



Colts Report Season 2016

It was a very mixed season for our colts this year, the miserable weather really took the toll on games and training sessions (one group in particular suffering greatly). Colts numbers were slightly down and we also were light on Level 2 coaches to run training nights and also match days. Taking all these factors to hand, we as a club still ran 7 age groups and re started the U7's age group on Saturday mornings. Below is how they got on:

U9's

Unlike most years the numbers were massively down for this age group and relied on upcoming U8's to bolster this age group for matches. This age group play "pairs cricket" and start with a net score of 200. If they lose a wicket they lose 4 runs, so could potentially end up under the starting total of 200. It is then a great achievement that in the first year as a competitive group they managed to finish above the 200 starting mark every time.

U10's

After a good previous season this age group entered hard ball cricket for the first time. A very keen bunch of colts finished the season mid table as they adapted to the new challenge of hard cricket. They also had a few abandoned games too.

U11's

Finishing 5th in the league is a brilliant result for the U11's, they suffered the most abandoned games and also had to deal with travelling to a game and then being told it had been called off last minute. We tried to rearrange all the fixtures to no result as they were all away fixtures leaving us to the mercy of other clubs. All we can hope for is a much, much better season next year!

U12's

Numbers for the U12's fell short compared to our predicted number this season. After a long and hard think about the situation, we believed it best to pull the age group out of the league but so that they didn't miss out on match practice, we honoured the fixtures on a friendly basis. This was communicated very well by Roly, firstly to the League and then all the clubs involved. We played all the games but some of the other clubs "may have" forgotten the type of match that was being played.....A FRIENDLY. Our group showed they can deal with the forgetfulness of the opposition club coaches and still play with passion and enjoyment regardless. Well done U12's!

U13's

A mid table finish included a very nice win over our local neighbours Cobham Avorians. Also sufferers of an abandoned fixture, the group came together and performed well to finish where they did, with some individuals earning a call up to the U14's when needed and performing admirably. Congratulations to Alfie Mickley who continued to perform well for the District team.

U14's & U15's

These two age groups trained together as the U14's would need to support the U15's as they were a few short this season. I believe that the U14's training with the U15's helped in their performance especially when batting. Too often you see sides perform a batting collapse after key individuals are out or retired, not the U14's. In all their matches they batted first and by doing so they also batted all of their 20 overs (apart from one match when they were bowled out in 19.5 overs). Even though results didn't go our way, it is a great achievement. We are delighted that Elizabeth Hackney played regularly for the U15 County squad and she continues to attend County training sessions during this winter.

It was an "end of era" moment for the U15's this season, they have completed a full cycle in their colts' journey. This is the first age since we started the colts section to go from U9's to U15's, it's an amazing achievement for the club. I have always said if we progress two colts to the adults section from each U15's age group then it's fair to say that club will benefit for years to come. This particular age group is potentially about to promote 7+ colts into the adult section (May it be on Saturdays or Sundays).

Throughout the report you may have picked up that we endured many problems i.e. short on numbers, weather etc. Please feel assured this is not just a problem for our club in general, it is being felt by a lot of the clubs in Surrey. Some of these are big clubs who boast numbers twice the size of ours. We are actively doing our best to recruit more volunteer coaches and also to attract more colts from the local schools. With regards to the weather, you all know we are at its mercy and it is beyond our control.

Once again I would like to thank all the coaches (Iain Bowman, Rob Deven, Andy Pelling, Dan Bowman, Tyron White, Sam Tyler, Roly Hockin (managing two age groups), Eddie Oxborough, Malcolm Denham (also two age groups), Charlie Black, Sam Coyne, Steve Newland, Richard Hackney and our administrators Shelagh Denham, Tracey Bateman, Linda Bowman and hard pressed barman Ken Savage. Apologies if I have forgotten anyone else. Your flexibility, commitment, passion for this role, is what makes this colts section a healthy and thriving unit. THANK YOU!!

Winter well my friends

Shaky Ahmed