



Guildford City Cricket Club's cricket and curry initiative gets plenty of support from these enthusiasts.

Cricketers' fundraising event is a winner

GUILDFORD cricketers and their friends and supporters have raised £1,300 by holding a cricket and curry night.

Guildford City Cricket Club (GCCC) organised the event to raise money for the Hashim Welfare Hospital in Pakistan, as well as for the club.

As part of the event, children from the age of six and older played cricket at Stoke Park in Guildford then their families and

other members of the club enjoyed a curry in the evening at the Old Guildfordian. Surrey county cricketer, Neil Saker, was one of the guests on the evening, which was attended by 120 people, including 40 children.

Under nines manager, Rubina Bell, who organised the evening, said: "Most of the children played cricket all evening and Neil was kind enough to join in the game with them. There was also a craft

stall for the children and henna (mehndi) for the adults."

"Neil wowed our younger players and adults alike with his skills and presence. He reflected the real gentleman in our much-loved sport of cricket."

A raffle and silent auction helped raise more funds, and a 2001 England and Pakistan signed bat yielded £190.

Mrs Bell said: "It was brilliant. There was a really, really good

mix of very young and old people and a mixture of nationalities

"I would like to add that Sue and Stuart Brown have dedicated so much time and effort to make the club what it is today and strive to make it better."

The Hashim Welfare Hospital was started by Dr Idrees Awan, who wanted to provide modern welfare facilities in the poor region where he was born in Pakistan. Dr Awan's son, Eassa,

plays for the under nines in Guildford.

GCCC offers subsidies to players and members, and provides free coaching, cheap net sessions and discounted cricket clothing. GCCC has set up a youth trust to take the game to youngsters attending schools where little or no cricket is available. It also aims to help ethnic minorities who have not had the opportunity to receive formal coaching.