

K F C C

Under 13 Colts Awards 2008

I have reviewed what I said in the previous year about this team. A number of the same names appear in some of the same slots, but having lost a number of players (all for very good reasons – Jacob Lambert-Lloyd on Basketball duty and Presh Govender with serious sunburn are among those from whom we were unable to extract a game), this team provided a lot of cricket for other players. I would like to pay tribute to the way in which our girls played in this team – Heather Holmes was just one who took a terrific blow to the shins (to stop a certain four off her own bowling) and it did not even disturb her mascara – maybe some of us could take a lesson – in pain control – not mascara application! A special mention must be made of Josh Alcock who was ill for much of the season but played towards the end of the season.

There are three exciting things which have started to develop in this team – the transition of players from schools in which we coach under Chance to Shine to playing in the club, the particularly pleasing sight of a number of girls playing to win (as they did at Halstead), and the development of a classy scorer in the form of Colin Davies (he is an accountant after all).

On another positive note I was very pleased to receive a polite letter from Braxted Cricket Club commending the skills and attitude of both Will and Luke Pordham who were offered a game at short notice because Braxted were short for a second team game.

Our league position was always going to be lower than last year. That is not what matters – what matters is the development that we achieve through the playing of cricket matches where everyone has a chance to show off their skills.

I always hesitate to nominate my star players because I want every person who plays to feel they have contributed to the team but that is the way we have to do things.

A tight contest for the second spot on the **batting** podium was led by Bryony Butcher on an average of 20, with a West (Ben this time on 19.5 and Nick van Hoote gem on 15.4, but **Ollie Parsons** clinched the deal on 47.5. Well done.

In a season when the dry dusty turning pitch was the one in the car park the spinners were always going to struggle, however Ollie Parsons developed and it is gratifying to play in an adult team with him and see him take wickets. The **bowling** award was again tight for first place with Miles Harvey just being pipped by **Nick van Hootegem**. Miles is but one of a bunch of very keen cricketers that I have had the pleasure of coaching at Thurstable this year and one of several who have made the transition to the club. For the record Nick's average was 13 and Miles helped himself to four wickets at Frinton that contributed to his 19 average. Well done.

I have had some difficulty with the **fielding** award. Heather Holmes with her huge throw from the boundary, and many little incidents involving many of the other players stick out, but our latest recruit (from West Ham) to the keepers position when our hugely reliable Nick Davies was unavailable, has shown great commitment to his general fielding and that is **Dominic Cowell**. Well done.

On the **Clubman** award I am gender-blind and therefore the two people that I would like to have awarded the trophy to are Rhiannon Griffiths for always being. However I think that the award should go to **Will Shortridge** who constantly nagged me to organise the matches in the fixtures list and the rearrangements forced on us by the weather and organising his mother to do his paper round when more important things like the game against Mistleay intervened.

I can only commend the commitment of all our players and supporting parents to the cause and say what a pleasure it has been to be involved with this team this year.

Simon Gibbs