

2019 Colts End of Season Report

Once again I'm a bit tardy with this season's report and my excuse is the same as last year, mainly my annual September cycling holiday in France.

As usual I would like to start with thanking all the parents for choosing our club to develop the cricketing skills of your children and for navigating the traffic of the Middlesex and Hertfordshire borders to arrive at mid-week matches on time.

I would also like to thank Dan and Osman for managing the U13 and U15 teams respectively and for all the many others from the club who help with coaching, pitch preparation, umpiring and scoring. Your efforts, as always, enable us to provide a safe and enjoyable environment for Colts cricket and has made it a successful season.

As always we never really know how many of last season's Colts will come back for more at the start of the season, but I'm pleased to report that the vast majority returned, and with the several new faces we increased our numbers from 36 to 38 this season. However, we should not be complacent and I sincerely hope that you will all return next season and bring friends along too.

Osman's son Saif moved up to the U15 age group and Osman decided that he would like to try and reintroduce an U15 team this season, in spite of only having half a team in that age group. That he managed to fulfill all of his league matches is a fine testament to Osman's persistence and several much younger boys being willing to play for the higher age group. This proved to be a great experience for those who played and thanks to the parents who agreed to let them play (or could they really have stopped them?). We are hoping that we can continue to field 3 age group teams again next season.

It seems that junior football these days continues well into the early Summer months and it's definitely having an impact on getting teams out early in the season. Please encourage your kids to get their pads on as soon as cricket starts.

The weather was again generally kind to us but the U13 team did lose 2 matches to the weather.

Our Colts Awards evening was once again extremely successful with an extremely large attendance, with the majority of the awards winners present. The raffle, once again organized by Victoria Miller, raised a substantial amount for the club funds and Michael Storey persuaded his employer, Ocado, to provide us with a voucher that enabled us to get all the food for the bbq free, generating a lot more funds for the club.

A big thank you from all of the committee!!

Also thanks to those who helped with the bbq, especially Gary, who was cooking for at least 2 hours.

As with last season, Victoria, and sometimes Joel Miller served refreshments for the Sunday morning U11 fixtures, thanks again.

So, on to the actual cricket:-

U11 team

This was another successful season for the U11 team, this year in the second division, and although we didn't remain unbeaten we did win the league. This was a huge accomplishment as we lost 5 members of the previous season's team as they moved up an age group.

As winners of Division 2 we played off against the runners up of Division 1 to see who went through to the Middlesex Area play-offs. This was an away match against Winchmore Hill, and we gave them a good match and a fright as they narrowly beat us.

Another outstanding season where we used 19 players for our league matches and two friendlies, including a 7 year-old and three 8 year-olds who show exceptional talent for the future.

The end of season awards went to the following players:

- Batting award: **Aditya Chaudhri**
Aditya is a very good all-rounder and nearly won the bowling award as well. However, his batting was the most consistent in the team, with him being the top scorer in 3 matches and ending up with the best average.

- Bowling award: **Hridai Somaiya**
Hridai is another all-rounder, but his bowling this year has improved a lot. The main thing about Hridai's bowling is his accuracy, which means that he doesn't give away many runs and when the batsmen take risks he takes wickets. There was only one match that Hridai played in that he didn't take a wicket and he ended up with the best bowling average.

- Most Improved Player: **Theo Miller**
Theo has always been a competent bowler but this season he has improved his batting with some notable innings, hitting the ball much harder than he had done previously. He also bowled 2 batsmen out in consecutive balls on 2 occasions but the hat-trick eluded him both times. Definitely our most improved player this season.

U13 team

We started the season with a squad of 9 players, which once again seemed to be too small to sustain a competitive challenge for the league. However, with the help of some U11 players we managed to win the league, only losing one of our matches. 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: **Shaakir Rafique**
Shaakir had an excellent season with the bat, scoring freely and was by far the highest run scorer. His best innings was in our final game ensuring that we won the match and ended as runners up in the league.

- Bowling award: **Rayan Raza**
Rayan has developed into an extremely good leg break bowler who really turns the ball a lot and he has bowled consistently well this season, taking wickets at critical times. He also contributed well with the bat, being the second top run scorer.
- Most Improved Player: **Ahmed Patel**
Ahmed's all-round game has improved this season, tightening up his bowling to achieve an economy rate of 3 and featuring with the bat when it was required. Ahmed has become a really solid team member.

U15 team

As mentioned earlier, with very few players in this age group we would need to rely on players from the younger age group to step up to play, and step up they did. We managed not only to fulfill all of our fixtures but we came second in the league. Well done and thank you to all of the lower age group players, especially the U11's who played. Owing to the relatively few U15 players the committee decided to only make a batting and bowling award this year.

The end of season awards went to the following players:

- Batting award: **Aditya Sembian**
Aditya has developed into a fine cricketer, and has scored by far the most runs for the team this season. Formally more recognized as a bowler he has worked hard on his batting and should go on to become a fine all-rounder. He is also an outstanding fielder.
- Bowling award: **Moosa Arslan**
Moosa is an U11 player and has played in 5 of the U15 team's matches and ended up joint wicket taker at an average of 7.5, an outstanding feat for a young cricketer. Another leg break bowler who turns the ball significantly and promises to be a great talent for the future. It is most unusual for such a young player to get an U15 award but it is well-deserved.

The early May Bank holiday was the Old Elizabethans U10 tournament and we fielded a competitive team for this soft ball event but were unable to win the final. However, this gave our youngest players their first opportunity to play competitive cricket and I have high hopes for next season.

Unfortunately the tournament planned by Winchmore Hill didn't take place this season, but hopefully will return next.

We were unable to enter any teams into the John Morris memorial 6-aside tournament run by Southgate Adelaide, this season as it was arranged with very little notice this year but we hope to be able to compete again next season.

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