



## Working with your local Construction College Top tips to help you get started

Do you need help designing and/or building a new score box, laying a new patio, renovating a changing room or simply revamping a tired old pavilion, but the quotes you have sourced are way too expensive and there is nobody at the club who can help? Have you thought of contacting your local Construction College or College Construction Department?

Since 2009 a number of cricket clubs have embarked on projects with the help of Construction College students. Colleges are often keen to offer practical 'real life' opportunities and with students in need of assessment work, Colleges have been keen to work with clubs who can provide such opportunities. Clubs provide the project/s and the materials and the students provide the labour at no cost to the clubs. There may be a small charge for transport in some cases.

Here are some tips for your club on how to get involved with its local Construction College / Department:

- 1) Put together clear project plans detailing exactly what work needs to be done and where construction college students could help. The skills of College Students can include:
  - Designing
  - Brick Laying
  - Roofing
  - Plumbing
  - Joinery
  - Plastering
  - Painting/Decorating
  - Tiling

(NB: Colleges tend not to offer electrical work but please discuss)

- 2) **Always speak to your County Cricket Board first** to see if it has set up a Service Level Agreement (SLA), or something similar, with any local Colleges (draft SLA can be found [here](#)). Make sure you're clear how your County Cricket Board works with its local Colleges; Each County Cricket Board will have different ways of working with local colleges, often acting as a facilitator of new projects.
- 3) If you find that your County Cricket Board has no agreements with, or contacts for, Construction Colleges, you can search [here](#) for Colleges / Departments in your area that offer Construction course that you can get in touch with directly (type in 'Construction' in the 'What do you want to learn' box). We have provided you with a template letter to send [here](#).



- 4) Remember that it is not professionals that will be carrying out the work for you, but students learning their trade. As a result high quality, whilst usually achieved, is not guaranteed and it would be worth your while having a professional / qualified person on site to act as a quality controller. College staff will always be on site to supervise and offer advice.
- 5) Make sure you agree with the College who is responsible for Health and Safety and the welfare of the students. Don't make any assumptions and have a specific discussion about it before work takes place.
- 6) Due to the work being carried out by students under assessment, there is a higher chance of more materials being used / thrown away because of mistakes. Please take this into account when setting your budget and buying materials.
- 7) Remember that you are essentially working with volunteers who are providing you with a service for free; you are not entering into a professional contract. It is therefore advised that you adopt a flexible approach to working with the college and be prepared to move elements of your project around to fit with them to make the most of this opportunity.
- 8) There are lots of great examples of cricket clubs and colleges working together showing some fantastic completed projects please click [here](#).