

### Tea 4 Two Food Banks Campaign

Dear all,

This year has been a testing time for all of us, and Sussex Cricket Foundation has been very pleased to be able to work with you over the last few months in supporting our clubs in delivering a huge amount of recreational cricket over the summer.

However, as we wrote earlier in the season, COVID-19 has had far-reaching impacts across the county. We know from talking to our members that many are keen to take action to help within their local community: doing good through the volunteers, players and friends who make up the Sussex Cricket Family. This letter is by way of a reminder about a project that we launched earlier in the season, and with which we hope that you will become involved, whereby clubs can act as channels for donations of food for people who are going hungry. Our original announcement was picked up by news channels as far afield as Kerala, India, and was featured both on BBC Sussex and on the Guerilla Cricket internet-radio channel during the Pakistan v. England test series!

But why are we doing this? Recent research clearly shows that food insecurity in Sussex has hugely increased during the COVID-19 crisis: in Brighton & Hove, for example, there has been a 374% rise in food-parcel distribution between July 2019 and July 2020. This peaked at over 3,000 parcels a week and remains very high with 1,200 households receiving food-parcel support in September. As the second wave hits, combined with the end of furlough, we fear that this situation is only going to get worse – and this is particularly hard during winter. This is where **Tea 4 Two** comes in.

**We invite you – as a local club – to form a link with a food bank in your community and act as a hub for donations** (either at the club itself or at another local venue). COVID-19 restrictions mean that we are not able to enjoy tea in the same way when we play cricket, but we can all donate packaged food to share with others at this very difficult time... so we hope that you can encourage your members (and others linked to your club) to bring donations of healthy food, which is then delivered by a volunteer from your club to a local food bank.

We hope very much that you will be willing to take part in Tea 4 Two! What is suggested is as follows.

1. **Find a volunteer in your club who would like to be the focal point for Tea 4 Two**, who can encourage your members to take part, to be in charge of delivery, and act as point of contact with the food bank. Work with him/her to find a good collection point for your members: we appreciate that not all clubs have access to a club house (particularly during the winter months), so the collection point might be your club house, a local pub or shop, another sports centre, or even a school.

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2. **Find a local food bank.** We have attached to this email a list on which we hope there is one that is appropriate; alternatively, your members may be aware of another organization to which to donate in your local area, because many have sprung up over the last few months. Not all Sussex food banks are on our list, but all will be happy for your support. Ask your volunteer to contact the food bank to explain that your club will be delivering food at intervals.
3. **Set up a collection point** – a box in a corner will do fine! There is sign that you can print out and stick on the box and if you drop us a line then we would be very happy to send you some SCF stickers too.
4. **Let your members know!** When they come to the collection point (whether that is your club house or elsewhere), ask them to bring donations. The food bank itself will know what food is required (perhaps even changing on a weekly basis) – but as a start point, we have provided a list of the food that is likely to be needed. Although it is called ‘Tea 4 Two’, **we strongly encourage the donations to be from this list, rather than tea!**
5. At an appropriate point (perhaps weekly, or whatever suits your volunteer), **the volunteer from your club picks up and delivers the food to the chosen food bank.** While at the food bank, he/she can ask whether the donations are appropriate, and you can let the members know what the current needs are for donations.
6. You can find all the information – this letter, plus links to the poster and to the lists of foods and food banks – on the SCF website at <https://sussexcricket.co.uk/community-initiatives>

Over time, you may also want to **ask the food bank if they would be happy to put up a poster or take flyers (if safe to share) about your club** – you might get some great new members!

And finally, please **tell us about what you are doing!** Here at SCF we would love to share your stories – who knows, it might even get national publicity because we think it is a great idea! It would be so helpful if you could keep track of how many deliveries you’ve done – and of course photos are always welcome for our social media, to get the word out about what our clubs are doing and to encourage further donations and engagement.

Several clubs are already taking part, and we hope to extend this throughout the winter and beyond. We look forward to hearing your stories – and at SCF we are so happy that we can use our network of fantastic clubs and volunteers, county-wide, to make a difference at what is such a difficult time for so many.

The impact of COVID-19 is not going away any time soon. Let’s make a difference and provide Tea 4 Two!

With best wishes,

**Jon Filby**

Chair, Sussex Cricket Foundation