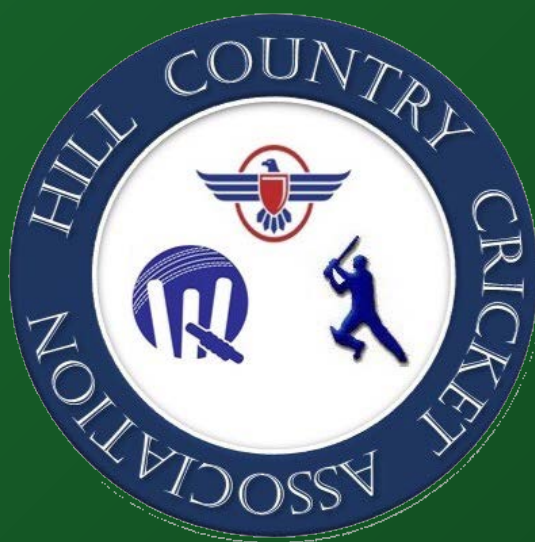


HILL COUNTRY CRICKET ASSOCIATION

March 2026 Newsletter

Building Community Through Cricket in Central Texas



Spring is here and so is the action — APCL Spring Blast in full swing, HCCA Starz U15 & U13 open their USA Cricket Junior Pathway campaigns, Hutto Ground gets a sod renovation, and a heartfelt tribute to a beloved member of our HCCA family. Read the full March edition.

MARCH 2026 · VOLUME 3



In Memoriam

Julie Thakkar

March 19, 2026 · Forever in our hearts 🙏



It is with an extremely heavy heart that we share the passing of **Julie Thakkar**, beloved wife of HCCA's founding member and Infrastructure Director **Hemant Thakkar**. Julie passed away peacefully on March 19, 2026, at the age of 52, after a courageous battle with pancreatic cancer. She is now at peace. She is survived by her loving husband Hemant and their **four beautiful children**.

Julie was truly a beacon of light — a loving wife, devoted mother, cherished family member, and a dedicated teacher who touched countless lives. Even through her battle with pancreatic cancer, her strength, grace, and love for her family never wavered.

Many of us in HCCA knew Julie not just as Hemant's wife, but as a constant supporter of our community. She warmly welcomed us into her home for HCCA meetings and stood behind so many HCCA activities — whether it was meetings, tournaments, picnics, or community events. Her presence, kindness, and loving support were deeply woven into our HCCA family for **more than 20 years**.

On the weekend of March 21–22, HCCA teams across all grounds paused before their matches and **observed a moment of silence** in Julie's memory — a small but deeply felt tribute from a community that loved her. We continue to hold Hemant Bhai and his family in our hearts.

🔥 HCCA STANDS TOGETHER · OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS ARE WITH THE THAKKAR FAMILY

FROM THE PRESIDENT

SIVA BUSA · PRESIDENT, HCCA

Dear HCCA Members, as we head into spring, my heartfelt gratitude goes to every Board member and volunteer who has been working tirelessly behind the scenes to keep HCCA running strong.

To **Hemant Bhai** — HCCA stands with you. We are deeply grateful for everything you have given this organization over so many years. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family, and we wish you strength and healing during this difficult time.

A huge thank you to **Praveen Nuthulapati** for keeping tabs on a multitude of critical items as our Treasurer and for keeping me on my toes as President. *"When the going gets tough, the tough get going"* — this perfectly sums up Praveen's dedication to the HCCA BOD.

To all members: dig in, play hard, play fair. The scoreboard matters, but the spirit matters more. 🎨

