

Poole Town CC 5th XI Captains Report

The 2023 season was overall a success for our 5th XI. The 5th XI finished 3rd in Dorset Division 6. This is somewhat elevated by other teams scratching fixtures, particularly towards the end of the season.

The primary focus of the 5th XI remains to help develop, nurture, and encourage the transition of Poole Town CC Juniors into the adult section of the club. This was made more difficult by the Dorset Cricket Boards refusal to sign off our County Age Group under 12's to play adult cricket. It has not been made clear as to why this became an issue this year, particularly as we have several very talented players coming through our junior ranks over the coming two or three seasons and beyond. I am experienced and well established as a captain and collectively the players are kept safe as much as is possible in a hardball game of cricket. I hope that this season was an anomaly, and we can return to providing invaluable experience to the incredibly talented cricketers that Poole produces. I believe we have a proven track record of giving juniors a positive introduction to adult cricket, and this being blocked by people who barely know the junior players or those taking responsibility has been a source of tremendous frustration.

We have also had success giving opportunities to play cricket to people returning to the game, and some adults who have never taken part in competitive cricket. This is something we should also be incredibly proud of. As captain, I am to maintain this to help to grow our club and the sport as a whole in our town.

On the last game of the season one of our talented juniors took the captaincy for the game and was able to show real grit, and tactical skill as well as developing conversation and leadership skills. This is yet another achievement that our 5th XI as a whole should be very proud of. It is fantastic to see us operate as a team and everyone get behind and support the captain, whoever that may be.

Finally, a huge thanks must go to Stuart Peters for supporting me with so much of the off the field admin and tasks, and supporting every player who sets foot on the field for Poole Town cc. Stu does not receive the plaudits he deserves and does not carry the title of captain but is an invaluable member of cricket club.