

CWCC Colts Report for 2016

Two teams of our teams, the U10s and the U14s, both reached the County Quarter Finals, but fell just short on the day. Well done to Jamie Ford for running the 10s and Clive Rillstone for running the 14s and well done to all the boys that got so far in the competition. The other age groups had mixed fortunes but on the whole did well, most matches were completed with the weather only victorious on a couple of occasions.

Praise must also go to the U11 team, managed by Graham Roadnight and Pratik Patel, they won an end of season tournament against strong opposition at Tring Park.

Membership in the youngest age groups grew considerably with 38 new members between the age of 6 and 9. Average age groups squad numbers are healthy from U6 to U13 but we struggle to keep 14s and 15s. This season saw several U13s play in the seniors for the first time and next season we should have another exciting intake from the Colts continuing the supply of young talent to the adult teams that the Club depends on.

On the Common this summer we have seen some wonderful talent appearing for the first time in the U6s and U7s, we look forward to seeing how well they develop under the careful guidance of Jeff O'Dwyer and Scott Aspinall. We have some wonderful players throughout the age groups, and some that have been given County recognition. These were Ben Wells and George Weldon with Bucks and Luke Sutcliffe, Toby Lazeris and Andrew Neal at Herts who all played county cricket, well done to all of them.

The new U19 team, although not a Colts team it included many colts, enjoyed a very good first season with some great results and individual performances, well done Tom Smithson and Callum Neal for making this happen, I wish every success to the team for 2017.

I thank Mark Watkiss and Will Pendered that ran the winter nets and Mark and Ryan Evans for heading up the Sunday junior coaching and all of the senior players that took turns to help, including Rob Dunstone and Robin Webb, without them we would have been really overstretched on many sessions.

Thanks must go to Mike Rose for the junior wickets and putting up with our constant changing of fixture dates, Lesley for organising the catering on Sundays and John Chadwick for either manning or organising someone to run the bar for matches. I would also like to express great thanks to Sarah O'Dwyer who has taken on the responsibility for Colts membership, Sarah has done a fantastic job and has great ideas for improvements on how we collect fees for next season.

I am very pleased that Mark Watkiss has had another good season of private Cricket Camps during school term breaks and that our young club players assisted him with the coaching.

This year we have had many colts playing representative cricket, plenty at District, many at Area and four at Full County we had U11 Ben Wells, U12 George Weldon, U14 Toby Lazeris and U17 Andrew Neal, well done to all of these boys.

Colts Winter Nets will start in January at Rickmansworth School, after many years at St Clement Danes School I decided to make the change for our young players to enjoy the improved facilities that Rickmansworth has to offer, hopefully this is a move in the right direction.

The Colts Awards for 2016 were held in October, 28 individual awards were presented plus four special awards :

The most promising young player from the youngest age groups, Martin's Cup went to U11 Archie Keith.

Two new replacement cups were presented, the Chorleywood Sports Clubman of the Year is now The Anthony Vos Young Clubman of the Year, in memory of a great friend to the Club. The first winner of this award was U14 Matthew Barnfather.

The new Mills Trophy for best individual performance was won by U12 Connor Scott in a match where he opened the bowling and took 3 wickets in his 3 overs with 3 maidens and opening the batting he scored his maximum 30 not out.

The President's Rose Bowl also known as The Darvell Trophy, this is for the most promising young player from the Colts division, this year went to U14s Alex and Harry Saunders.

Finally, this season we experimented with Colts training on both Fridays and Sundays, with the U11s upwards training on Friday evenings and the youngest training early on Sunday mornings.

On the whole this was a major success as it worked for most people involved, Fridays became a great social event with the parents and the reduction of coaching time on Sundays allowed three colts matches to be played in a day at our own ground.

The downside of this for the Club was that we have to provide coaches for two separate sessions and we were short on many occasions.

With the importance that we all know Colts make to this Club I feel that the time is right to make more demands on the senior players from all teams, no longer just the 1st or 2nd team but everyone that plays for the Club.

I would like it to become mandatory as part of club membership that time is given for a least three appearances in the summer to assist at training on either a Friday or a Sunday, this will go a long way to improving our offer to the parents and young players of our great club. Something to discuss perhaps this evening.

Patrick

PS Casting my mind back to when the Chadwicks moved to CW 30 years ago, the main reason was the quality of the schools. I would suggest that remains the case with today's young parents and our Club helps to enhance the attraction of CW to those parents that once they get here and consider using our Club.

It is important we continue to maintain high standards at the Club and then we will continue to be successful with the young people of the locality.

Parents needs to see that we have zero tolerance to drugs, we give their kids good coaching and a fun time and we also have a duty of care to look after teenagers when they play in matches with adults.

Senior members of the Club need to keep an eye on their younger team members on match days and also post-matches in the bar.