



## **Apprentice Groundsperson 2019**

### **Information for Applicants**

Sussex Cricket is offering an excellent opportunity for a person to train as an Apprentice Groundsperson, gaining a National Diploma Level 2 from Plumpton College. This apprenticeship would cover a two-year period starting immediately.

The successful candidate will:

- Be willing to be flexible in their working hours, especially during the cricket season;
- Be willing to attend Plumpton College (one day a week);
- Demonstrate a 'can do' attitude;
- Have their own transport to allow them to travel across the different sites at unsociable times.

#### **About us**

Sussex Cricket is truly unique and is believed to be the oldest professional sports club in the world. Sussex won its first County Championship title in 2003 after a wait of 164 years, and became the dominant team of the decade, winning ten trophies in ten years. In 2011 and 2012 Sussex reached one quarter-final and three semi-finals in the two cup competitions as well as rising each season up the table in Division One of the County Championship. In 2013 and 2014, Sussex finished third in the County Championships and last season made it to the final of the T20 Blast.

The Grounds team play an essential and integral part in the success of the cricket team. In the last ten years, the Grounds team have twice been awarded the England and Wales Cricket Board best 'One-Day Pitches' trophy as well as receiving two commendations, and in 2017 came runner up for the best four day pitches and received a commendation for four day pitches in 2016. The Grounds team were also winners of the Institute of Groundsmanship 'Professional Cricket Grounds Team of the Year' award in 2016.

In addition to preparing the wicket and the ground for match days at Hove, the Grounds team are also responsible for providing first-class quality practice facilities. Additionally, the Grounds team are responsible for re-laying the wickets, the irrigation and ground rejuvenation. The Grounds team are also responsible for the grounds at Preston Nomads Cricket Club, Blackstone and the BACA.

#### **The Role**

This is an excellent learning opportunity and an exciting time to join the Grounds staff at Sussex Cricket. As well as gaining experience of all forms of wicket preparation and the day-to-day maintenance of first-class playing surfaces, the Grounds team have been undertaking a programme to re-lay the square, meaning that the successful candidate will gain hands-on experience of cricket wicket construction and will also play a role in the rejuvenation of the playing surfaces at Hove. In recent years, the 1<sup>st</sup> Central County Ground has undergone a £9m re-development.

The successful candidate will spend blocks of time at each of the cricket grounds (Hove, Blackstone and Preston Nomads CC) gaining hands-on experience.

The Groundstaeam have run apprenticeships since 2009, during which time fifteen people have completed an apprenticeship and are now employed in the sports-turf industry.

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 and on a reduced basis. College attendance at Plumpton will be normally 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.

Whilst we are an equal opportunities employer, this particular role is physically demanding and so the candidate must be physically fit and able to perform the duties required of the role.

### **Remuneration**

The apprenticeship is for a two-year period. In year 1, the pay will be £150 per week rising to National Minimum Wage in year 2.

The Organisation offers 25 days' annual leave per annum.

The Organisation has a personal pension scheme, with 3% contribution from the employer, and 2% employee contribution. This will increase to 3% employer and 5% employee contributions in April 2019.

### **The Application Process**

If you would like to be considered for this opportunity, please complete the enclosed application form in full and return it to:

Kay Gunn, Head of People, Sussex Cricket, The 1<sup>st</sup> Central County Ground, Eaton Road, Hove, East Sussex, BN3 3AN

If you have completed the application form online, you may email it back to: [recruitment@sussexcricket.co.uk](mailto:recruitment@sussexcricket.co.uk)

The closing date for completed applications is **9am on Monday 18 March**.

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

For successful candidates, interviews will be held at the 1<sup>st</sup> Central County Ground in Hove **later in the week commencing 18 March 2019**.