Warm Regards, Siva Busa

President, HCCA · On behalf of the 2026 Board of Directors

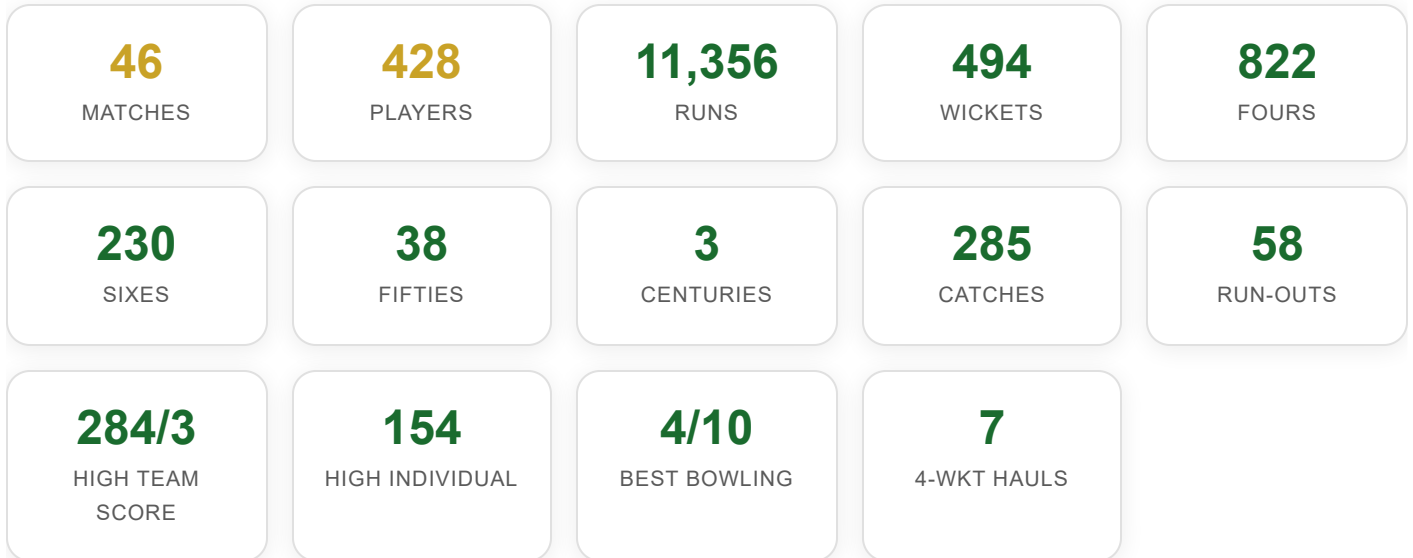
MARCH AT A GLANCE

Month Highlights

- 🎨 APCL Spring Blast 2026 in full swing — 46 matches, 428 active players
- 🏆 HCCA Starz U15 & U13 open their USA Cricket Junior Pathway Hub campaigns in March
- 🌱 Hutto Ground lease renewed and secured for the next two years
- 🔧 HCCG maintenance restarted in coordination with Williamson County officials
- 💰 2025 tax filing complete; full financial account transition finalized
- 👥 ~400 players added to rosters; portability process running smoothly

APCL Spring Blast 2026

Games are in full swing under the exciting **Super 4s format** — every team has a path to compete through to the Finals, maximizing opportunity for all members. Player portability is streamlined and nearly on auto-pilot. Game balls and trophies have been distributed to most teams. The Board notes that **umpiring coverage** needs more volunteers — see the call to action below.



Hub Tournaments & USA Cricket Junior Pathway

us **What is the USA Cricket Junior Pathway?** It is the official national development ladder for junior cricket in the United States. Austin is its own **Hub** — one of 18 across the country — where all local academies compete against each other in age-group matches (U11, U13, U15). Hub performance directly determines which players are selected to represent Austin at the **Zonal Championship** level. Top Zonal performers then advance to **National Championships**. For HCCA's young cricketers, every Hub match is a live selection audition — performances on the scorecard are seen by USA Cricket selectors.

USAC 2026 Austin Hub — U15 | Match 1 · March 29, 2026

USAC 2026 · AUSTIN · U15

HCCA WON

HCCA Starz U15 vs SuperKings Academy U15

DATE

March 29, 2026

TOSS

HCCA Starz U15 won — elected to bat

SCORECARD

[View on CricClubs ↗](#)

PLAYER OF THE MATCH

Rohan Kulkarni (C) — 124

100 balls · 12 fours · 3 sixes · SR 124.00

At just 14 years old, Rohan has represented HCCA since 2021. His century against SuperKings Academy was a masterclass in attacking leadership. Off the pitch, he competes in VEX robotics and plays western piano — exactly the kind of all-round character HCCA's youth program is proud to develop. Brilliant innings, captain! 🏏

More U15 Hub matches are ongoing — results and scorecards will be featured in the April newsletter.

