamwork and maintain standards in all areas.

The club will always make every effort to provide good playing and social facilities for all its members and guests, regardless of age, race, gender, background or ability, which will ensure a vibrant, accessible and financially viable club.

BBCC Cricket Club is committed to the ECB's policies and values; the club will promote the game of cricket through villages and the surrounding area, to maximise participation, enjoyment, community support and success, whilst playing an active role in and across the local community including local primary schools.

AIMS

Key areas of focus for the continuing development of the club are indicated below:

- Ensuring cricket is played at the highest level possible whilst maintaining enjoyment of the game
- Increase participation of members in the day to day running of the club
- Maintain and build upon the infrastructure. Ensuring the best facilities are available within the constraints of the budget
- Improve the financial position. Ensuring effective and efficient use of finances
- Improve the number of members and the skill base of the players
- Develop and strengthen the youth section of the club. Identify and develop talented juniors at all levels. They will be encouraged to play at the highest possible level of which they are capable, helping to achieve excellence at club and hopefully district levels
- Captains will embed BBCC values and an ethos around respect and sportsmanship
- Development of a vibrant and strong social aspect to the club. The local villages involvement is key to the long-term sustainability and success of the club

TEAMS

1st X1

The 2026 season will see the 1st X1 play in Division 7 of the Gloucestershire County League.

The 2025 season saw the team relegated from Division 6. The league restructured in 2025 and competition continues to get stronger. It was encouraging to see new players come into the club and youth continuing to progress in 1st team cricket. The club needs to find development and depth in batting and consolidate and potentially push for promotion in 2026.

Over the coming years, the 1st team will be focused on talented juniors supported by experienced senior players. Any good new players who come into the club will eventually feature in the 1st team. Any players representing the 1st team, should have a clear role and be given a chance over several games to fulfil this role.

Successful teams in the past have developed through a core of around eight players. These players should be able to commit to a considerable number of games within the season.

Where players from the 1st team are unavailable, they should be replaced by appropriate players from the 2nd team, ideally on a like for like basis but preference should be given to any individual most likely to contribute to a positive match result.

Where a 2nd team player is promoted on strength of recent performances, he should ideally be afforded a reasonable run of selection in the 1st team. This will help to encourage player availability and incentive 2nd team players to perform well.

Where possible, promoting players from the 2nd team to the 1st team where they are unlikely to make a valuable contribution should be avoided.

Practice sessions should have structure and players need to be encouraged to attend. Sessions should include the three main disciplines as well as focusing on areas of improvement identified for individuals. Consideration should also be given to including match scenarios and strengthening the psychological approach of players to the game.

Ideally, the club should aim to reach a position whereby attendance at practice is an important consideration to selection criteria.

Key milestones:

2026 Consolidate position in Division 7 and develop a small squad of players – push for promotion or finish in the top six

2027 Promotion to Division 6 or consolidate if already promoted to Division 6

2028 Promotion from Division 6 or finish in top six

2029 Consolidate in Division 5

2030 Push for promotion in Division 5 or finish in top six

2nd X1

The 2026 season will see the 2nd X1 play league cricket in Division 9D of the restructured Gloucestershire County League. The overall aim of this team is to remain in this Division and look to push for promotion or finish in the top five, whilst acting as a feeder for the 1st team and ensuring that all players develop to their full potential.

To achieve this and to maintain the viability of the club the 2nd team should be made up of a mixture of youth progressing in cricket and experienced players. It should provide a platform for new players to the club.

This will include experienced players who no longer play for the 1st team, youth players who can play league cricket at this level, players returning from injury and those who are keen to play league cricket but are not at 1st team standard.

There will be a club selection process that will consider the merits and abilities of all available players on any weekend. The desire to include under 17 players should not be to the detriment of other players within the club who are of similar or better abilities. This should be balanced against the need to develop players and the need to ensure that all club members can play league cricket should they wish to do so.

The captain of the side should be an experienced player capable of developing and nurturing the abilities of other players in the side.

The captain should also look to develop future club captains by involving identified individuals in both on and off field decisions.

The 2nd team captain should talk to players in the team and clearly identify their role throughout the season and on a game-by-game basis.

