



2018 SEASON REVIEW

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Introduction

Dear Members,

Another season has come to a close and what a season it has been. On so many levels the club has continued to thrive and the efforts of all the coaches, administrators, players and parents have been rewarded with a vibrant and youthful looking club. At the outset I think it's worth remembering where we started from in 2014 and the enormous strides made since then.

Results of our 5 Year Plan for Junior Cricket

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Junior Players	85	151	158	224	275	314
Junior Teams	6	7	9	10	11	16
Matches Played	65	75	80	80	109	157
Training Sessions	30	34	49	49	56	134
Hours Delivered	255	290	335	335	440	645
League Titles	0	0	4	2	2	2
County & Cups	0	0	0	1	1	3
UKCC Coaches	4	7	8	9	12	16

The above numbers alone do not tell the whole story. I am particularly pleased with the growth of our girls section. Last year only 1% of our junior section was made up of girls. This year that has risen to over 10% and continues to grow. I am also delighted with the number of our own homegrown players coming through into adult cricket - lest we forget, this is the primary purpose of having a junior section - the promotion of our 1st XI could not have come at a better time. The growth of the club as a whole has been an enormous undertaking which would not have happened without the time, skill and energy devoted by our coaching team, backed and empowered by the executive committee to ensure that the club is run in the right way.

The reflections that follow for every team are a snapshot of this season, but more importantly should give everyone an insight into the kind of planning and organisation that has gone into it - nothing has happened by chance.

I would like to thank all the coaching team and executive committee for their efforts these past five years. Also to the players and parents. We are very fortunate to have such an impressive body of people who are all brought together by their love of cricket.

Yvonne Bryant

Chairperson

September 2018

Part 1

U6-U10

With growing numbers playing both hardball, incrediball and windball cricket the 2018 season saw us move the U10 hardball cricketers away from our Sunday hub to have a training slot of their own on Monday evenings.

We integrated 24 players into these Monday evening sessions, comprising genuine U10 cricketers (with hardball experience from the previous summer), U9 cricketers (new to hardball cricket, but having played U8 incrediball cricket in 2017), and a group of genuine U10's largely new to cricket.

Our Sunday morning (softball) hub comprised 65 players U6~U9 new to the club - and mostly new to cricket, 38 players U7~U8 with a previous year of experience, and the hugely welcome addition of a growing number of girls – over 40 in number by the end of the season.

Our more advanced U8's, with previous experience, played regular incrediball fixtures against other clubs (on Sundays) throughout the summer, with the focus being on playing to the U10 hardball format of 8 aside, 16 over pairs cricket. This group graduated to playing hardball cricket by the end of the summer.

Our less experienced U8's combined with our more advanced U7's to play in the Harrow Borough Softball tournament over six Sundays in June and July. The format of this was 8 aside, 8 over pairs cricket (windball) with two matches played each Sunday. By the end of the series we were able to field both a boy's and a girls' team in this tournament.

The key philosophy throughout all U6-U10 programmes was to strongly promote decision making in game situations by all players (be it 6-year olds or 10-year olds). Winning games of cricket at this age becomes of even less significance when adult coaches and managers are making most of the decisions on the field and we had to be prepared to 'lose' matches whilst allowing our philosophy to play out. As the players go up the age levels, they will see the benefits not only by winning cricket matches, but by being to apply decision making skills across all areas of their development outside of cricket. The most satisfying moments throughout the season have come where the players decision making skills have come to the fore.

Doug Steward : Head of U6-U10 Age Groups

U8

Playing in the Harrow Borough U9 Softball festival series, 16 boys and 8 girls were given their first taste of structured and match play cricket. Many of our players were U7, and some U6, so the focus was fully on development and on giving the kids this opportunity to play matches.

One of the challenges of playing the kids in these matches is that opposition teams tend to be managed by rather vocal Dads and, as a result, we often find our teams trying to play one game (that of letting our players learn to make their own decisions and rotating around positions and responsibilities) whilst opposition teams are playing a different game all together – dictated by the manager/umpire. In these circumstances, huge credit needs to go to our players and their parents for sticking at trying to learn their game skills and being supported appropriately.

So, well done to all the players and many thanks to a hugely supportive group of parents.

Doug Steward U8 Manager

U9A (incrediball)

In most clubs this group of players would have been playing hardball cricket; however, we felt that they would benefit more by playing competitive incrediball matches, against good opposition, outside of a league format. The friendly matches against teams from Eastcote, Ealing and Stanmore – often featuring opposition players with U10 hardball experience – have been a good challenge for the group.

Most of the players were U8's and all have huge amounts of potential. It will be very exciting to see how the group develop to playing as a top U10 hardball side in 2019.

Aside from obvious individual potential, the hallmark of the boys in this group is their ability to decision make. Many of the boys show leadership potential and it will be a good challenge for the club to keep encouraging these strengths.

