

Young cricket coach inspires other girls to take up their bats

Victoria Warner, 18, decided to share her passion for cricket by becoming a cricket coach at Barnt Green Cricket Club, and she is helping the girls' game go from strength to strength.

"I enjoyed cricket from a young age;" says Victoria. "I played for Barnt Green and later for Worcestershire County Girls' U15, U16 & U17 teams, where I had the opportunity to travel all over England to play matches. I then decided I wanted to help other girls to have a go."

When the opportunity arose to undertake a leadership course, and then to go on to attain the level one coaching qualification in cricket, Victoria saw it as a chance to improve her skills and encourage other girls to get involved in cricket.

Victoria adds; "The coaching course was demanding, as it involves 5 days training and an assessment at the end, but it was very enjoyable and rewarding."

Barnt Green CC is committed to encouraging women's cricket, and Victoria and other volunteers take coaching sessions, and arrange competitive matches. Victoria's coaching sessions are attracting greater numbers of girls to join in.

"The number of female players is increasing all the time, and it is good that the girls see a female coach."

Victoria commits several hours to coaching every week, including Friday evenings and Sunday mornings. But she is more than happy to make the sacrifice and help other young players. Barnt Green girls are helping to set the standard for the girls' game in the region, and several girls have been selected for the county side and also play in club teams with boys.

When Victoria started at the club there were only a couple of girls playing cricket there. Now thanks to Victoria and other dedicated volunteers, and huge support from the club community, there are over 25 playing and training regularly. Even very young girls can

Victoria Warner Worcestershire girls' cricket coach
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get involved with Kwik Cricket, with junior equipment that includes scaled down bats and stumps.

Victoria hopes to continue playing cricket at university, and to return to the club and coach during the holidays.

She adds: "Volunteer coaching is great fun. It is really rewarding and very social. I'd like to do my level 2 coaching qualification, and of course carry on playing cricket and encouraging others girls to have a go too."

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