



THE ROSE

VOL 3 NO 1
JUNE 2026

GAIL ROSE

**CLUB CONFIRMS
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**MERSEY ROSE RECREATIONALS
CRICKET CLUB**

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WELCOME

So here we are in our third season and it's quite a journey we've been on in a short time.



We're very pleased that we are now in a position to be playing regular hardball fixtures and we hope this will be a springboard to further recruitment. We're also very grateful for the help we have received from Phill O'Brien and Wavertree Cricket Club during the winter months, especially around coaching, and we have seen the impact of this in our opening games.

We hope 2026 will be a year in which the club grows further and our players continue to develop in their own games.

This June we will once again be participating in the softball section of the Out4Cricket at Sutton Coldfield. Last year we reached the final, losing to Surrey, so this year we hope to... well, have another enjoyable day of cricket and make new friends! After all, that's what we're about.

On which note, despite the loss at home to Salford Chargers in May it was great to play a new team that understands our ethos and the value of social, friendly cricket. We look forward to playing them again in July, but in the meantime we will be travelling to our friends at Ormskirk Occasionals and Nantclwyd before welcoming Leeds Kites on their first visit to Liverpool on 28th June.

Keep on keeping on,

Andi and Joe

MATCH REPORT V SALFORD CHARGERS, 31.5.26



Salford Chargers 275-4

(Jamie Bandy 52*, Dharan Muralidharan 51*; Isaac Lockett 1-18)

Mersey Rose 149

(Isaac Lockett 70, Ian Mosquito 13; Dharan Muralidharan 3-19)

Salford Chargers won by 126 runs Scorecard

Mersey Rose hosted Salford Chargers at Wavertree CC in the first encounter between the two clubs. Alan Hitchmough and Isaac Lockett were playing in the first game of 2026, while Heidi Page made her first appearance in hardball cricket.

Put into bat, Salford Chargers' opening pair negotiated some accurate bowling from Andrew Foster and Issac Lockett, but it was Dave Leivesley who made the breakthrough when he found a way through to Miles Waddington's pads to dismiss the opener for 14. Dharan Muralidharan then joined Daniel Parker and the second wicket partnership began to dominate the bowling, with both Muralidharan and Parker retiring on reaching 50.

Despite this, Rose were working well in the field with Heidi Page in particular performing heroics to prevent boundaries. There were also a couple of opportunities for catches, both of which would have been pretty spectacular, with Alex Leivesley not quite holding a catch off his dad's bowling and Anna Page getting fingertips to a difficult chance at point. Although luck was not quite on Rose's side, their commitment in the field never wavered.



Heidi Page

The second wicket fell when Andi Page bowled Sam Butler for 4. There were further wickets for Aaron McKenna and Isaac Lockett, but the Chargers' Adam Rush (25), Nick Burrows (11) and Tom Lowe (23*) all made solid contributions while Jamie Bendy became the third player to retire after reaching his half-century. Chargers declared their innings after 40 overs on 275 for 4.

Heidi Page put in an impressive debut with the ball, bowling three overs of left-arm unorthodox spin, but was not rewarded with a wicket for her efforts. It was always going to be a tough score to chase but Rose got off to the worst possible start as Chargers' Tom Lowe struck twice to remove both openers early. Isaac Lockett attempted to engineer a revival, playing positively and at times aggressively, finding the boundary regularly. Wickets continued to fall, however, and with the target clearly beyond them Rose's batters opted to play for the draw. After Lockett retired on 50, Anna Page, something of a specialist at patient defensive batting, came to the crease and for a while it looked as though Rose might pull off some kind of result. The problem for Anna was that she could do nothing about wickets falling at the other end as lower order batters came and went. Eventually, Isaac Lockett returned with ten overs remaining. Could they hold out until the end of the innings? If you wanted to pick two batters to do this job it would be Anna and Isaac but unfortunately, with just over eight overs remaining, the latter was deceived by an inswinging delivery from Daniel Parker that hit middle stump. It was a ball worthy of winning any game.

On a positive note, Isaac Lockett's 70 (from 70 balls, including a six and 14 fours) is the highest ever individual score for Mersey Rose, and we weren't far away from earning a draw. Heidi Page is also going to be an incredible player in a few years!