As the summer progressed, the group has grown, with new talent coming to the fore, and resulted in a force of 20 players moving on to hardball cricket by the end of the summer. They will provide an exciting core for the club in years to come. Well done to all the boys for a fabulous practice ethic amongst the group, hugely supported by their parents.

Doug Steward U9A Manager

U10A

League : 1st

Gubby Allen : Quarter Finals



The team went through the regular MCA League undefeated, winning five of their seven matches, with two matches abandoned due to rain, and finishing top of their group. This finish took the team through to the quarter and semi-final stage of the Gubby Allen Trophy, where they lost narrowly to Ealing (eventual Gubby Allen winners) and Richmond (winners in 2017). It is a measure of the level of the team to know that the boys felt disappointed not to have played at their best in these matches and progressed to a Lords final.

However, the focus of the league season was not on winning but on skill and match play development. The winning came as a result of this, and the boys can be extremely proud of their collective ability to make good decisions on the field.

A squad of 12 boys, made up largely of genuine U10 players, rotated through the league games, winning most at a canter. The most satisfying result being a 37-run victory over the Stanmore 'A' side. Games were won generally through the boys delivering well across all facets of the game – out-fielding opponents, running well between wickets, bowling consistent lines and lengths, and batters able to consistently put away bad deliveries.

The team was captained on rotation excellently by Suryansh, Zayn and Rahul and this augurs well for the future. Indeed all the players can be proud of their performances and improvement and none of them let themselves down. This will produce strength in depth as they progress. Each individual grew in composure at the crease and some of the match play at times, it was difficult to believe they are still 10 years old. Well done to all the boys on a fantastic season. It was a pleasure to coach them.

Graeme Calway U10A Manager

U10B

League : 2nd

Featuring a squad of U9 players, all playing a first hardball cricket season, it was extremely encouraging to see the group mirror the U10A squad by going through the league season undefeated. Matches were played in an U10 Development group and although 7 of 11 matches were won (with 4 cancelled or abandoned) the major positives should be taken from the development of the group, rather than the winning. Several of the group experienced playing in the U10A side and this will stand them in good stead for 2019, when harder challenges await in the main MCA leagues and expectations will be high.

It has been great to watch the passion for cricket from this group and it will be fascinating to watch their development over the next year. Well done to all the boys.

Ravi Rajapakse U10B Team Manager

Part 2 WOMEN & GIRLS



Summer 2018 was the first official season for the women and girls teams following a training programme set up during the winter of 2017. It has been extremely positive with more women & girls playing cricket at the club and still continues to expand and develop further.

The women's team were privileged to be invited by Middlesex County Cricket Club to play softball cricket on the outfield of the Lord's ground during the historic "MCC Women's Day" in April. HCC then hosted a women's softball festival in July, which the ECB (England and Wales Cricket Board) indicated it to be one of the largest festivals in London, with over 77 women registered to play. A hugely successful event involving many mini softball matches in one day.

The girls team started at the beginning of the season as two groups, U6-U9 & U10-U12. There has been a high demand for girls to play cricket and both groups were at full capacity, being coached and playing cricket. There has been a mixture of different girls with varying playing backgrounds, from playing casually with family at home to trying cricket at school and some girls that have never tried cricket nor watched cricket at all. It has been a steep learning curve for the girls to come in, make new friends, and then receive formal cricket coaching all at differing levels and learn slowly the jargon, terminology and laws of cricket. However, the season has finished off with the girls being excited and thirsty for more cricket.

A few girls played in the Harrow U8 Borough softball tournament this season mixed with boys and towards the end of this tournament, we had one girls-only U8 team. Following winter training this year, and with more girls joining next summer, we will officially enter in parallel with the boys to form an all girls U8 team for Harrow Cricket Club. The U10-U12 girls were in the Middlesex U11 Seaxe League. Despite the girls not gaining victory during the season, the determination and enthusiasm by the girls week by week saw the gap between losses closing in, with the final match being short of only 6 runs.

We have seen that many girls have made such good progress that some of them are ready to progress onto the next level of cricket, and these girls will now form our new team of U13 that will transition onto hardball cricket. We nominated one girl for U11 Middlesex county trials and she has successfully been selected through to the regional stage, which is a great achievement considering this is her first cricket season and our first season in a competitive trial environment.

Having finished the summer season, the women & three girls teams now look forward to the winter training programme where they will further develop their skills indoors with a view to playing matches next season. The winter programme will be coached mainly by female coaches with Chander Kaul, ex-Indian and ex-Middlesex Women's cricketer joining our coaching team.