Key milestones:

2026 Gain promotion or finish in top five of Division 9D

2027 Consolidate in Division 8 of the Gloucestershire County League

2028 Finish as high as possible in Division 8

2029 Gain promotion to Division 7

2030 Consolidate in Division 7

Sunday Team

The Sunday team has traditionally played friendly cricket and has been used as an opportunity to ensure that members of the club who do not play on Saturdays are able to play on a Sunday.

No milestones have been set for the Sunday team, but certain principles should be applied:

- Priority should be given to those players who do not play on a Saturday
- There should be a mix of youth and older players
- One or two Sunday matches will be organised each month through the season
- Senior players who play Saturday should plan their season and play a few Sunday games through the season. This will then support less experienced players representing the club during these matches.

Evening League Team

The evening league team currently participates in the Gloucester Citizen evening league. In previous years, the team has been made up of players from both BBCC and other local clubs.

No milestones have been set for this team. However, the following principles should be applied:

- Wherever possible the team should be a mix of youth and experience
- Players who are not selected for the Saturday league game must be selected to play
- Players from other clubs are welcome but should not play at the expense of BBCC members
- Consideration will be given to request midweek and Sunday players (who are not full playing members) to make a social membership donation

Youth Cricket

Any club is only as strong as its youth development. The club has half a dozen 15 – 17-year-olds coming through into adult cricket (including one female). The club needs to continue developing its Under 15's and Under 13's. A successful 'All Stars' and 'Dynamos' junior programme will continue to provide the right pathway for juniors to progress into hardball cricket. In 2025, the club entered an Under 15's combined team with Sheepscombe CC.

Key development milestones for the youth section are shown below:

2026 Under 13's introduced to hard ball cricket will be encouraged to play some league cricket games with Sheepscombe. Under 16's – Birdlip & Sheepscombe will play 9 aside league or friendlies. 'All Stars' (5-8yrs softball) and 'Dynamos' (8-11yrs softball) 8-week programmes will be run. Provide hardball practice for any developing 8-11yrs at the end of the 'Dynamos' programme.

2027 Under 11, Under 13 and Under 15 cricket will be encouraged. If the club does not have enough at these levels, partnership work with Sheepscombe CC will continue. 'All Stars' (5-8yrs softball) and 'Dynamos' (8-11yrs softball) 8-week programmes will be run. Provide hardball practice for any developing 8-11yrs at the end of the 'Dynamos' programme.

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8yrs softball) and 'Dynamos' (8-11yrs softball) 8-week programmes will be run. Provide hardball practice for any developing 8-11yrs at the end of the 'Dynamos' programme.

- To achieve these milestones, the club will need to ensure that it has a mix of Level 2 and Level 1 coaches for under 15's/ under 13's hardball coaching. Coaching requirements for each season need to be considered in September as coaching courses are organised by the Gloucestershire Cricket Foundation for October – March
- To run 'All Stars' and 'Dynamos' volunteers are required from within the club to ensure these programmes are run – Activator workshops are run from March to April to help volunteers understand their role during sessions.
- A 6-week 'Chance to Shine' programme can be run in the Primary School from April to June. This helps to promote the 'All Stars' and 'Dynamos' programmes at the club. A Level 2 coach will go into the school and deliver the programme. If the club does not have a Level 2 coach available, then the Gloucestershire Cricket Foundation can be asked to provide a coach for the club. Registration for 'Chance to Shine' happens from December to January prior to the April programme.
- A requirement for any junior coaching programme / team managers overseeing team cricket is 1st Aid qualified coaches / volunteers – this must be planned from September prior to a new season as courses are advertised from October / November (3-year qualifications)
- Club Safeguarding officer – qualified for 3 years – this role must be reviewed after every season.
- Each year the club should look to identify two or three of the under 15 players who could gain experience of Saturday league cricket through the 2nd team
- Each year the club will encourage two or three of the under 15 players who are not yet capable for, or are unavailable for Saturday league cricket, to play Sunday friendly cricket
- A youth committee will be developed as a subcommittee of the main committee and participation in this by both youth players and parents will be encouraged
- Each year the club will look to put youth forward for the district trials

Girls Cricket / Ladies Cricket

If the opportunity to run a girls' team or Ladies cricket arises then this will create funding opportunities. Girl's cricket will only be generated through ongoing programmes with 'All Stars' and 'Dynamos'. The club should look at opportunities to generate a Ladies Team over the next 3-5years. Partnership work with the Gloucestershire Cricket Foundation could help to create this.

