



Apprentice Groundsperson 2020

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 our training partner. This apprenticeship would cover a two-year period starting as soon as possible.

The successful candidate will:

- Be willing to be flexible in their working hours, especially during the cricket season;
- Be willing to attend College (one day a fortnight);
- 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 have enjoyed huge success in the last two decades in various formats and are working hard to continue that.

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 and 2019. The Grounds team are the current holders of the Institute of Groundsmanship 'Professional Cricket Grounds Team of the Year' award, which they also won 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 get to experience the results of producing some of the best pitches in domestic cricket. In recent years, the 1st Central County Ground has undergone a £9m re-development and we are about to embark on the next phase of developments.

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

The Grounds team have run apprenticeships since 2009, during which time seventeen 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 college 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 5% employee contribution.

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 1st 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

The closing date for completed applications is **10am on Monday 27th January.**

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