



SAFEGUARDING AND WELFARE AT ST. IVES TOWN & WARBOYS CRICKET CLUB

~by Joe Notarnicola~

'In every walk of life, safeguarding and welfare is becoming more prominent, whether it is within a medical environment, education, or in sport. As a community cricket club that prides itself at being open to all, we must take safeguarding extremely seriously. Just walking down the street, you see different types of people with different needs and experiences. It is no different within the club. We have a huge mixture of people involved from 5 year olds in our All Stars programme, to 70 year olds still playing in our 3rd and 4th teams. We have women and girls playing in our adult teams dominated by men, and an entire youth programme stretching across two sites. For those reasons alone, safeguarding is a crucial part of our operations.

The England & Wales Cricket Board (ECB) are extremely 'hot' on clubs to ensure safeguarding is a priority. Too the point that clubs can be thrown out of competitions and youth programmes stopped until safeguarding is improved. We all know how dry the subject of welfare and safeguarding can be. It's like that internet privacy policy or the T&C's on your car insurance that everyone accepts without even glancing through it. But without this policy and operation, so many people would not be able to play cricket and the status of the club would not be what is currently is.

St Ives & Warboys CC is a growing club and as we make great strides in our operations and programmes, we have to monitor how we are meeting our safeguarding 'non-negotiables'. The things we cannot disregard due to the risk involved to the club, its members and the local community.

To name a few of my duties as Safeguarding Officer, I will receive guidance from the ECB and implement new policy into the club, ensure coaches and those dealing with vulnerable people have a valid DBS certificate, and being a point of contact for club staff, members and parents for any issues related to safeguarding. As a Safeguarding Officer, you hope you never have to deal with anything that means you are opening up potential wormholes to interrogation, but the impact on effected individuals can be damaging and we have a duty of care to all involved in the club. We have said since St Ives & Warboys CC was founded in 2019, that we want a 'cricket for all' attitude to how we run the club. With that, enabling our members to participate, improve and feel safe in the environment means we can continue our work to be a big part of the community.'



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