

## Durham Paceman Graham Onions cheers on Gateshead Youngsters

Durham cricketer ace, Graham Onions showed his support for up and coming cricket talent by presenting the trophies at a quick cricket tournament at Gateshead Fell Cricket Club last Thursday.

For Graham this is more than just a show of support, but also a chance to return to the cricket club where he learnt his trade. He trained at Gateshead Fell during his own school years and still remains a loyal member of the club.

The tournament for Year 5 pupils (age 10- 11) attracted 16 teams from 10 primary schools across Gateshead. The event is part of *Chance to Shine*, a national initiative to nurture cricketer talent in state schools. The scheme aims to regenerate competitive cricket by providing upon high-quality coaching, skills awards and competition.

*Chance to Shine* at Gateshead Fell is made possible through support from Newcastle Building Society. The Club will receive £25,000 over five years from the Newcastle Building Society Fund at the Community Foundation to pay for extra coaching sessions in schools, specialist coaching camps for girls and boys and equipment.

Brian Arkle who coordinates *Chance to Shine* at Gateshead Fell said:

*"It was an excellent tournament all round, with fine weather and some great cricket played in the right spirit. I want to say congratulations to all who took part and a huge thank you to Newcastle Building Society for making it possible."*

Over 50 matches were played throughout the course of the day and the tournament champion was the team from St Josephs in Birtley who won four of their matches. Newcastle Building Society Marketing Executive Steve Urwin joined Graham on the day to present prizes to the winning teams.

Steve said:

"Well done to St Josephs and to all who took part in the competition. Who knows, there could be a budding Onions among them, which is why we feel it so important to support and nurture talent, and bring about a renewed enthusiasm for the sport."

-ENDS-

### [Image 1](#)

For further information please contact:

Nicola Green, Corporate Communications  
Manager  
Newcastle Building Society  
0191 244 2024 / 0797

Charlotte McGregor/ Emma Bowden  
The Wriglesworth Consultancy  
020 7845 7900/ 07703 258 488

## About the Newcastle Building Society Community Fund

The Newcastle Building Society Community Fund was set up in 1992 and since then has given away over £600,000 to over 600 groups. It focuses on projects that help to nurture new talent, improve the community and help with children's education in the areas where it has a branch presence. As a

further step forward, the Society has launched its Members Fund, which allows members to make an annual donation from one of their savings accounts. The criteria for this fund is chosen by the members and previously grants have been awarded to projects which aid children's education, improved adult literacy and numeracy and provided IT schemes for the over 55's.

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