

Trafford Girls take centre stage at Lady Taverners Event



GIRLS Cricket is flourishing in Trafford following a fantastic showing by the newly-formed Borough Girls team at the recent Lady Taverners event at Harrogate.

Competing under the banner of Timperley CC, girls from Timperley and Ashton on Mersey joined forces to represent 'Trafford Girls' in the Under 11 North Region Final of the prestigious ECB competition.

The team qualified for the event after winning the Stockport Georgians Girls' Festival in June (below right), their first taste of competitive action.

At Harrogate, they faced stiff opposition from Leyland CC (representing Lancashire) and Barkisland CC (Yorkshire), but played some excellent cricket in two keenly contested matches.

Head coach Peter Whyley was thrilled with the performance of his players, noting how much they had improved in the short time they have been together.

"What an absolutely brilliant day," said Peter.

"The girls gave their all in the sunshine and really seemed to enjoy themselves.

"They worked hard during the day and learnt valuable lessons about techniques and playing competitive games. This was another demonstration that the group is not far behind squads which have clearly trained together for longer than our cohort has."

Peter added: "Many thanks to all the players, and of course their parents for getting the girls to the meeting place and to the ground on time."

Joanne Nicholson, mother of all-rounder Emily, echoed Pater's sentiments.



She said: "They all had a fabulous day, Ella went to holiday club today very proudly wearing her pink cap, and I'm sure with her very quiet personality told them all about her exploits in Harrogate!"

Following the success of the Trafford Girls team, it is hoped other girls of primary and secondary age will take up the sport within the Borough.

Sale Cricket Club have had an established girls section for a number of years, whilst there are now more than 30 girls training regularly at

Ashton on Mersey and Timperley following a series of indoor sessions conducted by Peter last winter, and an "open day" coordinated by Tim Lucas of Timperley in April.



And in recent weeks, Bowdon Cricket Club have started offering 'girls only' sessions in response to demand from their members, with players attending regular training sessions on Thursdays.

"The recent development of Girls cricket in Trafford has been brilliant to see, and I hope we can continue this momentum throughout the autumn and winter," said Gareth Moorhouse, the Cheshire Cricket Board Development and Coaching Officer for Trafford.

"Sale Cricket Club has operated a Girls section for a number of years, but until recently other clubs in the area only boasted small pockets of female members.

"Peter Whyley took the initiative to organise some indoor coaching at Trafford College, which led to several girls joining the junior section at Ashton on Mersey.

"Tim Lucas managed to attract some funding via the Sportivate Scheme to offer coaching at Timperley, with two female coaches employed to deliver sessions on Monday evenings.



"What was most pleasing from my perspective was the way the two clubs (Timperley and Ashton on Mersey) pooled resources to ensure the girls were given a competitive cricket offer.

"Special thanks must go to Peter for stepping into the 'head coach' role for the tournaments at Stockport Georgians and Harrogate, and to Tim for his continued support throughout.

"The feedback from the girls and their parents has been excellent, and with the recent emergence of new sessions at Bowdon, things look very healthy for the future."

Gareth added: "As a county board, Cheshire is determined to champion the rise of Women's and Girls Cricket and it is fantastic to see volunteers from within the club network taking the lead.

"I hope to chair a meeting of local clubs within the next few weeks, to determine their plans for the winter ahead and to help set some long term goals to keep these girls in the game.



"There is a local women's team based at Trafford Metrovics, so it would be great to see some of these girls playing senior cricket in the Borough in a few years time."