

All about Junior Cricket

We offer cricket training for boys and girls aged 5 and up. We have four different age groups:

- Under 9s ("U9" - under school year 5)
- Under 11s ("U11" - under school year 7)
- Under 13s ("U13" - under school year 9)
- Under 15s ("U15" - under school year 11)

Children are members of a group up until the end of the season of the year in which they have their birthday. For instance, if a child is 9 years old and they turn 10 on 1st May, they continue to be a member of U9s until the end of the season (which is 31st August) then they move up to U11s. This roughly fits to school years.



Often children will take part in training and matches for the age group above, depending on their skill and enthusiasm. We regularly have children playing games for U9 and U11, or U11 and U13, in the same season.

All junior cricket training is held from around 6pm until 8pm on Friday evenings (changing to 6:30 - 8:30pm when the evenings get lighter). From late January/early February until April we train indoors, with U9 and U11 training together, and U13 and U15 training together. These "winter nets" sessions are held at:

- Heckmondwike Grammar School
High St, Heckmondwike, WF16 0AH

From mid-late April until late August training is at Liversedge Cricket Club using our large cricket ground and outdoor training nets. We also have a yearly "Parents vs Kids" match for U11s and U13s which proves to be great fun - and extremely competitive!

Coaches

All our coaches are volunteers, and many have children in one or more of the age groups. All coaches are CRB checked, and are overseen by the Club Chairman, who is also charge of all junior cricket.

We always welcome additional help with training and matches. This doesn't have to involve running or having balls thrown at you! Some of the ways parents and other family members can help out with junior cricket are:

- Scoring matches
- Collecting subs
- Taking the training register
- Helping to set up for matches (put out boundary flags etc)

- Make and serve food and drinks
- And, of course, providing support to the teams at matches

Liversedge is a really family friendly club, as you can tell by many members of the club - and some coaches - who have been attending since they were children, and now bring their own children. We have a great programme of events happening through the year, and we'd love to tell you about them. Keep an eye out for what's happening online:

Our website: www.liversedgecricketclub.co.uk



Facebook: www.facebook.com/LiversedgeCricketAndAthleticsClub



Twitter: twitter.com/LiversedgeCC

About the Club Chairman

Steve Atkin, the Club Chairman, oversees all Junior Cricket. Steve has been involved with LCC for 20 years, and is an umpire for adult matches. He also arranges the U9 Cricket Tournaments which happen a couple of times per year at LCC.

Heavy Woollen League

Liversedge Cricket Club is part of the Heavy Woollen Junior Cricket League founded in 1949 - <http://heavywoollenjuniorlge.play-cricket.com/>. The league comprises of about 35 clubs, and is split into East and West sections for tournaments and cups (we're in the West section).

Heavy Woollen League representation is classed as "Lords Taverners". Players representing the league are chosen from among all the clubs, and have additional coaching and matches. Players from any age group showing particular skill who we think would be able to play at a higher level will be recommended for a league trial and the Heavy Woollen League has a strong history of providing players to Yorkshire CC including Tim Bresnan & Andrew Gale.



We are very proud that several children from Liversedge Cricket Club represent the league at various age groups, and some have progressed beyond that to district level and county trials. Who knows, we may have a future Yorkshire or England cricketer start their career with us!

About Under 9 Cricket

Coaches



Stuart McDermott: Stuart has been involved with LCC for almost 30 years, playing for all age groups in the junior cricket teams and worked his way up to play both in the 1st XI and 2nd XI senior teams. He currently plays for Hartshead Moor in the Bradford Cricket League.

Stuart has been coaching with the Under 9s for the past couple of seasons where his eldest son plays. He lives in Heckmondwike, is married to Laura and is a keen Huddersfield Town and Yorkshire CCC fan.

Coaching and matches

At U9 level we coach the children in the basics of cricket: batting and bowling, with some simple fielding skills. U9 matches are 16 overs in length, have teams of 8 players, and every child has the opportunity to bat, bowl and field in every position.

Tournaments are held on Saturday mornings, and teams play several matches in a tournament. These tournaments are an opportunity for the club which hosts them to welcome lots of families, and there are normally refreshments and often hot sandwiches for sale. That certainly makes getting up early on a Saturday morning and sitting at the side of a cricket field more bearable! We do recommend you take deck-chairs, though.

