



Apprentice Groundsperson

Sussex Cricket is believed to be the oldest professional sports club in the world and the Grounds team play an essential and integral part in the success of its cricket team.

In the last ten years, the Grounds team have twice been awarded the ECB's best 'One-Day Pitches' trophy as well as receiving two commendations; including in 2017 coming runner-up for the 'best four-day pitches' and receiving a commendation for 'four-day pitches' in 2016, 2019 and 2021. We also received a commendation for 'one day pitches in 2024.

The Grounds team won the Institute of Groundsmanship 'Professional Cricket Grounds Team of the Year' awards in 2016 and 2019.

The team have responsibility for the grounds at both Blackstone Academy and the Brighton Aldridge Community Academy, in addition to preparing the wicket and the ground for match days at Hove. With additional responsibility for providing first-class quality practice facilities, re-laying the wickets, the irrigation and ground rejuvenation.

The Role

This is an excellent learning opportunity and an exciting time to join the groundstaff at Sussex Cricket. This will provide the successful candidate with experience in producing some of the best pitches in domestic cricket as well as gaining experience of all forms of wicket preparation and the day-to-day maintenance of first-class playing surfaces. In recent years, the 1st Central County Ground has undergone a £9m re-development and is developing next phase of ground development.

The successful candidate will spend blocks of time at each of the cricket grounds (Hove, Brighton Aldridge Community Academy and Blackstone) gaining hands-on experience as well as learning machinery maintenance and grinding skills.

Working hours during the cricket season can be long and therefore a flexible approach is needed. Working weekends and evenings is also often necessary during the season. Working hours outside of the cricket season are more flexible. College attendance at college will typically be one day per week.

As well as working as a Groundsperson during the cricket season, during the winter months the Apprentice Groundsperson will spend much of their time preparing the ground for the following season.

Please note that this particular role is physically demanding and so the candidate must be physically fit enough to be able to perform the duties required of the role.

Sussex Cricket Values

Selflessness Honesty Accessibility Respect Enjoyment Drive



Equal Opportunities

Sussex Cricket is committed to improving the diversity of our workforce. We welcome applicants from all walks of life and backgrounds who can bring diversity of thought and experience to the Club.

Sussex Cricket is committed to ensuring that all applicants do not receive less favourable treatment or are discriminated against, on the grounds of their age; disability; gender; marriage and civil partnership; pregnancy or maternity; race; religion or belief; sex or sexual orientation.

Safeguarding

Sussex Cricket is committed to safeguarding: protecting children, young people and adults at risk. As such, some roles may be subject to a process of vetting with the need for up-to-date DBS checks and the seeking of two work references that are satisfactory to Sussex Cricket.

The Application Process

If you would like to apply for this role, please submit a CV and a cover letter outlining your suitability for the role to: recruitment@sussexcricket.co.uk

Closing date: 5pm on Thursday 2nd January 2025

Please note that applications received after this date will not be considered.



Job Description

Job Title:	Apprentice Groundsperson
Reports To:	Grounds Manager with a dotted line to the Deputy Grounds Manager
Hours:	Full-time (weekend and evening work during the season)
Location:	Rotating between the 1st Central County Ground in Hove and Blackstone Academy Ground
Remuneration:	£240 per week in year one (apprenticeship hourly rate changes as per the rates set by the Government). In year 2, increases to age-related National Minimum Wage

Job Purpose

- Apprentice Groundsperson working/training across the 1st Central County Ground and Blackstone, as directed by the Grounds Manager
- Carry out all grounds duties in a safe manner within current Health and Safety Regulations

Main Learning Areas and Responsibilities

- Undertake and successfully complete a groundsperson apprenticeship qualification (exact nature of course to be determined according to the individual concerned)
- Lone/unsupervised working where appropriate and where competent
- Wicket preparation: covering, cutting, verticutting, watering, rolling, marking out etc.
- Matchday duties: set up fielding nets/practice facilities, positioning boundary rope, setting out fielding discs, positioning sightscreens, setting up advertising boards, sweeping wicket at interval, repairing foot holes, re-marking wicket
- Maintenance of square: mowing/presentation, verticutting, fertilising, repairing wickets, re-seeding, watering, covering up, spiking
- Maintenance of outfield: mowing/presentation, fertilising, repairs, re-seeding, spiking
- Upkeep of grass net area and preparation of practice facilities and provision of wickets
- Maintenance, repair and setting up of all grounds care machinery
- Perform pre-start checks and routine maintenance to turfcare machinery
- Carry out any other task-related to the role and business objectives that the Grounds Manager / Chief Executive may deem appropriate

Teamwork

- Work effectively and safely as part of the Grounds Team
- Work with others in your department and across the wider Club to achieve the Organisation's goals
- Develop a relationship with all departments and understand their roles
- Project and promote a positive image of Sussex Cricket at all times