

50 BALLS WOMENS TOURNAMENT

A Year apart & the 50 Ball format was introduced by Sporting Pathways. We did a trial run in 2021 & was it a bit of Cricket that slowly was going to catch on? How was we going to make it better this year?

In Feb 2022 Once we Presented the Project Delivery, we were met with one condition & that was to focus on bringing the sport to a Deprived Area for women's cricket.

The year was set out with Free sessions organised in various parks to prep the girls & women for the sport.

No Official sponsor or no ground availability for any weekend as the Men's Games took place in the area, we finally were given a date & that was the Bank Holiday Weekend. A risk to take but one that will be memorable if successful.

With it being our 10th National Event, it was no surprise to see 60 Girls & Women sign up for the Format within 2 Days of announcing the details.

Sheldon Cricket Club provided us with a lovely wicket & ground facility. Thank You Adrian for also handing out Player Cards to the kids. Omar at Sharks Cricket had the T-shirts designed & printed all the way from Pakistan. He also provided all players with Medals & the Winners with the Trophies.

Mansoor from Core Sports & Hot Box from Cardiff generously sent the Prizes down which included Pads, Gloves, replica t-shirts & gloves.
Thank You to all for your kind efforts in making this event come together.

The build-up to the Event created more & more interest by different teams all over the country. The girls at the Hundred Shruti & Sifaya were the rock behind this format, they loved the idea of our event so created opportunities for Birmingham Phoenix to support us fully, here is some of the work involved.

A Spin Masterclass Session for Moseley Cricket Club Girls coached by Asma delivered by Abtaha Maqsood & Salma Bi. It was also at this session Abtaha handed out free custom-made hijabs to the girls Whilst also signing match balls & a Cricket Bat that was later to be presented at the Event.

As promised all players to register for the Tournament would receive a Free Ticket to watch Birmingham Phoenix play at Edgbaston & we was fortunate to secure over 40 Exclusive Tickets for the Girls including 10 for the Girls watching Manchester Originals play at The Point Old Trafford Cricket Club.

The final opportunity was to meet & greet some of the Birmingham Phoenix stars & what a moment that was. I was honoured to enjoy Dinner at Indico Mailbox alongside Elyse Perry, Sophie Devine, Deepti Sharma, Will Smeed & Moeen Ali. All players had a lovely chat with families followed by Sophie sending a motivation Video to the Girls who will be competing. A brilliantly designed Banner by Iqraa Baig was then signed exclusively by all the players & officials at the Dinner including the Indico Manager.

With so much hype it was nice to plugin with a few media outlets to highlight the celebration of communities for the big day.

Up North Halima Khan's group of girls sent best wishes as they prepared a softball festival which helped sending a few girls over to them as I was left in a position to turn a few players away as we could only accommodate 4 Teams on one ground.

The day was met with both (Salma & Gemma) Directors of the organisation met up for a debrief of the day.

It was remarkable to see Captain Raabia of Oval Invincibles turn up early with her team & help set up the ground with flags & registration. Some key umpires that assisted in the final really brought the game to the wire.

A few young boys from the Trent Rockets team rushed to offer to Umpire & Score throughout the day. Full of energy, they were not only a bunch of keen helpers but played Cricket themselves as noted during the day. The children had a Net to themselves to keep busy plus a bouncy castle & Buffet to soak in the atmosphere.

We are no strangers to Challenges & today was one of them. 60 Women registered with 14 being turned away to having 6 drop outs on the day to meeting 6 new players who tried the sport for the very first time.

Here is the day as follows;

[MATCH 1](#)

[Manchester Originals V Trent Rockets](#)

Previous Champions Manchester Originals got off to a flyer with the bat setting a mighty score of 89. With 2 early wickets down from Arij's superb bowling, it still didn't stop Captain Sairah and star player Rhia both hitting over 30 runs each.

Trent Rockets started off steadily with Zainab hitting 11 runs to get a total of 35 on the board it was just too big of a task as Rhia put the breaks on with her 1 for 8 runs in 15 Balls.

[MATCH 2](#)

[Oval Invincibles V Birmingham Phoenix](#)

New Team Oval Invincibles batted first setting a reasonable score of 52 Runs with Richa as Not out and Salma claiming 2 wickets. In reply Birmingham Phoenix came

to the party by hitting 54 runs in 36 Balls with Zainab 17 Not Out giving the audience something to cheer about her 2 massive sixes. Nafisa claimed 1 wicket but it wasn't enough to defend that score.