Many thanks to Salford Chargers, especially for the way they approached the game (it is always good to play against teams who understand the ethos of friendly cricket) and for helping tidy up afterwards.

MATCH REPORT V FRODSHAM, 24.5.26



Frodsham 219-5 (Trevor Davies 30*, Nick Corless 30*; Andi Page 2-22)

Mersey Rose 49 (Dave Leivesley 18, Ryan Murphy 5-4)

Frodsham won by 170 runs Scorecard

Mersey Rose's hardball team kicked off their season at Frodsham in the blazing sunshine.

Making their debuts for the team were Dave Leivesley, Alex Leivesley, Gail Rose and Andrew Foster. Anna Page stood in as captain.

Andrew Foster and Alex Leivesley opened the bowling against Frodsham's disciplined pair of Nick Corless and Joe Davies. There were few chances, although Anna Page almost pulled off a sensational catch at point. The Frodsham openers retired on reaching 30 to give others the opportunity to bat, which brought Trevor Davies and James Blythe to the crease. Blythe batted positively and sensibly, while Trevor Davies seemed in a rush to get back to the pavilion.

Rose made the breakthrough when an innocuous delivery from Aaron McKenna

was edged to give Andi Page an easy catch. Page then bowled five overs of spin in which he created difficulties and took two wickets courtesy of outstanding catches from Andrew Foster.

Further wickets fell, with Alex Leivesley getting his first wicket and Foster bowling Samuel Harvey for 7, before Roger London and Mark Clement took the score beyond 200.

Set an unlikely target of 220 for victory, Rose started off positively with Dave Leivesley and Andrew Foster making solid progress against some accurate bowling. Just when it looked like they had weathered the storm, Foster was caught and bowled by James Blythe. Alex Leivesley then offered some stubborn resistance and batted sensibly for a long spell with dad Dave before finally succumbing to a yorker from Joe Davies. Joe Davies also picked up the wicket of Dave Leivesley, lbw for 18, and thereafter Rose were unable to deal with the threat posed by Ryan Murphy, who picked up five wickets in five overs, and finished all out on 49.

Without a full team available it was always going to be a challenge for Rose who performed creditably in the field and bowled well at times. While there were learning points to take about batting, ultimately it was enjoyable day of cricket and the team was happy to play its first game of 2026. Taking first wickets is always a confidence boost for new players.



Alex Leivesley

SOFTBALL MATCH REPORTS



Mersey Rose 70-5 (Net score 235)

Newsham Park 50-2 (Net score 240) (Anna Page 1-3)

Newsham Park won by 5 runs

The softball team started their season with a visit to Newsham Park in April.

Captain Anna Page opted to bat first in wet conditions in which scoring quickly proved difficult. However, Mersey Rose were able to find gaps in the field and looked set to post a decent score, but unfortunately some rather dubious calls for quick runs that weren't there led to three run-outs. Mersey Rose finished on 60 runs from 16 overs, creditable in the circumstances, but crucially the loss of five wickets meant the new score was 235. In response Newsham Park struggled to find the boundary but, despite tidy bowling that gave little away, Mersey Rose weren't able to take wickets. Heidi Page bowled well but unfortunately was denied a wicket when a catch was dropped at point. Anna Page made the breakthrough when she managed to find middle stump, and later in the innings Aaron McKenna added another wicket.

The game went to the final over but, unfortunately for Rose, Newsham Park hit the necessary runs without further setback to win by five runs.

Player of the match was Anna Page for probably the best two overs she has ever bowled.

Newsham Park 100-9 (Net score 255) (Andi Page 3-12)

Mersey Rose 90-8 (Net Score: 250) (Rob Smith 21)

Newsham Park won by 5 runs

We were invited to make another visit to Newsham Park for another game on 27th May after another team had cancelled. Naturally we were happy to take up the offer!

Mersey Rose without most of their regular softball players, although Ian Mosquito played in his first game of the season.

Stand-in captain Andi Page decided to field first. Conditions were very different from the first game between the teams, with the evening very warm and the park drenched in bright sunshine.

