



CLUB FOUNDED 1839

Groundsperson Apprenticeship – Information for Applicants

Sussex County Cricket Club, in partnership with Plumpton College, are offering a unique opportunity to train as a Groundsperson and gain an NVQ qualification. This apprenticeship would initially cover a two-year period starting in April/May 2013.

About us

Sussex County Cricket Club is truly unique and is believed to be the oldest professional sports Club in the world. Sussex won its first County Championship title in 2003 after a wait of 164 years, and became the dominant team of the decade, winning ten trophies in ten years. In 2011 and 2012 Sussex reached one quarter final and three semi- finals in the two cup competitions as well as rising each season up the table in Division One of the County Championship.

The Grounds Team play an essential and integral part in the success of the cricket team. In 2010 the ECB awarded the County Ground, Hove the award for the best 'one-day pitches' that season. As well as preparing the wicket and the ground for match days at Hove, we are also responsible for providing First Class quality practice facilities. In addition to the main ground at Hove, we are responsible for the maintenance of the two playing facilities at Allfield Ground, Blackstone (our prestigious Youth Academy) and for the playing surfaces at Preston Nomads, a club side whose ground sits amongst beautiful scenery just the other side of the Downs north of Hove.

The Role

This is an exciting time to join the Groundstaff at Sussex County Cricket Club. As well as gaining experience of all forms of wicket preparation, the day to day maintenance of first class playing surfaces and the carnival atmosphere of televised Twenty20 cricket, at the end of the 2009 season we began to re-lay the square, meaning that you will gain hands-on experience of cricket wicket construction and will also play a role in the rejuvenation of the playing surfaces at Hove. During the last two years the County Ground has undergone an £8,000,000m re-development.

Working hours during the cricket season can be long and therefore a flexible approach is needed. Working weekends is also often necessary. College attendance will be for one day per week, dependant on the level of NVQ being undertaken.



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Working hours outside of the cricket season are more flexible and on a reduced basis.

As well as working as a groundsperson during the cricket season, during the winter months the candidate will spend much of their time helping the maintenance staff to get the ground ready for the following year.

While we are an equal opportunities employer, this particular role is physically demanding and so the candidate must be physically fit and able to perform the duties required.

Training

As well as the experience gained whilst working for Sussex County Cricket Club the candidate will be required to attend Plumpton College one day a week during term times as part of the NVQ training. On completion of the apprenticeship the candidate will have a minimum of an NVQ level 2, Pesticide application NPTC certificates as well as two years hands-on experience at a First Class Cricket ground. Where possible, we would hope to be able to provide on-going employment at the end of the initial 2 year contract.

Remuneration

Pay will be £95 per week initially. This will rise to National Minimum Wage in year two.

The Application Process

If you would like to be considered for this opportunity, please complete the enclosed application form in full and return it to:

Kay Gunn, HR Manager, Sussex County Cricket Club, The BrightonandHoveJobs.com County Ground, Eaton Road, Hove, East Sussex, BN3 3AN

If you have completed the application form on-line you may email it back to:

Kay.gunn@sussexcricket.co.uk

The closing date for completed applications is **Monday 22nd April 2013**.

Interviews will be held at Sussex County Cricket Ground on Thursday 25th April. Successful candidates from the first round interviews will be asked to attend a further interview at Plumpton College.