Colts Report 2021

The season started late due to the pandemic with the usual winter training program being cancelled due to the COVID 19 restrictions that were still in place until the 29th of March , but as soon as lockdown finished, we were banging the drum and running coaching sessions at the club from April 8th (would have been the week before BUT easter quite selfishly got in the way) running right through as always to the end of August and then our Autumn programme in late October.

The first few training sessions were done in possibly the coldest conditions that I have ever coached in at the club, but attendance was not affected, and possibly enhanced as parents wanted their children outside doing some fitness and some sport after a year cooped up inside.

The colts' numbers in 2021 continued to climb with over 240 children attending the coaching sessions with approximately 215 becoming paid members of the club in 2021 as well the camaraderie and the atmosphere on club evenings was excellent as the most important thing we are trying to build as a section is that we are building a community club not just a cricket club.

Schools this year were even later getting started with many schools being apprehensive until May about letting outside coaches in. We have streamlined schools to the main ones locally and coaching in 12 offering more to those schools with open days and school training sessions as well. It has worked very well with for the first time getting into Highlands and after an absence of 4 years Grange Park as well.

Camps have done exceedingly well in 2021 beating the figure any other year by 35% which all bodes well going into 2022, and finally before talking about the playing side of things, we ran a very successful Autumn Training program with over 80 children booked into shows that there is a massive thirst for cricket outside of the normal cricket spot in the calendar.

Onto the teams

We entered an U11C for the first time and this was run by Neil Hurst, containing many 8-year-olds, this team was an absolute phenomenon winning the 3rd Division containing A teams from many sides in our local area

The U11B despite being the only B team in their division handled themselves amazingly well finishing 3rd a great effort from the team and they should be extremely competitive in 2022

The U11A completed an area League and Cup Double dominating the opposition in many matches this season, before another Local County cup draw on a Wednesday Night to Teddington Scuppered their chances losing by 8 wickets

The U13B also finished 3rd in their league and can be proud of the fact that they stand head and shoulders above every other team in the B section in 2021

The U13A were once again undefeated getting through to the county Q/F before falling to Primrose Hill in a tight encounter

The U15A and B teams won their divisions in 2021 with the A's drawing the Bs in the county cup where the As just nipped a narrow victory before falling to Indian Gymkhana in the Quarters

The U17 won there group convincingly before falling to defeat away (WE NEVER SEEM TO GET DRAWN AT HOME!) to Stanmore

The U19 got through to finals day after an impressive last day win v North Middlesex in a 1 overshoot out played in something that resembled an old-fashioned cup match on TV. With a strong team and finals day to look forward to surely nothing could stop us ........ sadly, the bank holiday weekend meant the Reading festival and instead of bobbing around the cricket pitch many of our team were there which meant a youthful team entered the pitch v Ealing and after a strong opening partnership we went from 58-0 to 65 all out but everyone handled themselves brilliantly.

It is so great that so many of our colts have pushed into the senior sides and having played with a lot of them in the 6th XI it is great to see that we have a massively strong core to build from with some exceptional talent of the future looking to push through our 6 Saturday teams and make it to the 1st XI. Here’s to 2022 and whatever it may have in store for us all.

Finally thank you to or our volunteers for making the season happen. As ever Kathryn Forrester, kept our registers and finances on track – the most important role, and without the managers, no games would happen.

Bang the Drum

Jim