

## PTCC 3rd XI Captain's Report

After finishing 7th place for the last few seasons and expecting to lose our leading run scorer over the last couple of years, Nick Williams, to the 2s for much of the season, while also aiming to bring through some of our under 13s and 14s, the aim for the 3s this year was very much "don't get relegated".

We went away to Kingston Lacy for the first game of the season. After 40 overs, we'd managed to get to 226 for 7. Dalbir Singh finishing on 130 not out, with only 1 other getting to 20.

13 year old Joe Stewart opened the bowling and sent their best bat (who's averaged 90 for the last 2 seasons) packing for just 6 runs, Taylor Wormington taking a brilliant diving catch behind the stumps – a great start.

In what ended up being a very close match – we managed to get our first win under our belt. A maiden test hundred for Dalbir and all our youngsters contributing.

We welcomed Damith Gunawardana back to PTCC, a former 1st XI all rounder who hasn't played for a few years. Damith finished the season with an average of 8.7, and an economy rate of 3.2. A welcome return.

After 6 games, we were sitting around mid-table. A lot of us struggling with the bat and despite some tidy overs bowled, we weren't taking enough wickets.

We then went on a run of 10 wins on the bounce. In that time, Dalbir had knocks of 98, 65, 133, 60, 101 not out and 108. It was brilliant to watch at times.

We then found ourselves top of the league, with 2 games to go. Coming up against Colehill, 3rd in the table after spending most of the season in first place.

Batting first, we ended up all out for 164 from just 32 overs. Colehill chased our total down in 23 overs for the loss of just 2 wickets in what turned out to be a disappointing day.

The final day was a wash out, which meant we ended up finishing second, 4 points behind Wimborne's 3rd team.

Despite this feeling like a sad way to end the season, I can't express quite how proud I am of our achievements this year.

Yes, it helps when you have a player who scores 1014 runs, from 15 innings, averaging 78, with 5 hundreds and 4 fifties, but having a young side, who all played so well and conducted themselves brilliantly, it felt like we'd exceeded expectations.

Thank you to all the parents of our youngsters, many of whom came to watch every week. So many opposition captains commented their attitude and conduct being a credit to the club. It's been a pleasure watching them all grow this year.

Scott