Indoor Cricket (Autumn / Winter)

- The club will enter the local indoor 6-side league (October – February)

- Indoor nets will run for 8 weeks from February to April. Structure will be given to these practice sessions from captains and coaches

Umpiring and Scoring

- The club will consider organising a Level 1 umpire course at the club every year. This will raise standards and improve understanding amongst players. This should allow more players to confidently go out an umpire during games
- Ideally, the club needs to identify and train an umpire to Level 2 status - one for each team would be considerable progress
- Scoring courses are offered by the Gloucestershire Cricket Foundation. This needs to be considered and actioned during October / November as courses run from February / March the following year. This will help players become more confident with scoring
- A scoring tablet for both 1st and 2nd team, using the 'play cricket scoring app' will be considered for the coming season
- Attracting umpires (non-players) and scorers (non-players) is always difficult. The club will use social media and other local advertising to seek people who may have an interest to become umpires or scorers

Player recruitment and management

The club has a healthy player base. However, the club will always want to attract new players to help improve the quality of the 1st team, hopefully raise standards within the club and provide competition for places. New players in the 20 to 30 age group should always be a focus.

To support the development of the club and improve the financial position, the club will give selection priority to players who have paid their membership subscription by the end of May as required in the club rules.

Selection Committee

This will be made up of 1st team ,2nd team and Midweek captain, plus a senior player from the committee.

Teams for the forthcoming Saturday should ideally be made available by Tuesday. This will all depend on player availability. Players will be asked to plan their availability and complete the availability platform on a month-by-month basis, where possible.

Ground, Club and infrastructure

There has been a significant amount of work undertaken on both the ground and the clubhouse over the past 5 years.

The playing surface has improved since the type of loam changed (2017) and a more thorough annual maintenance programme has been implemented. This needs to continue. Water flow to the wicket is much improved following the installation of a water tank that harvests rainwater together with a new pump.

Annual maintenance programme will include:

- End of September – Deep scarification / overseeding / Surrey Loam spread on wicket / Autumn fertiliser applied
- Winter Fertiliser applied in November and February
- Summer fertiliser applied in April and June
- Aeration in February prior to fertiliser
- Light rolling to begin end of February / beginning of March
- Heavy rolling to start April
- Advice and support to continue from GCB grounds advisors

It is essential that additional grounds volunteers are identified to support those overseeing grounds work. An action plan will be implemented before the season commences:

- Four people trained to use the sit on mower (outfield)
- Four people trained to use the wicket mowers
- Four people trained to use the roller
- Four people trained to use the rotary mower (to maintain grass surface around edge of ground)
- Seek volunteers from within the community to help with the ground

Club infrastructure to be actioned in 2026:

- New slats for the top sightscreen
- New portable batting cage
- New gazebo with sides for the veranda
- Complete improvements to external lighting around club house and on the veranda
- Permanent structure for new electronic scoreboard to be considered
- Sightcreen bottom – framework to be straightened

Future Considerations:

- How can the club source funding to develop a changing room extension development

Fund raising / Partnership work

For the club to continue developing, offering quality facilities to all club members and the local community, partnerships will continue to have focus. This will help to bring in crucial revenue. Opportunities for fundraising need to continue being explored.

- The club will use the Village Facebook page, Parish Newsletter and other social media platforms, to reach out to the local community about what is going on at the club. The club website will be updated on a month-by-month basis
- The Social committee will focus on key fundraising activities through the cricket season e.g., quiz nights, race night, curry night
- The club will host an annual golf event at Cirencester Golf Club

Other ventures:

- Cotswold Cycling event – Function as a ‘Feed Station’ / Provide marshals
- Links with Primary school – continue future discussions that could benefit both cricket club /school
- Provide ground hire for National Star Centre / Cromwell cricket (Maximum of ten midweek fixtures)
- Provide a venue for Gloucestershire Over 60’s / over 70’s (Maximum of three midweek fixtures)
- Awareness of other ECB funding streams