About Under 11 Cricket

Coaches



Andrew McDermott: Andrew played junior cricket and football for Liversedge from the age of nine and was part of the Under 17 cricket team that won the league title. After hanging up his pads, he has also been first XI scorer and a member of the bar staff. He now has a son in the Under 13s and a daughter in the Under 9s. He is a sports journalist for the Press Association and lives in Norristhorpe with wife Natalie and his children.

Coaching and matches

At Under 11 level we introduce hard-ball cricket, so training involves a lot more protective equipment. We also step up coaching to increase children's skill with both bat and ball. We train on the field and in the outdoor nets, and at this level children are starting to get a feel for the different types of bowling and often picking a style: fast or spin. Even though we take U11s cricket more seriously there's still plenty of opportunity for fun, and we often play very competitive Quick Cricket.

Under 11 matches are held on Thursday evenings starting at about 6pm. Teams have 11 players and are 16 overs in length, and use a junior-sized hard-ball. Matches normally last up to 2 hours, and can get very exciting if there's a tempting target to be chased!

Because only two teams are involved there are normally smaller crowds than at U9 tournaments, but we are grateful to get good support from players families. There is sometimes a barbecue cooking at LCC (and sometimes at other clubs, too), and as usual we recommend you bring deck-chairs.

About Under 13 Cricket

Coaches



Julian Haworth (assistant): Julian is Senior Level 3 PGA Professional Golfer at Willow Valley Golf Club. He has been a junior golf coach for 27 years in schools and in the WVG Academy.

2018 is his fourth season coaching cricket after assisting with the U11s and U13s teams and umpiring for the last two seasons.



Chris Taylor (assistant): Chris has been involved with LCC for about 5 years, since bringing his youngest son (now in U13) to U9 coaching aged 6. He's never played in a serious or even a comedy, cricket team, but has had a long career playing with his kids on the beach! He lives near Heckmondwike, is married to Katharine, and writes software.

Coaching and matches

By U13 level cricket is getting more serious, with some of the better players getting involved with league and even district teams. We expect high levels of discipline and hard work at U13 - but we also make sure juniors enjoy training by using lots of competitive exercises. It's amazing how much a little friendly rivalry will help get the best out of the kids! Training is done with a mixture of net practice with both bat and ball, fielding training and general fitness exercises.

At U13 level kids generally specialise in one of the two main bowling techniques, and those with particular skills with the bat or keeping wicket are also coming to the fore. As kids have generally been playing cricket for a number of years by this point we would expect them to have a full set of kit. This is also the point where an investment in a good quality bat makes a lot of sense - and the kids may get itchy feet for some of the equipment they may see their cricketing heroes use!

Matches are held on Wednesday evenings, usually starting at 6pm. We treat U13 matches seriously, as we aim to compete up there with the best teams in the league. It's not unusual for kids at U13 level who show talent at cricket to also play U15 matches, and this is an excellent way to quickly "level up". At the club we're also on the lookout for future adult team squad members, and at U13 we can start to see this level of skill develop. Junior players can play 'open age' cricket at 13 years old, those who compete at District or County level can compete at this level at 12 years old.

About Under 15 Cricket

Coaches

Matthew Gibson: Played at Liversedge for 10 years and played all his junior and senior cricket with us. With a degree in applied sport science, level 3 sports massage and a level 1 ECB cricket coach, he is a lover of sport and health.

James Lunn: James has represented Liversedge CC for 10 years throughout all the age groups at the club. He has an ECB Level 1 coaching qualification and a Level 2 award in Multi Skills coaching. James is currently studying Sports Coaching at Northumbria alongside coaching for the University Sports foundation. With previous experience coaching at Liversedge and Pro Coach James is passionate about cricket and development.

Coaching and matches

U15 coaching is the final preparation for players before moving into adult teams. It's not unusual to see U15 players showing particular skill to play as part of the Liversedge 2nd XI. Coaching becomes more specialised, with players concentrating on their chosen specialist areas - spin or fast bowling, batting, wicket keeping - as well as general fielding techniques.

Matches are held on Monday evenings, usually starting at 6pm, and we expect a high level of professionalism from players at U15 level. It's very likely by this age that players are thinking about progressing to further levels in cricket - either as part of adult teams, or moving up to league and district level if they have the level of skill required. We're enthusiastic about encouraging any player who wants to increase their skills with bat and ball, and will provide advice and support for this.