**2014 JUNIOR REPORT**

Under 9’s

Under 9’s had a good season with plenty of children turning up for training each week. The team managed to be unbeaten in their first 4 games but unfortunately just missed out on winning the league and came 2nd behind Chichester. 10ty10ty was the highlight of the season, the team was entered as a team of ten and won as a team of ten, each player contributed during the day.

Under 10’s

Under10’s had another fantastic season winning every game they played and winning the league for the second year running. Each boy had the opportunity of playing at least 2 games this season so I can honestly say that each boy contributed in winning the league.

Under 11’s

Under 11’s had a rather disappointing season playing only 4 games, out of 8 scheduled games and winning 2 of the 4 games. Festival week was equally disappointing as it proved to be the wettest week of the summer holidays again only playing 3 of the 5 scheduled games. The competition in the festival was strong; the team unfortunately did not win a game but held their own and gave a good game in return.

Under 12’s

The league started with 2 heavy defeats by the eventual winner and runners up of the league. The team then went on to win 4 out of the 5 next matches, only a batting collapse against Chichester stopped it being 5 out of 5. Under 12’s finished 3rd in the league. During the festival the team were missing some of their stronger players, unfortunately the team failed to win all of their matches but came 3rd in their group.

Under 13’s

It was a slow start to the season, number were down by almost half on last year. The team were knocked out of the national cup in the first round. In the league the team played 5 and won 2. During festival week the team played 5, lost 1, comfortably won 3 and 1 game abandoned due to rain. In the 10ty 10ty the team came runner up. Season highlight include Matthew Wratting getting his first 100 and John Norman and Jabe Rogers getting 50’s in the festival.

Under 14’s

We knew we were in for a challenging season, having been promoted to the Bowl. We started well with a win against Broadwater, but unfortunately then went on to lose the rest of the league games. However, the team have improved greatly on their performances in the same league two years ago. We often relied on younger players to make up a team in order to put out a side and would like to thank all who ‘played up’.

SJCF - We, along with many FCC Junior sides, elected to play in the Shield for festival. We won 1, lost 3 of our games, playing against some very strong sides. Again, we relied heavily on the younger players to bolster the team and despite only 1 win, had a very enjoyable week of cricket.

The season ended with the 10ty Tenty, which resulted in a win for our age group. A fun way to end the season which all the players enjoyed.

Under 15’s

After some great attendance and attitude at winter nets the team coaches and manger were confident about the up and coming season, but then the season started!!! The team lost their first two games. The team then went on to play as a team and went on to win the rest of their games and win the league. The team worked as ateam and when some of the stronger players did not bat or bowl to their potential the team took over and each member of the squad made a difference with some great performances. Under 15’s won their league.

Under 16’s

Under 16’s had 7 players signed up this year so the rest of the team on match days were made up of under 15’s. The season stared well with some great wins, the team managed to finish the season winning 13 games and drawing 1. Festival week was a good week as the team managed to play teams they had never played before. The under 16’s managed to win their group but did not qualify for the Finals day.

Girls Report 2014

2014 proved to be our most successful season yet with the Under 13 Girls progressing to area finals in the pairs hardball league. It was fantastic to see all the girls get to grips with hardball cricket including several under 11s who played up on a regular basis, this bodes well for future seasons. We were joined by Sophie Whittington who moved to us and along with Sophie Millward Sadler was an inspiration to the under 13 team helping all the girls grow in confidence.

The under 11 girls unfortunately had few fixtures due to oppositions not turning up or withdrawing. However we maintained our numbers and recruited a few new younger girls with Anjelica Nicholls and Katie Hillier regularly playing up to under 13 hardball.

We are looking forward to 2015 and hope to field Under 11, Under 13 and Under 15 teams new recruits are always welcome experienced or not. Congratulations to Sophie Whittington and Ellie Botting for their continued places in the county squads.

As junior manager (new this year) it has been an absolute pleasure watching boys and girls enjoy cricket and seeing huge volumes of children flood Findon cricket club on training nights. I’m sure I can say on behalf of all the managers a HUGE thank you to the coaches that give up their time on a regular basis to enable our juniors to progress in their cricketing career. Also another huge thanks to parents/guardians/grandparents that helped score, make teas and umpire.

As this has been my first year I have to say thanks to Growler and Elaine for their help and support along the way and thank you to the coaches and managers for their patience with me in my new role. Here’s to a fantastic 2015 season.

Jo Hammersley, Findon Cricket Club Junior manager.