USAC 2026 · AUSTIN · U13

HUB LEAGUE

HCCA Starz U13 · Austin Hub Opener

DATE

March 27, 2026

SERIES

USAC 2026 Austin Hub U13

SCORECARD

[View on CricClubs ↗](#)

HCCA STARZ U13 — SEASON OPENER

Our U13 squad opened their 2026 Hub campaign on March 27, competing against fellow Austin academies in the USAC Junior Pathway. The U13 Hub series runs through the spring, with top performers from across all Austin academies being considered for selection to represent the Austin Hub at the **Zonal Championship**. HCCA Starz U13 enter the series in strong training form — watch this space as the season develops.

U13 Hub series is ongoing — detailed match results and standout performances will be featured in the April newsletter.

Academy Programs — Age Group Status

U15

 ON TRACK

Performing strongly in Hub tournaments. Training sessions streamlined. Key pathway matches underway.

U13

 ON TRACK

Fast-paced training mode. Sessions running smoothly. Q1 skill assessments coming in April.

U11

 OUTREACH NEEDED

Program is active, but broader community messaging needed across Austin. **U11 brochure coming soon** — please share with families!

Facilities, Finance & Governance


Hutto Cricket Ground

- New sod laid in the inner circles
- Watering schedule: twice per week
- **Lease renewed — secured for 2 years**

HCCG (Round Rock)

- 2026 maintenance kicked off
- Active coordination with Williamson County (Wilco) officials
- Documentation reviews in progress

Finance

- 2025 tax filing completed 
- Full financial account transition finalized
- Membership reconciliation complete
- 2026 financial forecast in progress

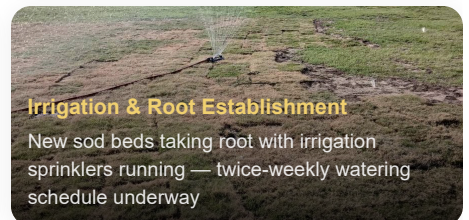
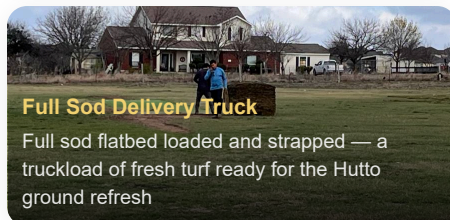
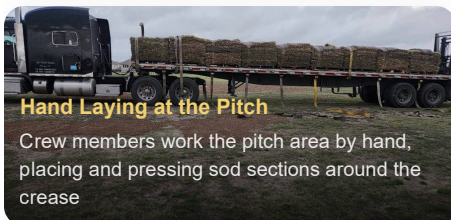
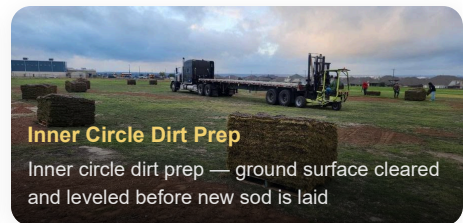
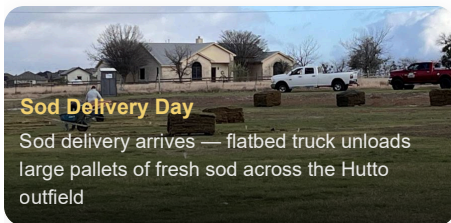
Governance

- Hutto & Wilco documentation reviews underway
- Membership structure review for Adult & Youth in progress
- LPD portability near fully automated

GROUND MAINTENANCE IN ACTION

Hutto Ground — March 2026 Renovation Gallery

From bare dirt to fresh turf — here's a behind-the-scenes look at the sod delivery, ground preparation, and irrigation work that went into getting Hutto Cricket Ground ready for the 2026 season. Click any photo to view full size.



How We Got Here *(Continued from February)*

As the founding group grew in size and spirit, so did its sense of purpose. The 25-player squad shared exceptional camaraderie — players coming from different backgrounds and different corners of the world, yet united by one common obsession: cricket. Friendships formed quickly, and the community feeling that defines HCCA today was already taking root in those early informal sessions.