Sangeetha Theivendra : Head of Women & Girls Cricket

Part 3

U11-U13

These age groups are where we have the delicate and often difficult balancing act giving players game time and playing competitive league cricket. The philosophy of each team differs depending on the number of players in that age group and their playing strength. Generally speaking, in 'A' teams it is not possible to guarantee all players will bat and/or bowl. When playing weaker opposition we have the scope to change things, but against strong opposition this is not so straightforward. This is where B & C team cricket is so important - we rotate players significantly in these teams.

The one thing all these teams share, rather like the ages below, is that we want to produce players who can think for themselves. We are not big on shouting instructions to players during games. We may have a quiet word from time to time, whilst at other times a coach will let a situation unfold even if it means that the team could lose. This is all part of the way we teach cricket at this club.

This year we had a record number of players (over 100) in these age groups. Considerable efforts were made to give as many as possible some game time.

Kevan David-Joseph : Head of U11-U13 Age Groups

U11A

League : 3rd

The U11A's experienced a season filled with ups and downs, eventually resulting in a 3rd place finish, only 6 points from qualifying for the County Play-offs (a win is worth 10 points). The boys competed and held their own in what is accepted as the toughest league of U11 cricket in Middlesex, the MCA West Division 1.

U11 cricket is the first year in which matches are played under standard cricket laws, and so is an extremely important year in a young cricketers development. The squad this year comprised of around 13 genuine U11s, and 4 of the most promising U10s.

In my previous season as U11A coach, I realised that coaching a perfect batting/bowling technique is impossible at this age group, and that there are far more valuable skills that need to be honed in on in order to produce top cricketers for the future. For example, coaching "how to score runs" rather than "how to play the perfect cover drive, or "how to set and bowl to a field" rather than "how to bowl both an inswinger and outswinger". As a result of this, the majority of our Friday sessions were spent training in match situations, in order to build qualities like Cricket IQ, anticipation and concentration.

The biggest improvement I saw from this group throughout the season was in the fielding department. We went from being a quiet, sloppy, low energy fielding side to a team who genuinely enjoyed being out there in the field. Things like encouraging teammates, strong communication and the ability to maintain high concentration levels will hold this group in good stead throughout their cricketing years, and provides a great foundation in which to build on.

It's been a pleasure to coach this group throughout the year, and I look forward to seeing how they progress in the future.

James Han U11A Manager

U11B

League : 3rd

This year our U11B side had a very competitive season, ultimately finishing third in the league. The boys did really well to achieve this, especially because the team was made up of U11s and U10s; there were also a number of new players that came in to the team, with some having little to no prior hard ball experience. The team was led by Aditya Batra, who has been a colt at Harrow for several years now. He along with Ananth Iyer, Krishan Rajakulendran and Krishtian Pethurupillal are all players who have been with us for several years now, and they really led from the front putting in performances on a regular basis.

The U10s that played in the side this year really impressed and on some occasions outperformed some of the U11s. Arnav Katyal, Rui Fernandes, Hussain Ali, Deepanker Dutta Roy, Theeo Nanthathayalan, Amaar Parker and Prakrith Rao were all U10s that came into the side and made an instant impact. New editions Jash Vijay, Devesh Patel and Niam Lakhani all showed a real enthusiasm, all becoming regulars in the side.

The performance of this team year really showed the progress of the club. Being able to put out strong hardball teams at U11B team level shows the strength of the colts system all the way from U6 upwards.

Shanil Karunaratne U11B Manager

U12

League : 2nd

County : Champions



A surprising and extraordinary year which culminated in us becoming U12 County Champions! The U12s finished 2nd in the MCA Division 1 league. This year I decided to not select an individual player to captain the team but to let Avi, Dylan, Rahul and Suleiman gain experience to captain in turns. We decided that this year we would try to balance opportunities to bat and bowl amongst as many players as possible. Consequently, Anish Bhanderi, Krish Banerjee, Anish Kumar, Jas and Pansilu have improved so much this year. Also there have been notable additions to this group, Kushaan and Vaibhav have showed great qualities with their bowling, especially in crucial situations.

Sunday 9th September was the big day, finals day at Sunbury cricket club, a place Harrow have had great success before. Our semi final was against Ealing U12s, Sulieman (U12 captain for the day) won the toss and decided to bat first, put runs on the board and build pressure. Harrow struggled in the first 10 overs, making 32-3 and making 100 runs looked a mile away. The next 5 overs the score did not improve as we were 52-4 in 15 overs, however there was a big push in our last 5 overs scoring 53 runs. Dylan scored 49* at number 5, paced his innings well and hit the bad balls. We made 105-6 in 20 overs. Rahul Pandita and Suleiman bowled well at the start as Ealing were 33-4 in 8 overs. The next turning point was bringing on Anish Bhanderi in the 12th over he bowled 8 consecutive dot balls plus a wicket with his 9th ball. Anish finished with 4-11 off his 3.1 overs to win Harrow the game. There were notable catches taken in the semi final by Krish (at point), Vaibhav (mid wicket) and Kushaan (mid on).

