

Poole Town Cricket Club 5th XI captain end of season report

This was our first season fielding a 5th XI, and I believe that it was a successful season. The team was set up with specific goals in mind. This was to ensure that juniors had a place to begin their journey into adult cricket, but also to encourage adults who had been away from the game or who wanted to take up cricket for the first time to choose Poole CC.

Overall, we won 5 games of cricket but, more importantly, gave adult debuts to many juniors who may not have had that opportunity in previous seasons. All of these debutants have suggested they have enjoyed themselves, learned things and started to feel part of the adult section of the cricket club. There have also been adults who have contributed to our side for the first time in a PTCC shirt, made debuts and come back for more, including some parents of our juniors. All of this is what has contributed to a successful season achieving what we had set out to do.

As the current chairman of the Junior section and with my eye across most of the youngsters coming into adult cricket, I have been well placed to assess the safety of whether players should be given opportunities but also know how to utilise their skills and build their confidence on the cricket field.

The one disappointment of the season was that we were unable to field a side for one of our games. My target next year is to be successful in fielding a team in every fixture. I would also like the 5th XI to continue giving players debuts and see those that have already played continue to improve through performances in the 5th XI or moving up through the sides at Poole Town.

I would like to pay specific thanks to Stu Peters, who has been a superb role model to every player who has played for us this season and supported me every single week. I would also like to thank Roy Pritchard, who seems to be more youthful each time he sets foot on a cricket field and is a wonderful example for everyone of us.

Finally, I would be very pleased to continue to captain the 5th XI next season and hopefully help players not only to develop but continue committing their time to our sport and ensure they know they are valued members of our cricket club.

Matt Reed

Poole Town Cricket Club 5th XI captain