**Secretary’s Report 2023 Season**

2023 season saw us fielding 4 adult league sides, and, although we sometimes struggled to honour matches for the 4th team last year, with a couple of new players joining, we have again entered 4 sides for the 2024 season, hopefully the weather will be improved. There have been some amendments to the league overs – teams in Division 1 will now bowl 45 overs rather than 50, fielding circles have been introduced for League 4 and, in rain affected matches, 20 overs will constitute a game, there is also sponsorship available for teams travelling to the IOW – just need a bit of notice to make sure we apply in time, there are no other changes that affect us.

The captain’s reports will give you a detailed picture of how the season went but in summary - the First XI played in Hampshire County Division 1 with Matt Young as Captain, they finished 15th in the league and will continue in this division. TJ captained the Second XI, playing in HCL Division 4 South, unfortunately, partly due to constant personnel changes, they were relegated and will play in division 5, (the same as the 3rd team, but in South). Our 3rd XI played in Div 5 South West with Ryan O’Connor as captain, they finished 12th and will continue to play in Division 5 South West in 2024. Our 4th Team, headed up by Jamie Fletcher, played in Division 6 Central, finishing 12th in the table. The 4th team continues to rely on the introduction of colts’ into adult cricket and it is vital that we maintain it for their progression.

Steve Chiverton continues to ensure that there is a steady string of Sunday, touring and friendly matches during the season, not something that all clubs have, thanks to everyone who stepped up to get these matches on.

To those of you fulfilling Captain’s roles in 2024, please get match results, ground reports etc. in on time and to check that your players are registered – all on Play Cricket. Please ask for further help if you need it. The league fines us for every infringement.

Earlier this year I represented the club at a Sports Conference in Eastleigh, we had one talk on how to put together a good grant bid – what the ECB are looking for, and Solent University gave a presentation on how amateur sports clubs can utilise their students for projects – which in turn gives the student ‘evidence’ for their course. We’re investigating how we can make use of this link – I’m meeting them on 6th March – so I’ll keep you posted.

This year, we are lucky enough to be offered sponsorship ‘in kind’ via Broadsword who will be starting alterations in the club very shortly. Once they have finished, we will need to have our ‘get set’ event in order to do internal refurbishment and make the club useable for the season – keep a look out for the notification. We’re applying for sponsorship to assist us in making the club more attractive for private hire – so watch this space.