

Junior Chair's report 2023

I am pleased to report that the junior section has never been busier and is bursting at the seams with keen, budding cricketers at every age group. Inkeeping with the traditional role of the junior section I am delighted that so many juniors continue to make the transition to adult cricket within the club, in every team up to and including the 1st XI. These sterling efforts have been somewhat hampered by the DCB's reluctance last summer to sign off our county level u12s for adult cricket, something we are endeavouring to ensure does not happen in 2024.

I'd like to thank everyone who participated in making the All Stars and Dynamos programme a huge success last year, with almost 100 children attending. Indeed, many of the children have continued to train with the club over the winter and provided additional income through the All Stars coaching scheme we introduced this winter. I'd especially like to thank David Mutton for his efforts organising this over the Summer and through Winter.

I'm also delighted to report that girls cricket within the club is our fastest growing section. The efforts of Dan and Claire Hardy have been instrumental in growing the number of girls within the club from a dedicated handful to several dozen keen cricketers who have represented the club at u9, u11 and u13 girls level, as well as in mixed cricket.

2023 was not quite as successful on the pitch as 2022, though there are a variety of factors behind this. However, we retained the u12 Dorset cup in the summer and have already achieved title winning success in multiple indoor leagues over the winter. Our policy of frequently playing players of ability in higher age groups has meant that there is often a large age disparity between our teams and those that we face, but this has been proven to lead to faster development for our most talented players and is often reflected in the number of players we have that represent the county at age group level.

Financially, the junior section is more or less breaking even despite the large increase in costs brought about by our fantastic new training venue at PGS. The ability to have multiple age groups train at the same time has meant our cricket offering has never been better, with almost all age groups having between 6-8 hours of coaching per month. Our academy continues to provide our most talented children with additional coaching from our experienced coaches and even professional players.

Finally, I would be remiss not to reserve a final thanks for our head coach Joey Wormington. To say he does the work of a dozen coaches and administrators in the running of the junior section would likely be an understatement. He is a real asset to the club and we are incredibly lucky to have such a dedicated and knowledgeable individual as our head coach.