

# Hythe & Dibden Cricket Club 4th X1

## Captain's Report 2021 Season

With Covid very much in evidence we were delighted to receive the go ahead from the ECB to proceed with a new cricket season. However, Covid precautions and restrictions were very much evident and strictly applied to in all matches played, etc.

Prior to starting the new season, both the 3rd and 4th X1's had numerically a good composite of decent players on paper, and the plan was for both sides to work closely together. However, with our 1st and 2nd X1's suffering with availability and injury issues, we found a number of our original prospects having to play for our 2nd X1 who in turn had to feed players into the 1st X1. Needless to say, this made our season extremely difficult, and our 3rd X1 in particular found it hard to compete against stronger opponents. Despite all these issues, remarkably (unlike other Clubs) both the 3rd and 4th X1's did not concede one game throughout the season. Furthermore, by working closely together, both sides managed to avoid relegation and remain in the same Division for next season.

With our more experienced personnel playing at a higher level, we took the opportunity of introducing players from our Colts setup. This turned out to be a plus. All those that played adult cricket for the first time did splendidly and participated with great enthusiasm and desire. They are now far better cricketers for this opportunity and will be ready for further action next season. Special note of thanks to the following Colts and their supportive parents: Callum Simmonds, Toby Lambley, Joe Addleton, George Richards and Finley Copack. All 5 played with Callum, Toby and Joe playing almost every week. Both Callum and Joe have developed into good bowlers. Toby has made tremendous progress as a wicket keeper and George looks highly promising too.

I would like to thank all those who played for our 4th X1 during the season, especially those from Lyndhurst & Ashurst, Sway and Suttoners Cricket Clubs, who helped us out when short under the League's Loan Scheme.

I would like to pay thanks to Pete Miller (Vice Captain), Jamie Fletcher, Shaun Moss and Martin Duell for their tireless support throughout the season. Finally, special thanks to Steve Chiverton who prepared fantastic pitches at Blackfield week after week. Not forgetting Steve Rollinson for his rolling of the wicket prior to games.

As many of you already know, I will not be continuing as Captain next season, but hope (if selected) to play in at least some games.

Kev McCarthy Captain