

HYTHE & DIBDEN CRICKET CLUB AGM – 4 February 2022

2021 SEASON COLTS REPORT

COVID restrictions eased just in time for the 2021 cricket season and thankfully we were able to begin outdoor training from May and play a full Colts league programme. Despite the disruption to the start of the year, we maintained good Colts numbers at summer training, with over 40 Colts attending training and sufficient players to enter Under 9s, 11s and 13s teams in the New Forest Junior Cricket Association league. The Under 9s particularly benefitted new players coming up from the AllStars, demonstrating the value the AllStars programme brings to the Club.

Colts team Managers including, myself, supported by Simon Dixon and Ian Prentice (Under 9s), Andy Grave (Under 11s) and Jez Richards (Under 13s) did an outstanding job getting teams together for all fixtures and organising match day arrangements. Many thanks to you all for the time you put in on and off the field. Particularly proud of the inclusive approach managers and captains took to ensure all Colts, regardless of ability, were given maximum opportunity to play cricket in every match, resulting in great improvements in all our Colts during the season. And as spectators will testify, the U9s team again provided great entertainment on Friday evenings. Match days always need much help and grateful to all who supported with particular thanks to Dan Prentice, Dave Capstick, Dave Lambley and Ian Prentice for taking on scoring and umpiring duties, which at Colts matches, are not the easiest of tasks, as my ball counting ability has regularly demonstrated. A big shout out to Steve C and all the volunteers that ensured the ground was in great shape to play the home matches and for staffing the bar, providing essential supplies for the parents (and coaches)!

For the first time in 2021, we continued indoor training through the autumn, which was well supported by the Colts and has helped maintain numbers, providing a strong start to 2022. Thanks to Andy Grave, Dave Capstick, Ian Prentice, Simon Dixon, Andy Wakely, Dan Taylor and Matt Young for regularly giving up Monday evenings to run the coaching sessions. My thanks also to Sue Froggett for fielding the many comms from the NFJCA & Hampshire, and to Nix for support with Colts admin and attending NFJCA meetings. Special thanks to Dawn for all the time you give, supporting training and putting policies in place to ensure Colts training is conducted efficiently and safely.

Regretfully, we did not have sufficient Colts to enter an Under 15s team in the league, but delighted to see Ben Holbrook, Callum Simmonds and Joe Addleton, as well as a number of younger Colts, regularly playing adults cricket for Hythe. My thanks to the team captains for giving them the opportunity to play regular cricket for Hythe and supporting their development as a result.

Hythe & Dibden CC has continued to encourage and support Colts accessing County level cricket via the Hampshire Regional Performance Centre player pathway and delighted that 12 Colts were put forward to take part in the 2021/22 training programme.

Looking ahead to 2022, we plan to enter teams in Under 9, 11, 13 and 15 age groups. In support of this, we are looking for an Under 9s Manager and coaches to assist with training across the age groups, for which the club will meet the cost of any coaching course fees. If you are interested and able to give a little time to help with coaching, or managing the Under 9s team, myself, Dawn or Ian would be very pleased to hear from you.

And finally, thanks to all parents for supporting the club and turning out on those dark, wet Monday evenings (Winter and Summer!) and to all the Colts for your commitment to training, great attitude in matches and most importantly, making it fun!

Andy Addleton
Colts Coordinator