



## 2017 Colts End of Season Report

As the Summer draws to a somewhat soggy end it is time to reflect on the 2017 colts season and document the highlights, and lowlights!

First, a big thank you to all parents for choosing our club to set your little treasures on the right path to a fun and rewarding cricket career. One of the highlights this season was a marked increase in the number of colts members, especially in the U11 age group, which, providing you all come back next season, augurs well for the future. Our total number of colts was 40, with the U11 membership leading with 24 members, all of whom played at least one game, including Cassius and Laksh who are not yet 7.

Although the weather has been a bit dodgy in recent weeks it was kind to us during the colts season and we lost only one game and one training session to heavy rain. However, we did have to concede too many matches in both the U13 and U15 age groups, but when they did play both teams were competitive in their matches. The only positive aspect of having too few players in these age groups is that some younger players got the opportunity of playing in a higher age group which will stand them in good stead for the future.

This year we decided to revert to holding the Colts Awards evening after the penultimate training session, rather than after the schools broke up for the Summer holidays, and I believe that it was a great success with a much bigger attendance and almost all of the colts being able to collect their medals and awards. I am sure that we will continue with this approach for the foreseeable future.

Our attempt to resurrect the end of season cricket camp was not so successful. We needed at least 12 members to attend and were only able to attract less than half that number. It seems that many of you leave for your holidays as soon as the state schools break up and several who attend other schools were already on holiday. We'll have to rethink our strategy on this matter.

So, on to the individual teams:-

### **U11 team**

As previously mentioned, there was a large pool of players to choose the team from and so no fear of not being able to field 11 players. However, owing to a misunderstanding we only had 9 players for our first match against Botany Bay, which we duly won. We also beat a strong Southgate Adelaide team in our second match and we were all dreaming of going through the season undefeated.

Of course those sort of dreams rarely come true, and in our case we didn't win our next match until the end of June and we ended our league campaign winning three and losing four matches, with one game cancelled owing to rain, against the team at the bottom of the league. I was able to organize 2 additional matches at the end of the season, one of which was a mixed age game against Enfield and we won both of those. In addition, we entered 2 tournaments for an U10 age group, playing with a soft ball, one of which we won. So all in all I think we had quite a successful season and can look forward to next season with optimism.

The end of season awards went to the following players:

- Batting award: **Shaakir Rafique**  
Shaakir had a very successful season with the bat, ending with an average of 35, which is quite an achievement at this age group since batsmen are regularly retired after a maximum of 5 overs so that everyone gets a chance to bat.
  
- Bowling award: **Sajiv Saha**  
This was a very closely fought award with Sajiv taking the award with an average of 8, thanks to 2 wickets in the last match, hotly pursued by Moosa, who took one more wicket but at an average of 10.
  
- Most Improved Player: **Oliver Wright**  
Last season Oliver played in only a few matches but this season he played in most. If he wasn't picked for a match he could always be relied upon as a late stand-in. Oliver has matured into a very reliable fielder and quite a useful bowler – he took 3 wickets in one match, 2 of which were bowled.  
Oliver is very enthusiastic and very modest and I expect even more success next season.

### **U13 team**

At the start of the season we had only 7 players in the U13 squad but by the end of the season we had increased that to 11 players. Even so, not everyone was always available and we needed to rely on several U11 players to make sure that we fielded a full team, and thanks go to those who helped out. Even so there were 2 occasions when we were forced to concede the match because we couldn't field 9 players. However, we did win 3 matches out of the remaining 6, including a game against Old E's, who were leading the division at the time (they actually won 5 of their 8 matches). Once again we entered an U13 team into the John Morris memorial 6-side tournament run by Southgate Adelaide and as usual we did not win but had a very enjoyable day.

The end of season awards went to the following players:

- Batting award: **Aditya Sembian**  
Aditya's cricket prowess continues to impress, in both his batting and bowling, although this season his batting was the outstanding feature.  
Aditya has also started playing adult cricket this season and he has scored useful runs for the club second XI in the league.
  
- Bowling award: **Saif Patel**

This was Saif's first season at the U13 level and he carried his excellent performances in last season's U11 matches into the new age group. He bowled consistently well, taking the most wickets and ensuring that his team were competitive in their games. Saif also bats well and so with another year's maturity under his belt we expect great things next season.

- Most Improved Player: **Scott Gillon**

Scott didn't play much last season and we were not sure that he would join again this season, but thankfully he did. He has improved in all aspects of his game but his standout performance in the field was the major factor in him winning this award.

### **U15 team**

We had the least number of players in the U15 squad and at one point it was touch and go as to whether we withdrew the team from the league. However, with the sterling efforts of several members of the U13 squad we were able to fulfill 4 of our 8 fixtures, although for one of these our opponents conceded.

We managed to win one of the 3 games that were played. Since there were so few U15 players and only 3 games played, the committee decided that it was not appropriate to make awards this season. However, there was one outstanding batting performance that deserved an award, so we presented an extraordinary batting award to **Alex Molloy** for his outstanding innings of **87 not out** against Old Elizabethans. Well done Alex, another colt who is playing regular adult cricket.

Well that was the 2017 season, challenging, but with some success and hopefully a lot of enjoyment. We wouldn't have a colts section without the effort from our coaching staff, primarily Andy, Liam, and the others who have contributed throughout the Summer and those who prepare the wickets, so thank you all.

Finally, many thanks to Osman Patel and Dan Molloy who have persevered in trying to get 11 players from a small pool of players every week.

As seems to be the case in anything we do today, we are asked for feedback, so this is your chance to let us know if you've seen anything that you think we could do better or if you have any ideas on how to attract more players.

Lastly, and this really is lastly, many thanks to Victoria Miller, who volunteered to make tea and coffee at our last two U11 matches and provided biscuits as well.

Emer Harley also helped. Are there any more parents out there who would like to lend a hand in running our club – attend a coaching course or adult helper course? Any offers would be most welcome.

See you next February for Winter training!

Keith