Again, Mersey Rose bowled tidily but on this occasion had more success in taking wickets. Andi Page took 3 for 12 and there were wickets for Ian Mosquito (a fine caught and bowled), Andrew Foster and Dave Leivesley. More impressive was the performance in the field, with some great stops and quick thinking that resulted in three run-outs. Newsham Park ended their innings on 100 for 9, a net score of 255. Mersey Rose lost an early wicket to an excellent run-out but otherwise looked in little difficulty as they built a solid platform. The opening pair of Andrew Foster and Rob Smith put on 35 (net 30) and then Andi Page (scoring at a run per ball) and Ian Mosquito (who adopted a more brutal approach, hitting three fours and a six) took the net score up to 249.

Unfortunately things unravelled in the next four overs. As there was no real scoreboard pressure, there is clearly work to do on running between the wickets. Fortunately Dave Leivesley was able to partially recover the situation with a couple of boundaries, setting up nail-biting finale.

Ultimately Rose once again fell five runs short but there was no denying that we had been part of enjoyable and dramatic – if at times chaotic – game.

Many thanks to our opponents for the game and also to the non-softball players at Mersey Rose who made themselves available to ensure we got a game on.

Player of the match was Ian Mosquito for a good all-round performance, but David Crossley deserves a shout-out for keeping wicket and his valiant attempts with the bat at the end which almost pulled off victory.

OUT CRICKET

TOURNAMENT 2026

Mersey Rose will once again be taking part in the Out4Cricket tournament in Sutton Coldfield on Sunday 14th June.

Representing Lancashire, the club reached last year's final following a thrilling win over Warwickshire.

The Out4Cricket tournament is a celebration of diversity and inclusion. Out4Cricket exists to create inclusive environments to enjoy the game and among the teams taking part in either the hardball or softball sections will be all the other LGBTQ+ cricket clubs in the UK (Leeds Kites, Birmingham Unicorns, Graces and Western Force) and county-based teams that have grown from initiatives to promote inclusion.

Mersey Rose will be playing in the softball section (Group B). Our schedule is as follows:

10:30am	Mersey Rose (Lancashire) v Western Force
11:50am	Norfolk v Unicorns (Warwickshire)
1:10pm	Western Force v Norfolk
2:30pm	Unicorns (Warwickshire) v Mersey Rose (Lancashire)
3:50pm	Western Force v Unicorns (Warwickshire)
5:10pm	Norfolk v Mersey Rose (Lancashire)

The final will commence at 6.45pm.
Please note that this year there is no 3rd place play-off.

OUT 4 CRICKET

PHOTOS FROM THE
LGBTQ+ SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT 2025



Out4 Cricket LGBTQ Cricket Festival
Softball Competition Match Regulations 2026

The laws of cricket will apply with the following exceptions:

Players

Teams will consist of 8 players

If a player is injured and unable to take any further part in the game substitutes can play a full part in the game, the injured player may not return as a participating player for the remainder of the game.

Match Format

Each innings will consist of 12 six ball overs.

Each innings should be completed in 40 minutes, with a 5 minute turnaround between each innings

In the event that the bowling team do not complete their overs in the allotted time a penalty of 2 runs per delivery late will be applied at the point the 40 minutes is elapsed.

Bowling Restrictions

A minimum of 4 bowlers must be used.

No bowler will be able to bowl more than 4 overs

Batting Requirements

Four pairs of batters will bat for 3 overs each.

No batter can bat in more than one pair.

If a batter is dismissed, the batting side loses five runs, and the batters swap ends.

Fielding Restrictions

At the point of delivery, at least 2 players must be on either side of the wicket

There are no leg side fielding restrictions

Extras

No Balls and Wides will count as 2 runs and no extra delivery will be made unless it is the last over of the innings when 6 legal deliveries need to be completed and will still count as two runs.

There will be no strict interpretation of leg side wides, the Laws of cricket will be applied

All no balls in the final over will be followed by a free hit, if the free hit is not a legal delivery, then there will be another free hit, until such time a legal delivery is bowled.

A batter can only be dismissed from a free hit under the circumstances that apply for a no ball even if the delivery for the free hit is called a wide.

If the batters do not change ends, no fielding changes will be permissible for the free hit, with the exception of a fielder moving to a safe position 15 yards from the batter, in a direct line backwards from their original position. If the batters change ends, fielding changes will be allowed.

