

Colts Report 2016



*Affiliated to the Club Cricket Conference, the Hertfordshire County Cricket Association and the Middlesex Cricket Association
Member of the Saracens Hertfordshire Cricket League*

I started my colts' report last year with a statement that unless every member of our club took steps to support our colts' section then the future of our sides is in jeopardy and that we all need to find new young players and promote interest in our club. In the last 3 seasons the number of colts has dropped from 43 to 33 to 30 last season. The number next season, given the progression of the age groups, shows 25.

It's very difficult to run 3 teams with 25 players, especially given that 11 are under 11 years old, which is good for the future but we can't solely rely on Peter Phillips and his cricket courses for our new players.

So, a special effort please to find new players, preferably between 11 and 15 years old.

Once again my registering of all our teams as weak was ignored and we found all age group teams in Division 2, an unrealistic positioning given the development of our young cricketers at this stage.

As a result most matches proved to be very difficult for us, with only the U11 team being competitive in several matches, winning 2 (both against Cockfosters) and narrowly being defeated in 2 others. This was a remarkable effort on their part given that for many of the games we fielded 3 players who were under 9, and sometimes one under 8. The squad continue to be very enthusiastic, with several skilful players that augurs well for the future.

The U13 team suffered most, with only 6 regular players, relying on U11's to make up the number. Unsurprisingly this often meant playing games with only 10 players, and on one occasion nine. Several games could not be played owing to lack of available players and some games were conceded but played on a friendly basis with U15 players making up the shortfall. We didn't manage to win any league games although we only lost by 10 runs to Enfield, a game that we should have won. We did beat Winchmore Hill with 3 U15 players in our team, most satisfying.

Our U15 team had similar problems with player numbers, with only 8 actual U15 players available. Fortunately there were U13 players who could make up the numbers on most occasions but there were still games where we played with 9 or 10 players or were forced to concede. This was particularly disappointing following last season's successful performance at this age level and one which could have been mitigated somewhat if we had been placed in Division 3. Nevertheless the team gave their best and turned in their best performance in their penultimate game of the season, with a satisfying win against Winchmore Hill, their only victory.

In spite of the disappointing results the players were remarkably upbeat and attendances at Monday evening training sessions were very good with everyone enjoying themselves and I would like to thank all coaches and helpers who helped make them a success.

Once again the awards evening was well attended and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. Although as teams we didn't excel there were some fine individual performances and the following players received awards for 2016 season:

***Any Colts queries, please contact Keith Walker, 07786 000 804,
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- U11 awards

Batting – Daniel Iwu; Bowling – Saif Patel; Most improved – Brody Willis

- U13 awards

Batting – Aditya Sembian; Bowling – Sam Knowles; Most Improved – Robert Walking

- U15 awards

Batting – Alex Molloy; Bowling – Oliver Carey; Most improved – Micah Strange

This year we decided to award a single Clubman of the Year across all teams and the winner was:

- Daniel Cordell

The annual 6-a-side tournament at Southgate Adelaide took place earlier this year, but we were unable to field an U13 team and our U11 team had a league match on the same day. The weather was poor and our league match was abandoned after an hour's play so I can't imagine that the tournament was much fun, although I do believe that they played on in the rain. Hopefully next year.....

Unfortunately we were again unable to hold the Summer camp owing to coaches being unavailable but we'll try again next year.

Our objective in running our Colts team is to provide a pathway for young players to eventually play in our adult cricket teams and last season Alex Molloy made his debut for the Saturday 2nd XI and Kai Willis for the Sunday side, making 6 colts progressing to adult cricket in the last 2 seasons. A good trend.

Once again I'd like to extend my thanks to all those that help with colts, from the coaches and helpers at training, to the managers for running the sides and all the match-day helpers, umpires, scorers and last but not least, the parents for choosing our club to advance their youngsters' cricketing careers.

Have a good Winter and I look forward to seeing you all again at Winter nets at the end of February.

Keith Walker

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