



NEWSLETTER: MAY 2018





Contents

Project Partners & Supporters	3
About the Cover Pictures	4
Project Front Foot (India)	
Dharavi Cricket Academy	
Coaching	4
Matches	5
Friendship Cup	5
Openers with Attitude	7
Project Pen Portrait	7
Player of the Month Awards	8
Gymkhana Club & Ground	8
Rural Schools Initiative	
Women's Cricket	9
Project Front Foot (UK)	
Funding Drive	10
Front Foot Forum	10
Acknowledgements	10
And finally	10

PROJECT PARTNERS



PROJECT SUPPORTERS



Cover Pictures

Recent project action from the GSB Ground and Shivaji Park.

Project Front Foot (India)

Dharavi Cricket Academy

Coaching

The coaching continued unabated during the final full month of the season as DCA players looked to iron out remaining technical flaws in their batting, tweak bowling actions and run up, and improve their already high standard of fielding.



With the mercury continuing to rise, the need to rehydrate is just as crucial as taking guard. The coaches' insistence that each of the players brings a bottle of water is further evidence of a cricket programme that continually influences attitudes and behaviour far beyond the field of play.



Matches

Keen to give players the maximum opportunity to convert skill sets into competitive action, HB Sports organised two matches towards the end of May. Despite an end-of-term air about the fixtures, the games nevertheless confirmed the Academy players as some of the hardest working young cricketers in Mumbai.

The Academy U14s ran out 27 run winners against a determined GSB XI. A crucial stand between Suyash (20) and Kushal (15) paved the way. Pitting team-mate against team-mate, an entertaining and hard-fought U16 inter-club match saw the Red team claim the Gymkhana bragging rights with a 36 run victory.

U14	DCA	125 all out (25 overs)	GSB	98 all out (22 overs)
U16	Red	156 all out (25 overs)	Blue	120 all out (24 overs)

Friendship Cup

One of the many highlights of a busy April was the annual Friendship Cup tournament. The Dharavi Cricket Academy U14s and U16s featured in two finals winning both. Thanks to Ravi and Nadia at our partner NGO, Reality Gives, we have more pictures of the fun and games.





Openers with Attitude

Opinion is divided over openers and opening the innings. On the one hand, with the opposition attacking and fields up, there are easy runs to be had whether off the edge or by piercing the infield. Conversely, you are facing the new ball, with more men in catching positions, feet perhaps not yet moving, and every chance you'll get that unplayable ball. In such situations you want your openers to have attitude, whether it be bristling belligerence or stoic stickability. An image from the recent Friendship Cup competition suggested that the Dharavi Cricket Academy has just that: openers with attitude!



Project Pen Portrait

The Rathod brothers, Narendra and Hiren, have long been associated with the Dharavi cricket project. Narendra, an elegant batting all-rounder, is now studying at Mumbai University. As a result, the family colours are now sported by his younger 16 year old brother. A pupil at Aryan Junior College in Sion, Hiren is another talented product of Dharavi's narrow streets and alleyways. Playfully nicknamed "Chubby" by his team-mates, the younger Rathod is a bundle of hyperactive cricketing ability. Happy to bat, bowl or keep wicket, you have the feeling that if he could keep to his own bowling he would. Without the height of his older brother, Hiren is nevertheless growing into a fine young cricketer. He plays the game in the right spirit too, constantly chattering away to fellow players and coaches, a ready smile never far away. Cricketer and character in one: no project could ask for more.



Player of the Month Awards

The decision-making panel for the monthly awards comprises of HB Sports coaches and assistants. One player per age group is selected from each of the morning and afternoon sessions. Selection criteria include: attendance, attire, helpfulness, attitude, skill set and match performances. The season will conclude with a function to announce the DCA Players of the Year.

<u>Age Group/Session</u>	<u>May Awards</u>
U12 (Morning)	Tejas Pol
U12 (Afternoon)	Istiaq Ansari
U14 (Morning)	Suyash Naryankar
U14 (Afternoon)	Kushal Jaiswar
U16 (Morning)	Muhammad Azuruddin
U16 (Afternoon)	Harish Ansari

Gymkhana Club & Ground

In the last twelve months, to solve (in part) the growing traffic problem around Matunga, the local council sanctioned a road-widening project at the northern end of our Gymkhana ground. As a result, we and the sporting public of the suburb lost a chunk of valuable playing area. That said, it remains a small price to pay for a ground that is the jewel in the project crown.