Interrupted games

In the event the game is interrupted or delayed, one over will be lost for every 3.5 minutes delay

When the first innings is interrupted, both innings should be of the same length

When the second innings is interrupted a simple target score shall be calculated based on average run rate of the overs initially available

Minimum match length is 4 overs per innings

Match Result

In the event of a tied game the team losing least wickets is the winner

If that game is still tied, the team with the highest actual run rate is the winner

If the game is still tied a super over will be played

One bowler will be chosen from each side who must have bowled in the main part of the game

6 legal deliveries will need to be bowled

Wides and No balls count as two runs and the subsequent delivery for a no ball will be a free hit

The super over will cease if 2 wickets have fallen

The bowler chosen may not bat in the super over



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TOO**

**CRICKET IS A
GAME FOR ALL**



#HERGAMETOO | @HGTCRICKET

ABOUT US.

#HerGameToo was founded by a group of passionate football fans aiming to kick sexism out of football. Following on from the success within football, the initiative branched out into the world of cricket and #HerGameToo Cricket was formed.

We strongly believe cricket is a game for all, and we have began working closely with clubs at all levels to ensure women are safe and welcome in the game.



Our team have all experienced and/or witnessed sexism within cricket, whether in person or on social media. Across the sport, sexist abuse and attitudes are deep rooted and it is a problem that has been ignored for too long. It leaves many shocked to hear that it is still a huge issue for many women in cricket.

OUR AIMS.

- SPREAD AWARENESS AND PROVIDE EDUCATION FOR ALL ON SEXISM WITHIN CRICKET.
- CREATE REGULAR CONTENT TO CHAMPION WOMEN IN THE GAME (PLAYERS, STAFF, OFFICIALS, FANS, ETC.)
- DEVELOP STRONG RELATIONSHIPS WITH CLUBS, TRUSTS AND COMMITTEES.
- HAVE A PRESENCE AT CRICKET GROUNDS AND CLUBS TO CREATE A SAFER, MORE WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT FOR WOMEN.
- CONTINUE TO CAMPAIGN AGAINST SEXIST ABUSE.

TO REPORT.

Go to www.hergametoo.co.uk/report to report sexist abuse within cricket. This can be done anonymously.



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SOCIAL MEDIA AND
USE THE HASHTAG:

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REVIEW OF 2026

The club made a difficult decision at the beginning of the 2025 season. Due to losing several players and not having managed to recruit replacements, it was felt the only realistic option available to us was to focus on softball with a view to rebuilding the hardball team for 2026.

With hindsight, this approach has been successful and the club is now in a healthier position than it was a year ago. However, the heavily reduced hardball schedule did make it difficult to recruit players who were interested in that form of cricket and it also meant that some of the relationships with other clubs that we had built up in the 2024 season were put on hold.

The Hardball Season—A Summary

We did, however, play three matches. Two of these were against **Frodsham**. In the first of these, played on 8th June, saw Mersey Rose restrict the hosts to 109-6 from 30 overs thanks to some excellent fielding and accurate bowling. Isaac Lockett (3-9) and Alan Hitchmough (2-20) were the pick of the bowlers, but everyone bowled economically and Mersey Rose approached their own innings with a feeling that a result was more than possible.

Mersey Rose couldn't quite get ahead of the run rate and, despite a useful partnership between Alan Hitchmough and Andi Page, Rose finished their 30 overs on 96-3. On the positive side, Mersey Rose had shown that they could be competitive and the overall performance showed improvement.

A game with the **Wavertree Visually Impaired Team** was abandoned after an hour's play due to heavy rain, while a T20 with **Ormskirk Occasionals** was cancelled.

The final game of the season, also at **Frodsham**, saw Mersey Rose again fail to chase down the hosts' total despite 50 from Cronje van Greunen and an unbeaten 54 from Amelia Short.



Andi Page

The Softball Season—A Summary

The softball team began 2025 with a game at **Newsham Park** in which Abigail McKeown made her debut. Rose batted well, especially Joey Harrison and Ian Mosquito, but the difference between the teams was that Mersey Rose were only able to take one wicket—courtesy of an outstanding catch from Zak Harrison. Newsham Park won comfortably in the end.

Rose also lost at **Bootle** despite a more positive bowling performance and were then denied a likely win at **Whitefield** when, with two overs remaining and Whitefield 29 runs behind, heavy rain stopped play.

