

## **JUNIOR REPORT 2013**

The weather was much kinder this year and fixtures for the boys were easier to arrange, however the girls proved more difficult due to changes in the format (the old format is back for 2014!!)

The junior section has continued to thrive in 2013 and we offer competitive cricket to Boys and Girls aged 9yrs through to 18yrs. We have (thanks to the clubs generosity) been able to continue educating more coaches with 3 more coaches qualifying in 2013 and 4 level 2 coaches training in 2014.

The Under 9 Boys were undefeated this season and won the WACA under 9 league. Every age group improved their league performance from the 2012 season which is a fantastic achievement. The Sussex Junior Cricket Festival proved more challenging for the young age groups but the 13, 14 & 16s all showed much improvement on previous years.

I would like to thank all the coaches, who put in so much time and effort to support the Boys and Girls in their cricket. They not only give their time coaching, but the planning of the sessions and development of their coaching skills, let alone the meetings with me! It is due to the coaches and age group managers efforts that every age group has moved forward this season. In addition to all the qualified coaches I would like to thank the posse of older juniors (not qualified) who come along and help the youngest players, Calum Dann, Jack Pierce, Charlie Brown, Tom Lawson, Matt Spokes & Tom Henman, along with the no longer quite so young Graham Manser, Jon Flower, Mark Byerley, Glen Bridson and Andrew Crosland, also Bradley Bridson for stepping in at the drop of a hat to help out. It would be great to see a few more senior players at junior training, one session a season from every senior player would be such a help.

Every age group at Findon has its own manager, this task can be pretty thankless. You are expected to know everything from where Johnny or Josie left their Fleece to when WACA selection take place! All my managers seem to have been able to answer these questions, as well as arranging all their fixtures, keeping paperwork up to date and gaining us the reputation with Sussex Cricket Board as the best Junior Section in Sussex. My sincere thanks to everyone of you, it has been a pleasure working with you. We say goodbye to Matt Searle as Under 12 Manager where Mark Harrington will be taking over, and to Gail Hadlow as her "boys" graduate to the senior section. Mike Hadlow has left the club and I would like to say thank you to him for his

work as a coach and clubmark officer. Gail has also been Welfare Officer but has passed this baton on to Matt Howell. Thank you for your work Gail along with the support you have always given me.

Findon has always had players selected for Area and county and this year was no exception:

Ellie Botting Sussex County Girls Under 13

Cameron Young WACA

Louis Luscombe WACA

Oliver Dengate WACA

John Norman WACA

Jabe Rogers WACA

Matthew Wratting WACA

Drew Hammersley WACA

In September 2013 Archie Cairns and Oliver Wadestone joined the WACA Squads for Under 10 with all of the above keeping their places for the 2013 winter training. The competition for County Girls places was exceptionally strong this year, so Ellie has done extremely well to stay in the squad, but as she is all too aware, the girls have rigorous fitness targets to achieve to keep their places.

My final thanks goes to Callum Dann and Jack Pierce who have been fantastic role models as Junior Captain and Vice Captain representing the Club at our Schools tournament and giving up their time to help the younger juniors.

I am stepping down this year as Junior Manager, so that I can concentrate on developing the Women and Girls section. I have no concerns about the future of Findon CC Junior section as we have the most dedicated and enthusiastic team of Age Group Managers who will continue to drive the section forward. It has been an enormous privilege and a great pleasure to have been Junior Manager for so many years (not sure if it's 9 or 10!) I have enjoyed working with and for your children and seeing them develop into amazing young people as well as talented cricketers. I wish the next incumbent (it's not a life sentence honest!) all the luck in the world and know they will, as I have, get such a great deal of pleasure from the role.

I wish all the Juniors a successful 2014 but especially the girls!

Elaine Judges  
Junior Manager