However, the powers-to-be opted for a decidedly local council solution to a decidedly local council problem. Unfortunately, someone forgot about the trees and street lights. Once sidewalk snug, trees and lights now find themselves, to their obvious discomfort and distress, in the middle of the newly widened road. India. Incredible India.

Rural Schools Initiative

Women's Cricket

As women's cricket gathers momentum in India, it's worth reminding that – to slightly less fuss and fanfare than at international level – Project Front Foot is doing its bit for the sisterhood.



Female Cricket
Academy

The Akanksha
Foundation



Shishuvan School
Matunga

Project Front Foot (UK)

Funding Drive

With Indian Customs officials becoming increasingly strict on bringing recycled kit into the country, we have begun to source items such as plastic bats and wicket sets through local Mumbai suppliers. The cost of these items during our recent visit in February and March was a little over £500; a significant part of our £4000 yearly running costs. If you would like to support this Mumbai kit initiative or help sponsor other aspects of Project Front Foot then please contact PFF founder Vic Mills at projectfrontfoot@gmail.com.



Front Foot Forum

As a UK registered charity Project Front Foot complied with the new Data Protection legislation that came into effect on 25 May.

For more details and pictures of Project Front Foot's work in May please click on our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/projectfrontfoot/.

Acknowledgements

As always my thanks to the HB Sports coaching staff who continued their sterling work during May and the staff at our partner NGO, Reality Gives, who helped keep the project running smoothly. Project Front Foot would like to express its continued gratitude to Allcargo Logistics Ltd for its support, without which none of this would have been possible.

And finally

few would argue that the best ticket in Windsor during May was PFF trustee Tim Gill's retirement bash at a local hostelry. Why else festoon the town in flags and bunting? A one-company man for 43 years, Tim was an old ball, into the wind, line and length merchant for ICI/Akzonobel. Never far from the sporting theatre, Tim shared schoolboy track meets with Sebastian Coe. Whatever happened to Seb? Swapping lane for touchline, his natural speed saw further success with Sheffield and Yorkshire

boys on the footy pitch. Both passions continued at university in Swansea where he represented the Welsh Universities at 4x100, while winning a much coveted UAU winner's medal, scoring in the final against Loughborough.

Tim and I met during his "year out" with ICI when posted to Lincoln in 1975. Following a 7-fer against Burghley Park in the seconds he was promoted into the 1st XI taking a 5-fer on debut; approached by captain, Tim Hartley, at the tea break, and expecting congratulations, he was simply told that if he wanted to remain in the first team he should turn up next weekend with clean boots! Tough love at the Lindum. On returning to company HQ Tim served the ICI cricket team with distinction before joining Sulhamstead & Ufton CC. His footy career continued with Isthmian league side, Hampton, before a knee injury brought an earlier than planned retirement.



His competitive instincts in the last twenty years have been channelled into running and rowing. The former has seen him compete in five London marathons - raising thousands for charity in the process - along with others in New York, Paris, Berlin and Rotterdam; completing the course in under four hours on each occasion. His most recent 26.2, just weeks ago, was in Brighton where he raised £4000+ for breast cancer research. Swapping road for river he has become a competent amateur oarsman with Goring Gap Boat Club. When not performing himself, and true to his roots, he is a keen follower of Yorkshire county cricket and a lifelong 100% Blade.

Tim has been with Project Front Foot from our first summer in 2009. When we became a registered UK charity in the autumn of 2011 he was a natural for trustee. In the last decade he has driven many a mile either collecting or ferrying kit. His garage doubles as our "Southern Storage Facility" in the process denying family use until our kit departs for Mumbai each autumn. Every project should have a Yorkshireman on board. He provides reason, good sense and balance to my flights of fancy. To this end - a last hurrah for his administrative skills - he, along with the other project trustees, will carry out a root and branch assessment in the coming months of PFF's future direction. A laurel and hardy handshake, then, for Tim and with it our good wishes for a long, healthy and happy retirement. Akzonobel's loss is PFF's gain!

Vic Mills. Berlin. June 2018.