

## Poole Town CC 2<sup>nd</sup> XI 2020

After a last day of the season survival in 2019, and the departure of most of the bowling attack during the off season, the 2nd XI begun 2020 with cautious optimism, as well as a new captain! Generally though, everyone was happy just to be playing cricket again. With a number of players gaining their first experience of 2nd XI cricket, it was great to see all of those players make some excellent contributions to the team with either bat or ball, as well as in the field.

The league season brought comfortable wins against Broadstone 2's and Hamworthy 2's, which were book ended by defeats to strong Verwood and Corfe Mullen first teams. A narrow defeat to Parley brought a close to the league part of the season, leaving us 4th out of the 6 teams. We then unfortunately also lost our final playoff match against Sherborne 2s, but 2 wins out of 6 still felt like a reasonable result.

Stand out performances included a strong debut season from allrounder Dave Warboys, adding 123 runs and finishing top wicket taker with 10 wickets; an attacking 53 by Phil Sansom against Hamworthy; 8 wickets and excellent economy rate for Karthik Subramanian; 6 wickets in 3 games for Matty Williams including 4/23 against Parley; and an entertaining last wicket stand of 39 between Dan Griffiths and Flynn Rochford, also against Parley.

2020 also brought an additional end of year 20/20 Trophy tournament, where strong performances against Lytchett, Broadstone and Abbotsbury saw Poole power through to the final, which due to rain, will now be played at the start of this season. Highlights included a 50 for Ben Pocknell, along with 40+ scores for Dan Winwood and Jordan Bishop, with Dan also picking up 6 wickets across the 3 games.

Overall, we finished the season in a much better place than we started, with a lot of players having gained valuable 2nd XI experience ahead of next season; and now with much stronger availability than previous years, we have real competition for places in the side. A particular mention should also go to the junior players who stepped up to the 2nd XI (Matty, Flynn, Joe, Dan), who showed a lot of potential and I look forward to seeing them continue to improve in 2021.

Robin Lutman