

Pass the Bat On

Pass the Bat On is an innovative, environmentally friendly and sustainable cricket bat refurbishment scheme. We are aiming to collect 500 used cricket bats from across the cricketing community, to refurbish and rebrand them and then to sell them at low cost. We will also give a number of bats away free of any charge.

The scheme is being undertaken by The Club Cricket Charity for the Gandon Prodger Legacy Fund, a new charitable fund set up to honour the work of two individuals in furthering the game of cricket – Simon Prodger and Nick Gandon.

In implementing Pass the Bat On we are not only looking to raise funds for important cricket / sports-related good causes through income generated from sales of refurbished bats, but we are also addressing key issues: Inclusivity & Participation, Cost & Affordability, Environment and Heritage.

The project will be piloted in 2024/25. All income will be donated to cricket and sports-related causes close to the hearts of Simon and Nick: the East Africa Character Development Trust, the Alsama Project, the Club Cricket Charity and Saracens Foundation.

The Club Cricket Charity

The Club Cricket Charity was registered with the Charity Commission in 2014 (charity number: 1156096). Our most significant programme to date has seen us partner with the England and Wales Cricket Board in distributing defibrillators to recreational cricket clubs across England and Wales. **So far, we have distributed over 800 defibrillators – 90 of which have been used potentially to save a life in critical situations – that's 11% of all those defibrillators placed within clubs.**

The Gandon Prodger Legacy Fund

In 2023 the Charity lost a great friend and advocate in Simon Prodger. Universally known as Prodge, he died unexpectedly on Saturday 8 April 2023 aged just 63. His contribution to cricket and to social and educational good was nothing less than immense. A longstanding Secretary and MD of the Club Cricket Conference and National Cricket Conference, he served as Chair of Watford Town CC, as a trustee of the Club Cricket Charity, Executive Trustee of the East Africa Character Development Trust and trustee of the Character Through Cricket Charity. It was entirely fitting that the MCC honoured Prodge posthumously with a MCC Community Cricket Hero award.

The Simon Prodger Legacy Fund was developed after Prodge's death in order to raise funds for causes about which he cared deeply. It was developed with significant input from his great friend and colleague Nick Gandon. However, by January 2024 (at exactly the time

that the Fund was about to launch), it happened that Nick had himself become unwell. Someone whose own cricketing CV is no less full than Simon's (President, former Chair, former captain of every team fielded by Hoddesdon CC, MCC Committee member, consultant to umpteen charitable initiatives at home and abroad), he was diagnosed with incurable pancreatic cancer. At the time of writing he is pleased still to be alive and kicking but (in Nick's own words) he is now "in the final furlong".

The Simon Prodger Legacy Fund is now relaunching as **The Gandon Prodger Legacy Fund GPLF**). In everything they sought to achieve in and around the world of cricket, Nick and Simon recognised cricket's enormous potential to enrich and transform lives and insisted passionately that cricket should be a sport for everyone. Pass the Bat On is one of a small number of GPLF initiatives and entirely aligns with the Gandon Prodger convictions.

The GPLF "good causes"

All funds raised by Pass the Bat On and other GPLF activity will support the following:

- [East Africa Character Development Trust](#) – transforming the lives of thousands of disadvantaged young Africans in Nairobi, Kenya, through cricket and character education.
- [The Alsama Project](#) – which sets up education centres, social enterprises and sports hub activities in refugee camps in the Lebanon.
- [The Saracens Foundation](#) – delivering sport, physical activity and social opportunities for refugees, young offenders and isolated older people. In UK
- [The Club Cricket Charity](#) – which will develop new projects to address mental health issues and facilitate the smooth transition of Afghan refugees into clubs throughout the UK.

Pass the Bat On - The Rationale

- **Affordability:** Cricket has an inclusivity problem based on affordability because it's such an expensive game; the cost of playing cricket is for very many a barrier to participation. New cricket bats, ranging in price between £250 and £600 for an adult-use bat, are for many prohibitively expensive. Our intention is to provide refurbished bats that are almost "good as new" at much more affordable prices, likely to average at around £50 - £75.
- **Environmental Sustainability:** We live in a "throw-away" society in which, instead of repairing, we simply discard and replace. In the specific context of cricket, many bats are casually discarded at the end of a season even though they remain fit-for-purpose, especially if some repairs and refurbishment were to be undertaken. On top of this, most bats these days are manufactured in India and Pakistan using English willow which has been shipped there before being returned to the UK, causing an extensive and unwelcome carbon footprint. By aiming to prevent old

bats from finding their way to landfill and instead to extend their use, the project has a strong sustainability agenda.

- **Heritage** – Given the volume of bats being manufactured abroad, the traditional British art of bat-making is in dangerous decline and under an existential threat. Cricket bat-making is listed as an endangered craft according to Heritage Crafts. This project can help sustain livelihoods of bat-makers and help keep alive this traditional skill.

Realising the Initiative

- We have partnered with [Chris Sketchley](#) of Gentlemen & Players to realise the project. His team will refurbish and rebrand all bats (at a cost of £30 per bat), host our online shop and handle all elements of sales and distribution.
- Each bat will be graded into three tiers:
 - **Grade 1 (200 bats)** – bats of exceptional quality likely to be acquired from current professional cricketers and aspiring professionals, to be sold for c. **£150**;
 - **Grade 2 (150 bats)** – bats of a high quality, to be sold for c. **£75**;
 - **Grade 3 (150 bats)** – bats of medium quality to be sold for **£30- £50**.

A proportion of bats will be gifted to individuals at no cost, those who might otherwise struggle with the cost of playing cricket.

- Individuals will be able either to buy a bat for personal use OR ELSE make a donation to enable the Club Cricket Charity to give the bat as a gift to a clearly identified cricketer for whom affordability would be an issue.

A Pilot Project

Assuming that the project succeeds in its pilot phase, we have plans to develop Passs the Bat On as a self-sustaining social enterprise – continuing to raise funds for charitable initiatives, while ensuring that cricket bats which would otherwise be redundant are given a new life.

YOUR HELP

Key to our launching this project quickly is the sourcing of 500 bats. An immediate priority is to source 200 Grade 1 bats of the kind that current professionals and aspiring professionals might be bale to provide.

We are hoping to persuade individuals working across the professional game inside County Cricket Clubs and other professional teams to help us.

The point is not lost on us that if people inside 18 FCCs, for instance, collected 15 bats each, we would exceed our initial target of 200 Grade 1 Bats.

With your help we believe we could generate £50,000 for cricket and sports-related causes, while also gifting bats to individuals in the UK so that everyone can play and benefit from the power of cricket.