



2018 Colts End of Season Report

I'm afraid that I'm a bit tardy with this season's report and can only apologise and blame the glorious weather and a challenging cycling holiday in France. Contrary to popular opinion Normandy is not flat, especially the region named 'Swiss Normande'!! If only I'd looked at the itinerary more carefully.

As usual I would like to start with thanking all the parents for choosing our club to coax (or do I mean coach?) the cricketing skills out of your young ones, and more pertinently juggling with your busy calendars to get them to matches on time.

I would also like to thank Osman for being a very able manager of the U13 team and for all the many others from the club who help with coaching, pitch preparation, umpiring and scoring. Your efforts go a long way to making Colts cricket as successful and enjoyable as it is for all of our young cricketers.

Once again we benefitted from an increase in the number of colts members in the U11 age group and we hope to see you back next season. Our total number of colts was down from last season, at 36, and although we had although we had 11 new U11 members our total number remained 24, owing to some moving up to the U13 age group and some calling it a day.

Sadly we were unable to field an U15 team this season owing to a dearth of players at that age group. It seems that interest in cricket is waning as the boys get older and we are not the only club in our area to experience this. Looking at the potential numbers for next season, we believe that we will be able to enter an U15 team in the league next season, providing you all return!

The weather was mostly kind to us during the colts season and once again we lost only one game and one training session to heavy rain.

Following last year's successful Colts Awards evening, we again opted to hold it after the penultimate training session, and again it was a great success with a large attendance and almost all of the medals and awards being collected by the correct recipients. In addition, we were able to hold a raffle with some great

prizes, all thanks to the planning and hard work of Victoria Miller, which raised a significant sum for the club.

A big thank you from all of the committee!!

I should also add that Victoria was also serving refreshments for the Sunday morning fixtures, ably assisted by Emer Harley, another thank you!

So, on to the actual cricket:-

U11 team

This was our strongest U11 team for many seasons, with most team members being creditable bowlers and batsmen, even when some of the younger members turned out. In all we used 15 players, although we did play at least one game with 10 players.

In my report last season I said that at one point we dreamt of playing through the season undefeated but those sort of dreams rarely come true, but this season we made the dream come true! We were undefeated, and we won all matches fairly easily, with the exception of the match that was conceded to us. This was an outstanding team performance, with everyone contributing. Next season we will lose 3 of our regular players to the older age group and we will be in a higher division, but I'm confident that we will perform well and challenge for the top spot again.

The end of season awards went to the following players:

- Batting award: **Sajiv Saha**
Sajiv had a very successful season with the bat, ending with an average of 79, and was only out once. This was an outstanding achievement from Sajiv, who also proved to be an excellent captain. Sajiv also played frequently for the U13 age group and performed well with both bat and ball.
- Bowling award: **Aditya Chaudhri**
Aditya has one of the best bowling actions that I have seen for his age group and he used it to excellent effect this season, taking the most wickets at an outstanding average of 2.7 runs per wicket. I expect to see him develop further next season as an all-rounder.
- Most Improved Player: **Moosa Arslan**
Last season Moosa just missed out on the bowling award and again he was pipped by Adi, having changed to bowling leg spin, but this season his batting has improved tremendously and he recorded the second best batting average behind Sajiv. Moosa is also an excellent fielder, so there is no question that he is the most improved player this season.

U13 team

We started the season with a squad of 12 players, which seemed to be too small to sustain a competitive challenge for the league. However, with the help of some U11 players we managed to fulfill all of our fixtures and we pushed the eventual winners right up to the last match and we ended up a very creditable second in

our league. All players made strong contributions to our matches and our overall team spirit was excellent, which should augur well for next season.

The end of season awards went to the following players:

- **Batting award: Saif Patel**
Saif had an excellent season with the bat, scoring freely and hitting half centuries against Botany Bay and OE's.
He has played a couple of games for the adult teams this season and I expect him to feature more frequently in adult cricket next season.
- **Bowling award: Joseph Reid**
Joseph bowled consistently well this season, ensuring that his team were competitive in their games and ending up with the most wickets. He also contributed well in the field taking some great catches and was a major influence in the team's motivation.
- **Most Improved Player: Brody Willis**
In previous seasons you would barely notice that Brody was playing but this season he has really taken charge of his game. His all-round game has improved and he has become an excellent fielder. He is always willing to make suggestions when asked by the captain has made a major contribution to the team's performance this season.

Once again Old Elizabethans hosted an U10 tournament on the May Bank Holiday and being the current holders of the trophy we were eager to play again. This is a soft ball cricket tournament and gives the younger colts an opportunity to play competitive cricket. It was a competitive tournament and we were undefeated in retaining the trophy. We had to defend it later in the season at Winchmore Hill and again we were undefeated but lost on the average run rate. Two wonderful events thoroughly enjoyed by our very young side.

We also entered an U11 team into the John Morris memorial 6-side tournament run by Southgate Adelaide, on what must have been the hottest day of the Summ9er. As always it was a very enjoyable day and we competed well, but just fell short of reaching the final.

Lastly, I will make my annual appeal for any 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