



SPOFFORTH CRICKET CLUB

"A VIEW FROM THE BOUNDARY"

Junior Member Newsletter - June 2011



Dear All

We are now well into the second half of the Junior Cricket season so now seems a good time to update you all on both our on and off field achievements so far this season as well as giving you all some dates for your diaries.

Level II Coaches

In the spring of 2011 we made another significant investment on the coaching front by sending four candidates on the ECB Level II coaching course and I am delighted to announce that all four have passed and are now actively coaching our youngsters:-

Paul Jackson	U13's
Jonathan Ross	U15's
Nick Robinson	U11's
Jason Westerman	U9's

In addition I would like to personally thank the club's overseas player, Ben Friggi, who has contributed so freely of his time in coaching all age groups this season. It's been a real pleasure to coach alongside Ben and I know that all the juniors have got a lot out of it.

THANKS Ben

Under 11's - Ian Giddings

For many, if not most of the players in this age group this is not only their first year of playing 11-a-side cricket, but also their first season playing with a hard ball! As a result the team has been on a steep learning curve so far this season and, with the exception of our opening match against Bilton, the results have not gone our way.

That said, as far as I can tell, everyone seems to be enjoying themselves so far and we've no shortage of players competing to get into the team. In addition, the players have all carried themselves excellently and performed well in the field and with the ball on each occasion. As they gain confidence and experience the batting will improve and we have the makings of an extremely fine set of young players most of whom will play in this age group again next season.

My thanks to all the parents of the Under 11's for their camaraderie and for making coming to Spofforth at least something of a gastronomic experience!

Under 15's - Nick Warwick

At the time of writing this update the U15's have now played every team in the South Division and are at the top of our league having lost only one match, which bizarrely was against bottom of the table Bilton. However, all the players responded immediately in our most recent match with a very comfortable win against 2nd place Harrogate "B". Our batting performances in particular have improved greatly this year with all of the top order batsmen retiring in one or more matches. With only three matches left to play the U15's are in a very strong position to win the South Division and enter the semi-final play-off against the runners up in the Premier League in July.

Under 9's - Jason Westerman

This year we have decided to use a more rotational policy at this age group in order to provide greater opportunities to those whom we consider ready to play competitive cricket. Thus far we have had 11 debuts with each player contributing towards the team's efforts. It is hoped that by doing so we can give all the children a love for the game which they can carry with them as they progress through the age groups.

In the league, we are currently in second position, and in the cup we lost out in the final to a very strong and more mature side but this was nevertheless a magnificent achievement! A special mention to Skipper, George Grafton, for his performances thus far with bat, ball and in the field. George's team mates have also delivered some memorable performances and significant progress has been made in a short space of time. Thanks to all the parents for their support and help, especially in contending with a fixture list which has been somewhat of a moveable feast.

Under 13's - Paul Jackson

It was felt at the outset that this first season in the Nidderdale League may prove to be a development year; so it is, but what an adventure we are having in the new surroundings. At the halfway stage we stand top of the Southern U13 Division, having won 6 out of 6 matches. We have only a small squad of players, and absolutely every one of them can be proud of what they have achieved so far as they have all made effective contributions to our successful winning run. We now have a real chance of winning our division and qualifying for the late season championship playoffs, but will need to maintain the hard work so far and keep the momentum going.

It might be cold umpiring in the chilly evening air on a remote draughty cricket ground, but believe me, it is also heart-warming to see the lads improve nearly every week both as cricketers and as a team. Well done and let's keep it up!

Junior Honours



Congratulations to Toby Giddings on his selection to the "A" squad of Yorkshire U11's - We all wish Toby every success in his adventures in county cricket.



Congratulations also to all those junior players who have been given their first caps for the senior sides this year - well done!



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Coach's Corner

We have continued this season to introduce a more defined and planned system of coaching particularly at the younger end of the age groups where as well as developing the key motor skills of agility, balance, co-ordination and speed we have also identified specific key cricket skills to coach using a combination of demonstration, practice and drills. It is particularly pleasing to see that the last few years work is starting to pay off in our league competitive cricket results. All sessions have been well attended; our coach-to-junior ratios have improved and the coaches have reported good progress and excellent behaviour.



Thanks to all those who have contributed the Sainsbury's Active Kids vouchers to our collection. The promotion has now finished and I would be most grateful for any remaining vouchers that you may have by the end of June. Following this I will place an order based upon the number of vouchers that we have collected - Many thanks.

Ross Atkinson - Coaching Co-ordinator E:rossatkinson01@aol.com M:07754972664

From the Chairman of Junior Cricket



Way back in the dark depths of winter when the decision was taken to follow the senior sides into the Nidderdale League after so many years in the Wetherby League I must admit to a certain amount of trepidation as well as responsibility for what the coming season may hold. It now seems a long time ago and I need never have worried as our juniors, coaches, managers and parents have all responded magnificently and looking at results throughout we've certainly been quick to put down a marker! Standing at the boundary with the captain of the 1st XI last week the comment was made that he saw a marked improvement in the quality of junior cricket and how pleased he'd been with the juniors who'd represented the club at senior level. Those of you who know James will agree that he does not give compliments lightly and will realise how much this means. I am always proud to be part of Spofforth CC and the values for which it stands but no more so than when three out of four of our junior sides stand, thus far, at the top of their leagues and with every confidence that next season the under 11's too will reap the rewards of their hard work. Well done to all; we need to keep working hard but at this stage we're on course for a really successful season

Simon Giddings - Chairman of Junior Cricket E:simon.giddings@virgin.net M:07968321535

Diary Dates

Junior Presentation/Fun Day
Sunday 4th September 2011

Our annual Fun Day culminating in the presentation of trophies will take place on the above date, in case of wet weather it will take place the following Sunday, 11th September. Further details will follow in due course.

Junior Coaching

Please note that due to the ground being used for the annual Spofforth School Hello/Goodbye BBQ on Friday 22nd July, the last night of training will be Friday 15th July 2011.



Cricket Summer School - Wednesday 10th to Friday 12th August 2011

In association with Spofforth CC, SA SportsCoaching will be running a 3 day Summer School on the above dates, 10.00am - 3.00pm at Spofforth Cricket Club. The course is aimed at children aged 7 to 13 and will focus on key cricket skills with plenty of opportunities to practice these in both drills and friendly games. The course will be run by Sam Anderson and James Finch with the help of some familiar faces from the club. All coaches are ECBCA qualified and are fully CRB checked in line with the club's Child Welfare Policy. The fee for the 3 days is £50.00 and places are limited so please book early to avoid disappointment. Bookings should be made directly at www.sasportscoaching.com

Sam and James hope to run a session each on before Friday 15th July and will be available afterwards if you have any queries you can chat to them then, alternatively please do not hesitate to speak to Jonathan Ross or Ross Atkinson who have full details.