The following weekend Mersey Rose were in action at the **Out4Cricket tournament** representing Lancashire, and performed heroically to reach the final where they lost to Surrey. Everyone contributed something during the day but the most memorable moment was Joey Harrison's outrageous one-handed catch in the final.

In August, Mersey Rose and Whitefield jointly hosted a Pride in Cricket festival at Court Hey Park. This was an inclusive and pro-disability event involving four teams. Rose tied with **Whitefield** in a game that went down to the final ball and beat **Lord Rockingham's XI** before losing to **Old Xaverians**.

A visit to **Fleetwood Hesketh** resulted in defeat but it was not without positives as Amy Parsons performed well with bat and ball. Martin Snape and Heidi Page starred in the next match against Wavertree but could not prevent defeat against well-organised opponents.

The final softball games too place in a tri-team tournament at Frodsham, with the other two teams being **Frodsham A** and **Frodsham B**. Mersey Rose lost both of their games but some strong individual performances showed how far the team has come in a short time.

Overall, the season was one with an emphasis on development and improvement.



Joey Harrison

Two of the most memorable achievements did not take place on the cricket field.

Softball team captain and club secretary, Anna Page, was recognised for her outstanding work in promoting inclusive cricket at the Halton & St Helens Voluntary and Community Action awards.

At an event attended by 300 volunteers from across the region, all of whom had been shortlisted on account of the contributions they have made to the area through voluntary work, Anna was confirmed as the winner of the Sports Volunteer of the Year award.



Anna Page (right) receiving her award

When announcing the winner, the host referred to Anna's "inspirational leadership" in "making cricket accessible to everyone". She also noted Anna's efforts in "providing a space where everyone is welcome" and her "energy and commitment to inclusion".

In August, Club chairperson Joe Crossley was honoured by the MCC when he was named as one of eleven "Community Heroes" for 2025. Each year the MCC, in conjunction with *The Cricketer* magazine, selects a team of "heroes" who have made outstanding contributions to grassroots cricket.

Joe was included in recognition of 49 years' service at Rainhill CC and the work he has carried out to establish Mersey Rose Recreationals. He was also mentioned as being "one of the oldest active cricketers in the UK".

Joe received his award at Lords where he met Lord King and enjoyed watching England take on New Zealand.

These awards not only point to the commitment of two dedicated individuals but also confirm the calibre of volunteers we are privileged to have serving our club.

PLAYING STATS 2025

Total Wickets

- 11 Andi Page
- 6 Amelia Short
- 4 Billy Gartside
- 3 Anna Page, Aaron McKenna, Martin Snape, Gail Rose, Alan Hitchmough, Isaac Lockett
- 2 Dave Leivesley, Joey Harrison, Dan Barrowcliffe
- 1 Heidi Page, Claire Payne, Ian Mosquito, Amy Parsons, David Crossley

Total runs

- 132 Andi Page
- 108 Amelia Short
- 85 Aaron McKenna
- 69 Ian Mosquito
- 67 Joey Harrison
- 50 Cronje van Greunen
- 44 Martin Snape
- 37 Billy Gartside
- 36 Anna Page
- 35 Charlie Nelson
- 31 Gail Rose
- 27 Amy Parsons
- 26 Heidi Page
- 20 Alan Hitchmough
- 16 Dave Leivesley
- 14 Dan Barrowcliffe
- 12 Claire Payne
- 10 Steve Fowle
- 9 Zak Harrison
- 6 David Crossley, Alex Leivesley
- 4 Abigail McKeown
- 4 Jake Vaughan
- 2 Xanthe Page



Highest score:
54* (Amelia Short)



Best bowling:
6-8 (Andi Page)

2025 Awards

Catch of the season:

1. Joey Harrison v Surrey (Out4Cricket final)
2. Dave Leivesley v Wavertree
3. Zak Harrison v Newsham Park

Wicket of the season:

1. Amy Parsons v Fleetwood Hesketh
2. Heidi Page v Wavertree
3. Gail Rose v Lord Rockingham's XI

Run-out of the season:

1. Heidi Page v Whitefield
2. Anna Page v Whitefield
3. Ian Mosquito v Bootle

Moment of the season:

1. The team playing in the Out4Cricket final
2. Amy Parsons' wicket v Fleetwood Hesketh
3. Steve Fowle's boundary v Lord Rockingham's XI

