

## **Poole Town 1st XI Summary 2025 Season:**

### **Introduction:**

The season began with a lot of uncertainty and from my point of view as skipper a lot of nerves regarding the season that lay ahead. The 2024 season was a very disappointing one for us as we finished 5th in the league. Leading into the first game of the season we had to manage the loss of Joey Wormington, Mitch Wilson and Josiah Edy who made the move up to Bournemouth to tackle the Southern League. Despite the losses we welcomed Ben Walsh, Dan Griffiths and Jeremiah Edy up from the second team to become regulars within the 1st XI team.

### **T20 Weeks and Finals Day:**

The 2025 season once again began with the T20 weeks. We played some great cricket during this period and managed to build up a lot of confidence within the ranks. During the T20 group stage we won every game both home and away vs Broadstone and Swanage. During this part of the season Army batted himself into some form that would stay for the remainder of the season. As a result of winning our group we qualified for finals day but again fell very short to a strong Wimborne outfit due to poor availability and game management. We even witnessed the return of former Dorset Premier League winning player Jordan Down.

### **League Phase:**

The actual league started with a home fixture against Broadstone. We batted first and Army and Badge both scored hundreds. We then toiled away for 60 overs having declared early for 9 wickets unfortunately resulting in a winning draw. We then went through the remainder of the timed games unbeaten which included another big performance but sadly a winning draw vs Wimborne at Hamworthy where Ben Wright scored a majestic 100. At the end of the timed phase we sat top of the league following a win away at Dorchester which included more runs for Army and Badge and a brilliant fielding performance which was finished off with a one stump to aim at run out from Wrighty to clinch victory.

The 2/3 of the season repeated the 1st third of the season but in straight 50/50 games with coloured kits and pink ball. During this part of the season we once again remained unbeaten and won 3/5 with the only blemish being an abandoned game with the score at 40-0 off 10 overs vs Dorchester. This ultimately cost the lads as we were deducted 10 points and Dorchester were awarded the win and a maximum 20 points. With 5 games to go in the season we sat unbeaten but in 2nd place despite victory at Wimborne as well which included a brilliant 96 from Army.

The final few weeks of the season saw us beat Broadstone and Bere Regis comfortably. We then put in the worst performance of the season at home to Wimborne following a Glenn McGrath moment from DJ prior to the start of play. As a result of the defeat at home to Wimborne we had to travel to Dorchester for the 2nd time in the season knowing that nothing more than a win would be enough. On the day we were outplayed and fell short in front of a packed crowd at Dorchester which all but saw them clinch the title before the final round of fixtures. The season unfortunately ended with a cancelled game at home to Sherborne.

### **Final Thoughts:**

In a season where I thought we would be fighting for survival actually ended with us bottling the league title and finished 3rd in a 2-horse race showed how we developed within the season and played with such a good vibe and spirit to get the maximum out of the players we had throughout the year. The clear standouts during the season were Army who was awarded player of the year and Ben Wright who finished the season as the 3rd highest run getter in the league. The big shining starts of the season had to be Jeremiah Edy who opened the bowling brilliantly all year and really stepped up to fill the hole his brother had left. Ben Walsh kept superbly in every game he played and score a maiden 50 to get us over the line

at Delph Woods. After the season I decided to step down from the role of 1st XI Captain and will be replaced by Ben Wright who aims to bring the Premier Division title back to Poole Park.