

Club Captain Report 2020

The summer of 2020 was like no other, and I really hope come April 2021 we are back to as much normality as possible. We ended up playing 31 senior games across 11 weekends, including for the first time in the clubs history putting out a 4th XI on a Saturday afternoon, plus a further 6 midweek fixtures in the inaugural Sussex slam. It was a fantastic effort from everyone given at one stage it looked like we wouldn't get any cricket played with the ball being deemed a "Vector of disease." A huge amount of hard work went on behind the scenes to get the games on this summer, from the captains, to the groundsmen, scorers, umpires, to getting the clubhouse Covid-secure, and most importantly getting the bar up and running! I would like to personally thank you all, as well as I am sure the whole playing membership would also like to.

On the playing front, all 3 league sides competed well this summer in the new August Cup, a 5 league game season organised by the Sussex Cricket League. The 1st XI finished 2nd in their group, missing out on progressing to the Play-offs only to Slinfold who were the only team we didn't play due to a washed out game. Cameron Young's 2nd XI finished 5th with two wins, and the 3rd XI ended in 4th, also collecting two wins in Harvey Keffer's first 'season' as skipper. There was no village knockout run unfortunately either this summer, with the 1st XI losing away to a strong Liphook & Ripsley side in the West Area final.

It was great to see so many youngsters and juniors playing in all our senior sides and contributing to the various teams. Some notable performances for the year with the bat included Matt Glover 104 vs Littlehampton (1st XI), Archie Cairns 82 not out vs Henfield (1st XI), Alex Stephens 82 not out vs Aldwick (2nd XI) and Matt Hawke's first senior half-century with a score of 54 v Chipps (3rd XI). With the ball, Alex Stephens 4/16 vs Arundel (2nd XI), Ethan Franklin 3/12 vs Rustington (3rd XI) & Oliver Wadson 3/33 vs Rustington (3rd XI) were highlights.

We also welcomed some new and old faces back to the club this summer - we welcomed to Long Furlong, David 'Kenny' Everett (joining from Haywards Heath) and Tom Reading who had moved to the area for the summer who both added depth and quality to the 1st XI seam bowling attack. Gary Mason from Lancing Manor joined FCC to play with his son, plus a number of new juniors making the step-up to senior cricket this summer including Matty Hawke, Sam Mason, George Colbran, Cal Nicholls and Jacob Knowlton. We had a returning 1st XI captain, Barry Meaney, who played in the Sussex Slam side and then onto the 2nd XI before being hit by injury. Owen Cave also returned playing 7 games for the Slam side and the 2nd XI, scoring an impressive 270 runs including a maiden senior 100 for the 2nd XI. We also saw Callum Meeney and Brad Roberts for the first time in a few years along with Paul Cox, Grant Christie and Rob Whittington who played in the Sussex Slam.

Despite what was thrown at the club this summer, the club has done brilliantly to be able to adapt and offer so much cricket to our members and to compete well on all fronts despite missing a number of players due to situation. The hard work put in this summer has left us in a very strong position for next summer and beyond. I hope you all remain safe and healthy and I look forward to catching up with you all in the summer.

Bradley Bridson