



NEWSLETTER April 2016

PRINCIPAL PARTNERS



Cover picture

The children of Sulshatpada make full use of project kit on a sporting village wicket.

Project Front Foot (India)

The Dharavi Cricket Academy

With inter-project matches scheduled for mid-April much of the coaching focused upon game preparation including those vital last minute instructions issued in the team huddle. For the bowlers, practice focused on run up and bowling action. Below, assistant coach Janardan works with an Academy player. As no match preparation would be complete without recourse to fielding, the Academy players were again put through their paces with close and outfield catching, ground fielding, and throwing. The scene was now set for some of the most competitive cricket of the season.



Matches

There is no finer or fiercer competition than among teammates. To this end, our coaches organised matches between the various morning and afternoon players in each age group. With the exam season over, the day sunny and warm, there was no better place to be in Mumbai than at the Gymkhana and playing cricket.



Out in the middle the day proved a success for the morning groups who won both the U12 and U16 matches. The U14 afternoon team prevented a clean sweep with an exciting three run victory in an edge of the seat contest.



The Academy bowlers had much the better of proceedings during the day, helped in no small measure by a sporting track and some cavalier shot selection. More pictures of the April action at the Gymkhana can be found by going to our Project Front Foot Facebook page.



As a follow-up to our day in the sun Project Front Foot is delighted to announce that Sameer Shaikh has been selected for the Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA) U16 camp, while recent Player of the Month winner and project stalwart, Narendra Rathod, has been selected by the Indian Gymkhana open team for an upcoming MCA tournament.

Player of the Month Awards

The decision-making panel for the monthly awards comprises of our coaches and assistants. One player from each age group is selected from both the morning and afternoon sessions. Selection criteria include: attendance, attire, helpfulness, attitude, improved skills performance, and match play. The season will conclude with a function in early June to announce the Dharavi Cricket Academy Players of the Year.

Age Group/Session	April Winner	Award Criteria
U12 (Morning)	Rahul Barun) The selections were based entirely on performances in the inter-project matches.)))))
U12 (Afternoon)	Sandeep Sonkar	
U14 (Morning)	Ravi Mashidi	
U14 (Afternoon)	Sohail Shaikh	
U16 (Morning)	Rahul Singh	
U16 (Afternoon)	Inayat Idrisi	

In the interval between matches at the Gymkhana our Academy coaches and Reality staff members took the opportunity to present certificates to March Player of the Month winners. Below (L) Luana Conti presents the U16 award to Narendra Rathod, while (R) Ravi Shahu presents first time U12 winner, Rajesh Jaiswar, with his certificate.



Above, Academy coach, Harshad Bhojnaik presents U14 age group winners Nirbhay Kumar (L) and Vaibhav Vhatkar (R) with their award certificates.

Project Attendance

Age Grp	Nos/kids	Sessions	% Attend
U12 (M)	13	7	88
U12 (A)	12	8	84
U14 (M)	13	8	85
U14 (A)	15	8	92
U16 (M)	12	8	89
U16 (A)	14	8	88

Session attendance was slightly down in April from the usual high numbers. With exams out of the way many Dharavi children take the opportunity to return to their family villages. Those who stayed enjoyed another month of varied and innovative play provided by our coaching staff.

PFF Picture Archive

During our seven seasons in Mumbai we have amassed a huge gallery of pictures from Dharavi, the Gymkhana, and Shivaji Park. Launched in January, this archive section enables us to look back at the project's evolution. This month's feature dates back to November 2014 and highlights a long time pavilion resident and PFF supporter.



You can never have too much protective equipment in the modern game. This applies both to players and, apparently, the small family of cats who live in the Gymkhana pavilion. Here Hobbs (or is it Sutcliffe?) models a helmet courtesy of Trent Bridge and the Nottinghamshire County Cricket Club. With Mumbai edging ever closer to gridlock it pays to be safety conscious especially if you have nine lives and no resort to DRS. Amiable, light on their feet, ever keen to scamper a stolen single, Hobbs, Sutcliffe and friends live in purrrrr-fect harmony with the *mali*, his groundstaff, and our kids and coaches.

Rural Schools Initiative

In early November I was approached by the Lions Club Dahisar to provide a kit package for their adopted village of Sulshatpada mid-way between Mumbai and Tarapur. We now have pictures of the kit in action. To the snapshot on the cover page can be added the following two courtesy of Lions Club ambassador, Mr JNS Murthy, and our long-time project friend and supporter, Ramu.



Project Front Foot (UK)

Kit 4 Kids

Plans for a formal partnership between Project Front Foot and the Lancashire County Cricket Club Foundation moved a step closer in early April following a meeting at Old Trafford with Sandy Mitchell, the Foundation's Head of Community Development.

In further kit-related developments PFF met with the Lord's Taverners at their HQ in Chancery Lane to discuss a possible kit donation.

Thanks to Steve Archer and the Yorkshire Cricket Board we pencilled in June 13 for a kit run to Headingley.

Further north still and plans are underway for a kit donation from Ian Wardle and our friends at the Northumberland Cricket Board.

During the month we carried out a stocktake, at project base camp in Berkshire, of the remaining kit from last year's appeal.

Acknowledgements

As always my thanks to our coaching staff at the Gymkhana who continued their sterling work during April and to Jyoti, Ravi, Joe and Lethy at Reality Gives who helped keep the project running smoothly. Project Front Foot would like to express its gratitude once more to Allcargo Logistics Ltd for its support, without which none of this would have been possible.

And finally

the recent visit to India of Catherine, Duchess of Cambridge, offered a fleeting insight into the House of Windsor's sporting prowess which, for once, did not involve horses. The lofted T20 shot pictured opposite suggests more than a passing interest with the game. However, on the matter of kit etiquette, the decision to sport a pair of high wedge Espadrilles would be frowned upon at Lord's. Should the Duchess wish to progress in the game we recommend a spot of tuition by our very own coaching royalty, Bhavana Patil.



Vic Mills. May 2016.