

October 2015 Newsletter - Focus on the juniors

The juniors at Tanworth and Camp Hill CC have continued on their upward curve. At junior level it is eight players per team and they play what is called "pairs" cricket whereby 4 pairs of batsmen each play for 4 overs. If a player is out then 4 runs are deducted from the total but the individual continues to bat for the duration of the 4 overs. Each batting team starts the match with a figure of 200 runs credited to their score and the games are played over 16 overs.

As reported earlier in the season, the juniors now had 2 wins in the bag as they travelled to Earlswood on a glorious Sunday morning, with a spring in their step and confidence soaring. We won the toss and invited the home team to bat first. We bowled and fielded superbly and as the Earlswood innings reached its conclusion, with their two best batsmen at the crease, we stopped a number of potential boundaries with some excellent fielding. Earlswood finished on 255-4 from their 16 overs (starting at 200 of course). Wickets were taken by the captain, Ted Clarke plus Jack Dodd, Oscar Newell and Jo Kelso. In addition there was some very economical bowling from Gus Clarke, Harvey Flemming and Tanav Kotha. Wicket keeper Joe Tonks also played superbly.

Our reply started well with consecutive boundaries in the 2nd over from Jack Dodd but the loss of 2 wickets evened up the opening 4 overs. The next 2 pairs both scored 14 runs, so we needed 18 to win from 4 overs. A couple of delightful shots for 4 and a helpful overthrow for 4 left us in a fantastic position with 7 balls left. However, the final ball of the 15th over was a beauty and took our batsman's off stump, leaving us with 6 to win off the final over. Two quick singles as well as useful extras left us with 2 to win. Then a fantastic 4 from Oscar Newell, off his legs settled the match and we finished on 259-5 to spark celebrations from the TACH parents, coaches and supporters. The final pair of Oscar Newell and Jo Kelso batted superbly under pressure but credit was due to the whole team for what was a fantastic all round performance, which many agreed was our best to date. All in all this was very encouraging for the new junior section, which is only in its second season.

Next up was an away trip to Bidford, who were a much older and more experienced side and although they posted a total of 281, we took 6 wickets, with Oscar Newell (3-10), Archie Marson-Bacon (2-16) and Alfie Cheatham (1-12) the pick of the bowlers. TACH scored 210-7 in reply which left us second best but it was still a very good performance!

We played two home games on Sunday 14th June. First up was Cookhill and after losing the toss on a damp, but drying outfield, we were put into bat and some very accurate bowling from the Cookhill bowlers left us on 211-4 after 12 overs.

The now well established final pairing of Oscar Newell and Joe Kelso knew they had to attack the final 4 overs to achieve a defendable total and they did just that, both hitting three 4's and running superbly between the wickets. Both batsmen finished on 18 and the team finished on 245-5.

The bowling performance was good throughout with minimal wides being bowled. Two early run outs as well as tight bowling from Tanav Kotha, Thomas Thacker and Thomas Chaplin put the pressure on the away side and Oscar and Archie put further pressure on by taking a wicket a-piece. Cookhill finished on 219-4 providing proof, if it was needed, how vital the late flurry of TACH runs was, in the context of the game.

On the same afternoon, Astwood Bank visited Tanworth and 7 different players came in to our team, showing not only strength in depth, but also evidencing the overall improvement across the board. Astwood Bank batted first and played positively throughout, scoring 297-3. There were 2 wickets for Jo Kelso and 1 for Sam Jackson. The run chase was always going to be tough, but the lads did really well facing district standard bowlers and Ted Clarke stood out hitting three 4's and scoring 16 runs. We finished on a very credible 232-5.

This then left us 4th in the league, winning 3 and losing 3 games. But more importantly this was a massive step up on the results of last season, where we were defeated in all 6 league games.

Finishing 4th meant that we played South group winners, Bredon away from home in the Quarter-Finals, of what now became a knockout competition. We batted first and although Bredon's bowling attack was experienced (and quick!), we played plenty of quality strokes and finished on 239-4. Bredon's batting mirrored their bowling and they passed our score just after the halfway point. Despite this, TACH kept fighting to the end and took 8 wickets, 2 of which were fantastic catches by Henry Jones and Joe Tonks. There were also a few run outs which added to the teams great performance and we were very unlucky not to take more than 8 wickets! Oscar Newell picked up 3-17, Jo Kelso 2-11, Joe Tonks 1-7 and Alfie Cheatham 1-22. The standard of keeping was also a huge positive and both Harvey Flemming and Robbie Gemmill did very well behind the stumps in their 8 overs each.

We then had a number of friendlies, where we defeated Elmley Castle, Harvington and Kenilworth, but fell just short against Exhall and Wixford, Alfie's glorious cover drive for 4 and Jo and Oscar's 41-run partnership from 24 balls the highlights from the week.

TACH completed 10 more fixtures before the end of the season, beating Alcester and Ragley and Avoncroft in two friendlies but our biggest win, by 72 runs, was

away at Kenilworth in early August. This was a performance which showed how far we have come in a short space of time. The highlight in our 290-4 was a huge 6 from Ted Clarke, which was hit out of the ground!

Our season ended on a high, winning the Avoncroft Under 9's softball tournament (with a picture of the winning team below), where we won all 3 of our matches with superb team spirit.

The season was capped off with the inaugural Parents vs Children game and presentation day at Tanworth on Sunday 23rd August. The children edged a win by a single run in a very good game (and a huge thanks to all the parents who took part!) The presentation followed with awards given out to the players for their efforts all season, as well as thanking the parents for all of their help and support throughout the year. Well done to all trophy winners!

It has been a pleasure managing the team this season and seeing the squad develop with every game. It's been a long road to get to where we are now, but every aspect of the game is now being thought about by the players and standards in all disciplines are improving. This is highlighted by 5 players being put forward for county trials with Warwickshire, which have recently taken place. Well done to Ted Clarke, Gus Clarke, Oscar Newell, Jo Kelso and Tanav Kotha.

We are also delighted to announce that the club have agreed a deal to sponsor new match shirts for next season with flooring specialists, Decorus Flooring. A huge thanks to Carl and Ashley Newell for their support.

There is a genuine sense of togetherness and community spirit in our junior section and I believe we are creating a fantastic environment for young players to take up and play cricket and would be delighted to welcome children aged 5-11 to play for us next season. If you are interested, please contact Andy Turnbull on 07720 867547 or via email: aturnbull1994@gmail.com.

Many of the juniors are taking part in winter coaching at Tanworth school and at Solihull College on Saturday morning's where we are looking to develop the players and look to further increase the amount of juniors we enrol next year. Roll on 2016

Andy Turnbull

Head Coach