



# Cricket

## Sport England's involvement

Sport England funds the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) with Exchequer and Lottery cash. Cricket has been named as one of the 10 England priority sports. In the immediate future, Sport England will be working closely with the Board to produce a business plan for the sport, which includes funding.

Cricket is also involved in the following Sport England initiatives:

- *County Sports Partnerships* - working with 33 partnerships
- *Awards for All* – with funding of £5,596,354 for various projects
- *Step into Sport* – currently implementing their volunteer strategy
- *Racial Equity* – achieved the preliminary standard and now working towards intermediate
- *Club Development Programme* – receiving £9.4 million over three years to fund capital projects and facilities.

## Achievements

The target is to be world number one by 2007.

## Key funding benefits

Cricket's first national training and rehabilitation centre, the National Academy, cost £4.5 million to build and was funded jointly between the ECB, Sport England and Loughborough University, with support from the Allan and Nesta Ferguson Trust. Based at Loughborough University, it costs the ECB around £350,000 a year to run, with funding coming via the Sport England Lottery Fund. The academy aims to identify and develop players who have the potential to play for England at the highest level of the game, competing in test matches and one-day internationals. It has four elements, including the largest and best equipped indoor cricket centre in the world.

There is also a network of seven ECB-accredited county cricket academies, set up in 2001 to develop the most talented local players who are aged between 13 and 18. The hope is that all 18 counties will eventually host their own academies. Set up to provide opportunities to play both elite and community cricket, Edgbaston Indoor Cricket Centre receives £1.6 million.

## Sport England funded stars

Sport England's World Class Performance programme funds 24 female cricketers, who also receive individual lottery awards. They include:

- Clare Connor

Clare was appointed England Captain in January 2000. A left-arm spin bowler and right-hand bat, Clare was named Vodafone Player of the Year in May 2002. She was England's second highest wicket taker against India in summer 2002 and the leading wicket taker against Australia the year before. She is the first woman TV cricket commentator, joining Channel 4's award-winning team this summer. She has also commentated on *Test Match Special*. Clare writes regular columns for *The Cricketer* and *The Observer*.

- Isa Guha

Isa made her debut in 2002 in the quadrangular tournament between England, New Zealand and India and the test series against India. Dubbed the girl who 'bowls it like Botham', Isa was named BBC Asian Network sports personality of the year for 2002. She toured with the England under-19 team last winter to Australia, where she was selected as bowler of the series, as England won six out of six matches in the tournament.

## Development programmes

The ECB has a range of development programmes specifically designed for young people, from primary through to secondary school.

The Active Sports Cricket Programme - supported by the Sport England Lottery Fund and the Cricket Foundation- is seen as a key initiative in achieving the ECB's aims in district cricket. In 2002, more than £1 million was invested in creating coaching and competitive opportunities at this level.



### Previous Funding

Year	National	Community
1995 – 1996	£172,500	£6,826,348
1996 – 1997	£350,450	£5,778,997
1997 – 1998	£373,890	£7,444,775
1998 – 1999	£390,355	£12,931,727
1999 – 2000	£216,220	£4,414,960
2000 – 2001	£2,446,133	£24,614,326
2001 – 2002	£2,461,017	£7,647,187
2002 – 2003	£2,381,467	£10,343,122
2003 – 2004	£179,000	£2,156,621

**Note:**

National funding is a total of Exchequer funding and the World Class Programme. Community funding is a total of the following programmes: Community Capital, Safer Sports Grounds, Active Communities Development Fund, all Active Sports Programmes, Community Athletics Refurbishment Programme, Football Youth Development, School Sport Coordinators, Sport Action Zones and Awards for All. The summary is by the financial year, according to the start date of the award period – an award may continue over a number of years.