

## **Findon CC Girls Report 2015**

Winter nets started early for the girls and numbers were very low in the youngest age group (Under 11's) but healthy in the 13s & 15s so mixed feelings as to how the season might progress. Once we were outside after Easter we recruited more girls into the younger age group and maintained our numbers with the older girls.

This was our first season playing in the Under 15 league and though the team was lead by the very experienced and talented Ellie Botting we had 2 girls who had never played cricket and several who had never played hardball let alone standard rules. The team got off the a great start going away to Ansty and winning! The fixtures were spread far and wide across the county leading to several fixtures being conceded by all clubs we managed 2 victories and always played to the best of our ability with younger girls stepping in when we were short.

The under 13s had an unachievable number of fixtures, being required to play twice a week through the season, due to this we found it very difficult to meet all the fixtures. The 13s were lead by Sophie Whittington who managed the balance of encouraging and challenging the girls well. The majority of the girls in this team had not played hard ball before and grew in confidence as the season progressed. The age group play hard ball with a mix of pairs and standard rule fixture, we completed more of our pairs fixtures and finished 2nd in the league.

The Under 11s were very short of numbers through the winter and I wondered if we should withdraw from the league however Easter came and we moved out doors and new members arrived! We had girls as young as 8 attending training and playing in matches and the progress across the season was great to see.

In July Alan Smith brought 8 girls from West Park School to introduce them to club cricket and we hope to see many of the back in the winter along with continuing the link with West Park.

I would like to thank Nigel Botting and Jon Flower for all their work coaching the girls and guiding through their matches. Thanks also goes to Karen Whittington for her support throughout the season and especially stepping in when I was away on holiday, Hanah Kersley (one of the under 15s) needs a special mention for her help with the Under 11 girls at matches and Caroline & Jason for their help whilst I was away.

2016 will present new challenges for the girls with us needing to recruit qualified coaches and along with assistants along with managers for each age group in order to ensure progress and develop their technique and move forward with their cricket. We have several girls who will be out of age group cricket, and so will be planning a women's team to enter a development league which will be for novices so any ladies are welcome to come and have a try, this will also giving the opportunity for our younger girls play up.

Elaine Judges