HYTHE & DIBDEN CRICKET CLUB AGM – 1 March 2024

2023 SEASON COLTS REPORT

2023 saw us build on a first full post COVID season by adding more numbers to the colts section and bringing some success on the pitch as well!!

Indoor training continued in the autumn term with a good turn out every Monday and in total around 39 Colts trained regularly over the winter.

In addition, a number of new Colts came through from All Stars and Dynamos, re-enforcing the value these initiatives bring to the club. As a result, we continued to be able to enter teams in the New Forest Junior Cricket Association (NFJCA) League at U9, U11, U13 and U15 age groups.

Significantly, 2023 saw Andy Addleton hand over the reins of Colts cricket and take a well-earned step back. He will leave a big pair of shoes to fill, and we are lucky that we have a good group of coaches to step up as it will need to be a joint effort! Andy should be very proud of the advances he’s overseen at his time at the helm and he has put Colt's cricket in a much stronger position and developed a great pathway from All stars to adult cricket, epitomising the “cricket for all” strategy and never focusing on results over inclusivity and enjoyment! Thank you, Andy, you will be missed and i am glad you are still willing to help coach (at least for one more year!!)

A huge thanks to the other colts team managers & coaches , Sheelan Shah & Adam Williams (Under 9s), Simon Dixon (u11s) Dave Capstick (Under 13s) and Jez Richards (Under 15s) for their time through the season getting teams together, organising fixtures and persevering with results entry via Play Cricket, some even started to enjoy the app! (or maybe that was just me!) We saw some great team performances and improvement in all the Colts and even some success with the U13s winning their league. Most importantly, we should be proud of the inclusive approach managers and captains continued to take, to ensure all Hythe & Dibden Colts, regardless of ability, were given maximum opportunity to play cricket in every match.

Further support was provided by Dan Prentice, Ian Prentice, Sue Froggett , Dan Taylor, Match days & training are so much easier when you have help at hand and we are grateful to all who supported our Colts teams. Chiv supported us brilliantly again this year with making every effort to get us on cut grass wickets whenever achievable which, i know, the colts appreciated!

Huge thanks to Dawn and Mike for their continued support to Colts cricket, the ever present Dawn for ensuring we are honest with our health & safety at training etc and keeping on track of finances and all things colts admin. Mike for his overall support (especially the bar!) and encouraging the pathway into adults cricket!

The 2023 season saw a further increase in the numbers of the Colts continue to play for the Hythe & Dibden adult teams which has been fantastic for the Colts development and great preparation for the transition to adult cricket. We are very grateful to the Team Captains for giving the Colts the opportunity to play and making them welcome in their teams, especially Jamie, who was a great support this year. Even coming to watch some of the colts games to enhance the encouragement!

Hythe & Dibden CC has continued to encourage and support Colts accessing County level cricket training via the Hampshire Regional Performance Centre player pathway and it is great to see 8 of our Colts are part of the 2023/24 training programme.

Looking ahead to 2024, the league is changing structure to a “Hampshire” run league rather than NFJCA governance. We await to see the full impact of this change, hopefully just more consistent rules between the regions and largely left untouched. We plan to enter teams in Under 9, 11, 13 and 15 age groups for the leagues and cups this year and it's great to see another coach, Sheelan Shah get qualified! We have a strong set of qualified coaches now throughout the colts age groups! It would also be great to increase the number of girls within the colts set up!

Given this will be the first year without Andy at the helm, I am sure we shall get things wrong and learn a lot! But I am grateful to all those that will step up and help us navigate another successful season. The first year we shall be turning out in coloured tops and start to look the part on the field!

Finally, thanks to all parents for supporting the club and turning out on those dark, cold Monday evenings (Winter and Summer!) and to all the Colts for your commitment to training, great attitude and making it fun for us all. Looking forward to another great season.

Andy Grave

Colts Coordinator