Junior Player of the Season: Heidi Page

Fielder of the Year: Heidi Page

Most Improved Player:

Amy Parsons

Debut of the Season:

Abigail McKeown
v Newsham Park (right)

Award for Effort:

Xanthe Page



Amy Parsons
(Most Improved Player and
Wicket of the Season)



FIXTURES 2026

HARDBALL TEAM

DATE	OPPONENTS	VENUE	RESULT	PLAYER OF THE MATCH
24th May	FRODSHAM	Moor Lane		Alex Leivesley
31st May	SALFORD CHARGERS	Sandown Lane		Isaac Lockett
9th June	ORMSKIRK OCCASIONALS	Memorial Fields		
21st June	NANTCLWYD	Leyland Oval		
28th June	LEEDS KITES	TBC		
5th July	SALFORD CHARGERS	Egerton Park		
26th July	WALSALL UNITY	Montford Road		
9th August	BIRMINGHAM UNICORNS	Melson Mem Grd		
30th August	FRODSHAM	TBC		

SOFTBALL TEAM

DATE	OPPONENTS	VENUE	RESULT	PLAYER OF THE MATCH
14th April	NEWSHAM PARK	Newsham Park		Anna Page
27th May	NEWSHAM PARK	Newsham Park		Ian Mosquito
14th June	WESTERN FORCE	Sutton Coldfield		
14th June	WARWICKSHIRE	Sutton Coldfield		
14th June	NORFOLK	Sutton Coldfield		
23rd June	FLEETWOOD HESKETH	Sea Cop		
TBC	LORD ROCKINGHAM'S XI			
TBC	WAVERTREE			
TBC	PRIDE IN CRICKET FESTIVAL			

MEET OUR CLUB CHAPLAIN!



Mersey Rose Recreationals Cricket Club is pleased to announce the appointment of its first-ever club chaplain, marking a significant and progressive step for the grassroots game.

The role has been taken up by Gail Rose, an LGBTQ+ rights advocate and a lay preacher within the United Reformed Church. Gail joined the club midway through the 2025 season, with her first matches coming at the Pride in Cricket pro-disability festival — a fitting introduction that reflected both her values and the inclusive ethos of the club.

The role of a club chaplain is to offer an independent source of pastoral support and care. This includes providing confidential, non-judgmental pastoral and spiritual support for the holistic wellbeing of everyone connected with the club — players, staff, volunteers, and their families — irrespective of faith or belief. A chaplain acts as a supportive presence, a listening ear, and, where appropriate, a link to wider faith communities.

By appointing an official chaplain, Mersey Rose Recreationals becomes one of only a small number of grassroots cricket clubs to do so — a move very much in keeping with the club's long-standing pioneering spirit.

The club hopes that other chaplains may join in the future, with the long-term ambition of developing a multi-faith chaplaincy team. The club is proudly welcoming to people of all faiths and none, and this appointment reflects a commitment to ensuring that everyone associated with the club feels supported, valued, and included.



Speaking about her new role, Gail said: "As club Chaplain I want to support and encourage all club members, of all faiths or no faith. Chaplaincy for me is about being an approachable and supportive presence for everyone at Mersey Rose Recreationals Cricket Club, regardless of their backgrounds or beliefs. "I want to walk alongside you... as well as playing alongside you... offering a listening ear and a caring heart. Whether you need someone to celebrate with in times of joy, a shoulder to lean on, or just a quiet moment of reflection, I am here for you. I thank the club for offering this role of Chaplaincy to me. I look forward to strengthening relationships and helping to foster a welcoming and compassionate environment for all."

Anna Page, Club Secretary and softball captain, welcomed the news. She said: "This appointment says a lot about who we are as a club. We've always tried to look after the whole person, not just the cricketer, and Gail embodies this completely. Her presence adds another layer of care, compassion and inclusivity to our club, and we're incredibly proud to be one of the few grassroots clubs taking this step".

Club members can contact Gail at gailyorke2@gmail.com



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KEEP OUR **CRICKET** COMMUNITY **SAFE** FROM **DISCRIMINATION**

It's important to log incidents of sexism & misogyny, whether it's online or in person.



REPORT IT

www.hergametoo.co.uk/report



OUT CRICKET

www.out4cricket.org.uk