But passion alone wasn't enough. Some players were regularly making the drive to Houston and Dallas just to get more game time, proving that distance was merely a minor inconvenience for true cricket lovers. It was clear the group needed structure. They formally registered as a **non-profit organization** and established a club — giving birth to the **Hill Country Cricket Association (HCCA)**. The first Board of Directors included **Amit Desai, Sanjay Singh, and Sanjay Saksena**, who took on the responsibility of turning this passionate community into a sustainable organization with real roots in Central Texas.

With official status came bigger ambitions, and the next mission was unmistakable: find a proper cricket ground. This was no small task in early 2000s Austin. **John Thickett** played a pivotal role, personally reaching out to the City of Austin, Travis County, Pflugerville, and Round Rock in search of land that could support a full-size cricket field, practice nets, and — dare they dream — parking. The search became something of a grand tour of the Austin metro, stretching from South Austin to Del Valle near the airport, and several other hopeful spots across town. Every lead was chased, every county official courted.

Finally, in late 2000, the breakthrough came. Williamson County Park began opening up, and John connected with the Park Director, who shared the vision of developing an excellent cricket facility. It was a landmark moment — and it planted the seed for what is now the **Hill Country Cricket Ground (HCCG)** in Round Rock that HCCA calls home today. The dream had a location. What remained were the challenges of turning raw land into a cricket ground — but for this group, that was just another problem to solve together.


Amidst all the administrative efforts and ground-hunting adventures, cricket itself never stopped. In early 2001, the team entered a **Dallas league** — a commitment that added significant miles to everyone's weekends. Players enthusiastically made the journey every week to compete and represent their growing club. Captaincy was entrusted to **Paddy**, whose biggest challenge was not just leading the team tactically, but assembling a reliable 11 or 12 players each week when travel was involved. The team quickly made an impression as "*that new team from Austin*" — unpredictable, spirited, and capable of pulling off surprises. Closely fought victories and a few dominant wins reinforced something important: HCCA was not just a group of passionate cricketers. It was a team with character, heading confidently in the right direction.

 *Part 3 continues in the April 2026 newsletter.*

Key Dates & Reminders

 **APCL Spring Blast 2026** — Ongoing. Check hccacricquet.org and CricClubs for schedules.

US **USAC 2026 U15 & U13 Junior Pathway Hub** — Both series underway. Hub results feed directly into Austin Zonal team selection — every match counts.

 **Q1 Youth Coaching Assessment** — Scheduled ~end of April. Individual feedback reports to parents to follow.

 **U11 Community Brochure** — Coming soon. Please share with families across Austin communities.


 **2026 Membership** — Not yet registered? Contact accounts@hccacricquet.org to complete your registration.

We Need Your Help 🙏

HCCA runs on volunteer energy. Right now we especially need **umpires** for the APCL season and **community outreach volunteers** to help grow the U11 program across Austin. If you can help — even one match or one conversation — please reach out.

 contact@hccacricquet.org | hcca_bod@googlegroups.com

March has been a month of real progress — on the pitch, in the academies, on our grounds, and in our finances. As the Spring Blast heats up and our young Starz build momentum on the national stage, there is much to celebrate as a community.




At the same time, March has reminded us that HCCA is more than cricket. It is a family. We carry Julie's memory and Hemant Bhai's strength in our hearts as we head into April. Thank you for being part of the HCCA family. See you on the pitch! 

Warm regards,

HCCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2026–2027

President	Siva Busa
Secretary	Balaji Vrk
Treasurer	Praveen Nuthulapati
Infrastructure	Hemant Thakkar
Youth Play (YPD)	V. Harikishan Puvvala
League Play (LPD)	Yogi Ram
Communication	Sandeep Belkhode

CONTACT US

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-  hcca_bod@googlegroups.com
-  www.hccacricknet.org

ABOUT HCCA

Hill Country Cricket Association (HCCA) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit serving Central Texas since 2002, with 500+ members across Austin, Round Rock, Cedar Park, and Leander.

"Promote humanistic values by celebrating and commemorating cultural diversity that exists in people of different backgrounds brought together by the sport of cricket."



Hill Country Cricket Association | 501(c)(3) Non-Profit | Round Rock, Texas
hccacricknet.org | contact@hccacricknet.org | hcca_bod@googlegroups.com

Questions or contributions for the April 2026 newsletter? Contact the Communications Director at contact@hccacricknet.org