Merrion Cricket Club

Anglesea Road
Ballsbridge
Dublin 4

Job Description and Person Specification

Job Details

Job Title: Head of High-Performance Program & Men's 1st XI Head Coach

Reporting to: Chair of Cricket

Contract Type: 7 Months (March to September)

Salary: Depending on experience

Location: Merrion Cricket Club, Dublin, Ireland and various away grounds across Leinster and Ireland on matchdays

About Us

Based on Anglesea Road in picturesque Ballsbridge in Dublin, we have a vibrant youth section supported by top-quality coaching and development that has seen our members graduate to the highest standards of world cricket. Merrion is a family-oriented club that is an integral part of the local community. We have members from across Dublin and have grown to be one of the biggest amateur cricket clubs in Europe, with over 500 members in total.

Merrion has a large number of teams (7 men, 3 women, 3 social, and boy's and girl's teams at all age levels), Merrion caters for all standards and interests. The club has invested heavily in facilities in the last 10 years, with the development of a new clubhouse, scorebox, practice nets, sightscreens as well as the installation of 3 hybrid wickets on our 10-pitch grass square.

Position Summary

The club's management committee has decided that it would be appropriate to support the club's high-performance program, with an appropriately qualified and experienced coach to lead and deliver this program. The successful candidate would also take-up the responsibilities of the role of men's 1st XI head coach. This would be done with the team in a strong place having finished runners-up in the 2024 Cricket Leinster Premier League, as well as reaching the final of the Irish Senior Cup. This role would be an excellent fit for a highly qualified coach with relevant experience, that may be looking to pursue cricket coaching as a career. This role would suit someone that would like to engage in an exciting project, with the support an ambitious committee, with the aim to help the club unlock its full potential, as the club looks to put the relevant resources in place to best position itself to create a strong pathway for those coming up through the club's thriving youth section to succeed and reach the highest level of cricket they can, within the club, and beyond. The successful candidate will be supported in their delivery of the role by a men's 1st XI team manager, to be appointed. The successful candidate will also be charged with the responsibility of building an appropriate high-performance and positive culture both around the men's senior squad and within the high-performance program.

Responsibilities

Head of High-Performance

- Engage with the relevant committee(s) and the youth development officer with respect to the creation of a quality pathway and culture for the club's young players, both male and female from youth cricket into senior cricket at the club, and beyond.
- In consultation with the cricket committee select appropriate players to avail of the club's high-performance.
- Management of coaches that are supporting the delivery of the high-performance program.
- Deliver sessions as part of the high-performance program to the selected players, both male and female.
- Conduct end-of-season interviews with players and coaches engaged in the high-performance program, to form part of an annual end-of-season report on the progress of the high-performance program.
- Monitor and provide feedback to the relevant committee(s) on the performance and development of players in both the senior squad and high-performance program on a regular basis.

Men's 1st XI Head Coach

- Manage and run training sessions for the men's senior squad on Tuesday and Thursday evenings throughout the season.
- Attend all men's 1st XI games throughout the season, run appropriate warm-ups for the team, and provide in-game tactical support as deemed necessary.
- Monitor the progress, development, and performance of men's 1st XI players and members of the wider senior squad throughout the season, providing feedback as deemed necessary.
- Play a critical role in developing a strong and positive culture within the men's senior squad and men's 1st XI.

Skills and Requirements

Essential

- ECB Level 2 Coaching Certificate (or international equivalent)
- Experience coaching adult club cricket to a high level, with a strong track record of team success and/or player development
- Be currently eligible to live and work in Ireland, or eligible for a relevant working visa
- Valid Garda Vetting, safeguarding, and first aid training (or able to attain before commencing employment)

Desirable

- ECB Level 3 Coaching Certificate or higher (or international equivalent)
- Experience coaching high-performance or representative teams
- A strong playing background in international or first-class cricket
- An innate understanding of the landscape of Irish cricket

Merrion Cricket Club is an equal opportunities employer and will not discriminate against any candidate on any of the 9 grounds of discrimination under the Employment Equality Act. All prospective candidates, including current employees of the club, are invited to apply for this role.

Given the nature of the role, the club reserves the right, upon completion of the recruitment process to extend an offer for the two separate roles of head of the high-performance program and open 1st XI head coach, or offer the two roles as a combined package as detailed above, depending on the successful candidate(s), their suitability for the respective role(s), their own personal preference, and the views of the interview panel. Accordingly, the club is happy to welcome applications for both the joined, and separated roles, depending on the preference of the applicant. It would be asked that applicants specify the nature of their application and personal preference, within their covering letter.

Those wishing to apply for the role should send their CV and a covering letter to secretary@merrioncricketclub.ie before 5pm on 15th of January 2025. Shortlisted candidates will be contacted on the week commencing 20th of January 2025 regarding next steps. When invited for interview, candidates will be expected to present to the interview panel as to their vision of the role, and answer any relevant questions that may follow.