

# Ropley Cricket Club

---

## Development Plan 2026-2031

One Club, Many Teams



A thriving village cricket club where competition, community and development sit side by side.



# **Ropley Cricket Club**

---

## **Development Plan 2026–2031**

### **Introduction**

Ropley Cricket Club exists to provide welcoming, enjoyable and competitive cricket for the whole community. We aim to support players of all ages and abilities while fostering a strong sense of pride in representing the club and the village.

This document sets out the strategic direction of the club over the next five years. It is not intended to be a detailed operational plan. Instead it provides the framework that guides decisions about cricket, facilities, culture and governance.

Each year the committee will develop an annual action plan that outlines specific priorities and initiatives for that season. These action plans will describe how the club intends to deliver the aims set out in this document.

### **One Club, Many Teams**

Ropley Cricket Club operates on the principle of “One Club, Many Teams.” While the club supports multiple teams and sections including open senior cricket, women and girls cricket, junior cricket and social participation, all are part of the same club community.

This approach encourages collaboration rather than separation, ensuring that players, volunteers and supporters feel part of a single club identity. Decisions are made with the whole club in mind, and success is celebrated across all sections.

Ropley Cricket Club aims to be a welcoming and inclusive club where everyone feels able to take part in cricket. We are committed to supporting participation across different ages, backgrounds and abilities, including women and girls cricket, junior cricket and opportunities for players with disabilities or additional needs.

## **Our Club Commandments**

**We welcome everyone** - Creating an inclusive, friendly and open environment for all.

**We are one club** - Working together across men's, women's and junior cricket as part of one community.

**We show respect** - Treating teammates, opponents, umpires and the game itself with respect.

**We play with integrity** - Fair play, honesty and being true to the spirit of cricket.

**We enjoy the game** - Creating an environment where players of all ages enjoy being part of the club.

**We support each other** - Encouraging teammates on and off the field through development, setbacks and success.

**We represent our club with pride** - Representing Ropley positively through our behaviour, attitude and commitment.

**We strive to improve** - Always looking to develop as players, volunteers and as a club.

## **Strategic Pillars**

The club will focus on five key pillars over the next five years:

**1. Cricket**

**2. Facilities**

**3. Community & Club Culture**

**4. Governance & Sustainability**

**5. Player Experience**

## 1. Cricket

Develop strong, sustainable teams and clear pathways for players.

Priorities:

- Strengthen the sustainability and competitiveness of Saturday senior teams, ensuring both teams can aim for strong league finishes
- Support the development of junior players into senior cricket.
- Integrate the Women & Girls programme within the wider club structure.
- Provide high quality coaching and training opportunities, including developing more qualified coaches.
- Extend cricket activity beyond the summer season by supporting winter leagues, indoor cricket and pre-season training, helping players stay connected to the club throughout the year.
- Encourage player development and opportunity at all levels of the club.

## 2. Facilities

High quality practice facilities are essential to supporting player development across all sections of the club.

Priorities:

- Restore and enhance the square and outfield, particularly addressing the damage sustained during Spring 2025 maintaining the high standards that Ropley is known for.
- Upgrade the club's practice facilities through the installation of new nets, working with the ECB and Parish Council to support a project planned for 2026–2027. This project will require significant fundraising and represents a major investment in the future of cricket at the club.
- Ensure pavilion facilities meet the needs of all sections of the club with support from Ropley Sports Club.
- Improve matchday equipment and infrastructure including the scoreboard, digital scoring equipment, boundary markers and playing equipment.
- Plan for long term facility sustainability.

### 3. Community & Club Culture

Strengthen Ropley's identity as a welcoming village club.

Priorities:

- Foster a strong One Club culture across open, women, and junior sections.
- Encourage social events and family involvement around the club.
- Maintain a welcoming environment for new players and members.
- Develop strong links with local schools and community organisations, supporting programmes such as All Stars/Dynamos cricket and other initiatives that introduce young players to the game. We all grow better together.
- Celebrate achievements and milestones of players across all sections of the club.
- Continue developing an inclusive club where players of all abilities, including those with disabilities or additional needs, are supported to take part in cricket.

### 4. Governance & Sustainability

Ensure the club remains well run and financially sustainable.

Priorities:

- Ensure we continue to be fully aligned to all the requirements of ECB's Clubmark
- Maintain a strong and effective committee structure.
- Recruit and retain volunteers to support the running of the club.
- Ensure safeguarding and compliance standards are met.
- Maintain financial stability while seeking opportunities for sustainable growth.
- Secure sponsorship and external funding where possible.

### 5. Player Experience

At Ropley we want every player to feel welcomed, valued and supported throughout their time at the club.

Ropley has always been at its best when three things sit alongside each other:

- We compete hard and try to win games
- We develop players, especially younger ones
- We value commitment, contribution and the people who make the club tick

These principles guide how we approach selection, development and club culture.

Priorities:

- Create a welcoming environment where new players quickly feel part of the club.
- Maintain a positive and supportive training environment.
- Ensure selection decisions are fair and communicated clearly.
- Support player development at all levels.
- Encourage strong social connections across teams.
- Promote long term involvement through coaching, volunteering and supporting the next generation.

## **Women & Girls Cricket**

The Women & Girls section of the club will operate under its own five year development plan. The club commits to supporting the delivery of that plan, ensuring integration with the wider club structure, providing facilities and resources where possible, and promoting equal visibility across the club.

## **What Success Will Look Like in 2031**

- Ropley continues to be recognised as a welcoming and inclusive village cricket club
- Senior teams are competitive, sustainable and well supported
- Junior players see a clear pathway into senior cricket
- Women and girls cricket is thriving and well integrated in the club
- Cricket activity takes place throughout the year, with winter leagues, indoor cricket and pre-season training helping keep players connected to the club.
- The club's facilities reflect the pride taken in the ground and provide a great cricket experience when training and playing.
- The club is a lively part of village life, bringing people together through cricket, social events and strong partnerships within the community.
- A broad group of volunteers supports the running of the club
- Players, supporters and families feel proud to represent Ropley

## **Action Plan**

The committee will review and update an action plan annually to deliver the objectives within this development plan. This allows the strategic direction of the club to remain consistent while enabling the actions required to evolve over time.

This plan reflects the type of club we want Ropley to remain: competitive, welcoming and rooted in the community.