3RD PLACE PLAYOFF

Oval Invincibles V Trent Rockets

Losing both knockout games, both teams still had the third place to play for. Trent Rockets chose to bat and hit 49 Runs with Sobia getting 16 runs and Nafisa taking 1 for 8 runs in 10 balls. The second innings witnessed a fine innings by the openers both reaching double figures, Ameena reaching 21 Runs to bring the girls home in 40 comfortable balls. Zainab was the only bowler to claim a wicket for 8 runs in 5 balls.

FINAL

Manchester Originals V Birmingham Phoenix

A Strong contest set for a good finish with Manchester as the top scorers of the day and Birmingham with the strong bowling attack. Manchester Originals achieved a respectable score of 67 Runs for only 2 wickets down claimed by Salma. Zamaya who didn't score previously hit a mighty 24 runs Not Out to give Manchester a chance for the Title.

However Birmingham Phoenix made some poor decisions which cost them early wickets that they just couldn't recover from despite 14 Runs from Zahra reaching a score of 41 in Total. It was the Captain and star bowler Sairah who took 3 for 10 runs putting her team in the Champions seat once again. The Player of the Match and definitely the bowler that was outstanding and should be praised for her leadership.

PRIZE WINNERS

During the presentation The captains selected 3 best performances in each team which included in batting, bowling and fielding. Each player had the option of picking prizes from Gloves, T-shirts, Bats, Pink Balls and Core branded Pads.

Some brilliant performances throughout all games, Accommodating players from young as 16 to 40 it was one special day to make sure every girl/women on that pitch had a chance to play cricket. Minus not having 2 Pitches, Veg Diets or ECB Officials we saw results better than expected!

A young talented cricketer representative of Manchester Originals only aged 16 recent winner of 'The 1' England's Junior All-rounder & U18 Yorkshire County Player Rhia Sedha was the star of the show today with leading run scorer of 48 Runs & taking 3 Wickets in 2 Games. We send you our best wishes for the future youngster, a spectacular performance in the first game of the day & in the Final from Rhia is what gave the Champions the advantage in taking home the Title.

Our special guest Boroness Gohir of Hall Green & Former Director of Muslim Women's Network UK Shaista Gohir had the privilege of Handing out Player Prizes for each team to players with 3 top performances of Bowling, Batting & Fielding as selected by their Captains.

She delivered a powerful talk which reminded the Women to be more vocal in their communities for better health & success. The new Ambassador to our Tournament who not only appreciated the invite but wanted to get involved in playing next year

too! A good friend who has heavily supported Sporting Pathways for almost over 10 Years now. The Baroness closed the ceremony with presentation of Medals to all players & then the Trophies to the Reigning Champions of 2 consecutive years running Manchester Originals.

The Standings

4th TRENT ROCKETS
3rd OVAL INVINCIBLES
2nd BIRMINGHAM PHEONIX

WINNERS MANCHESTER ORIGINALS 2022

What did this day mean to the players getting involved?
Below is a short testimonial from the Captain of Trent Rockets-

JazaakAllah khairun Your passion and hospitality was hear touching and the ladies had so much fun. What a day !?! Sums up the spirit of cricket - cricket a game for all 🏏🤝 Fun and competition rolled into one! Missed my lovely ladies who couldn't make it today, celebrated the ones that did, and inspired by the kindness of YOU the hosts and ability of the other teams 🙌

I totally forgot to get our wicket keeper to try gloves. She's never used them before, That's the next step for her!

The young girl that got the pads has just started to reconnect with cricket, she took two wickets today. She was really proud of her achievement and beaming. Her mum is a player for us too and had an injury and always puts her daughter forward. She wants her daughter to play for Trent Rockets iA!

Jenny felt left out socially from our group due to language. But today her father drove us up in the car and we bonded on the way. She managed to bat in both matches and was Not out. Everyone loved her- she was getting hugs left right and Centre!

Two mothers who spend the majority of their weeks chauffeuring their children to cricket matches actually played a match for THEMSELVES 🤝

Today four U16's from Nottingham bonded with each other due to shared big moments and mutual respect in a match played in Birmingham!
I overheard them wanting to train together, and giving each other tips in the nets... this is what you call team- building and developing the cricket community through positivity and inspiration. This is exactly what I wanted the national tournament to be about- Bond and inspire to Develop 🙌

Well done Salma, it's not just words, and visions- these are actual realities - you are definitely doing your bit to transform their lives and sporting opportunities and expectations.

Sent in by--Samiah Haleem

On that note we can definitely say another Successful event, this was the 10th National Event that hosted a Sport for girls/women all over the UK most who don't normally get the opportunity to play.

Thank You for all the special names mentioned above you made this happen & thank You to all the Players who turned up & put on an impressive show, You made it a Hit!!

Last but not least Thank You to my younger sister Aisha for helping me run the day smoothly.

We will be in touch soon for more sports opportunities!

Kind Regards

Salma Bi

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