Harrow met local rivals Stanmore in the final, Stanmore won the toss and chose to bat. Stanmore were controlled with their batting but not out of sight as they were 52-2 in 10 overs and pushed on to make 136-3 in 20 overs. Again Anish Bhanderi bowled really well and contained Stanmore. Our fielding was good, of course some nervy moments but the boys believed they could chase the total. We got off to a good start as Avi and Suleiman opened the batting scoring 50-1 in 7 overs. Unfortunately was run out, he batted really well and didn't look

like getting out. Dylan came to the crease at number 4 with Rahul and all of a sudden Stanmore put everyone on the boundary, something the boys have never seen before. Both Dylan and Rahul worked out the situation quickly, scored easy singles and hit the odd bad ball to the boundary. The pair hit 18 off the 13th over to ease the pressure and we cruised to victory with 2 overs to spare. A top performance from the boys and hopefully they can take this belief into next season.

Kevan David-Joseph U12 Manager

U13A

League : 2nd

County : Semi Final

This year was a good season for U13A. Coming second in the league was a good effort since most of this team was U12. This was the second time in two years that the U13's have reached the Middlesex county finals day. We lost in the semi final to the Eastcote U13 team which was one of the best teams in the entire country this year in this age group.

Many positives came out the season with three of our players getting into the Middlesex winter squad. We had a couple young talents record their first centuries for the club which was fantastic to see. This season overall was a good one and I expect this team to do very well next year when many of the players are genuine U13.

Sachin Patel U13A Manager

U13B

League : 4th

U13B had quite a few new players this season. The overwhelming majority of new players that joined the club between U11-U13 ages this season were of B or C team standard. We had over 50 players eligible to play U13 cricket this summer...across three teams that meant trying to give as many opportunities as possible to as many players as possible.

The team lost more games than they won this year, but this has to be put into context. Nearly all of the other teams in this division were 'A' teams. That meant that other teams were playing to win and using their best players to do most of the bowling and batting. The only other B team in this division was Eastcote and they also used it for game time and development. An 'A' team will almost always beat a 'B' team. And so it proved for most of this season. So our results were to be expected - in order to give game time to as many players as possible this team changed a lot during the course of the season, it was not a settled starting XI.

As with other teams, the 13B environment is one where we encourage the boys to learn with minimal on field interference from the coaches. The coaching is done on Fridays. Tuesdays for this group is about enjoying the game and trying to implement what they are taught in Friday training. The fact that 3 boys from this team found there way to being promoted to the U13A this season shows that the B team environment can be an excellent grounding for cricketers who want to improve.

Manoj Mishra & Ravi Rajapakse U13B Managers

U13C

League : 3rd

U13C was a new team for this year, the first time we have put out a third U13 team. Made up of almost entirely new players. Again, this team exists for game time opportunities. They had to play against B teams from other clubs, yet despite this they acquitted themselves well. Enjoying some close games, they played with smiles on their faces and one or two really shone, to such an extent that it wasn't really that easy to tell the B and C teams apart by the end of the season.

In the batting there were some standout performances from Abdullah, Shayan, Kian and Dhilan (on debut). And the bowling was served well by Milan, Rayyan, Haard and Abdullah. Kian captained well and Peter was always lively making sure that everyone knew there was a game to win. A special word of mention for Aarush Mitra who batted superbly and then sadly broke his nose, missing the rest of the season - I have never seen anyone react with so much calmness in the face of adversity.

It was nice to see so many new players getting opportunities to play, and a few of these boys showed that they have enough natural ability and understanding of the game to play a higher level. Rather like the B teams when they had to play A teams, there was a mismatch of abilities in some of the games where this C team had to play B teams - something we need to look into for next year. The game we enjoyed the most was the Sunday afternoon friendly against Hayes that went down to the last ball - this may be a better approach to C team cricket going forwards, to find a few similar ability teams to play regular fixtures against on a Sunday afternoon.

Suk Bhupal U13C Manager

Part 4

U14-U17

These are the age groups where at a lot of clubs see a big drop off in participation as the shadow of the GSCE starts to loom. We seem to be bucking this trend to a noticeable extent by retaining many players who continue to play cricket into their teenage years. This year we saw a growth in this group also helped by new players joining the club.

Many of these players have already sampled adult cricket with quite a few playing regularly.

Competitions like the Middlesex Youth Cup, U19 T20 Blast, and Middlesex Development League which are all played after most exam dates, have helped create something for these age groups to look forward to after colts cricket.

Suk Bhupal : Head of U14-U17 Age Groups

U14

League : 2nd

County : Quarter Final

The 2018 season was a near miss, after losing our first game at Uxbridge, we proceeded to win all of our remaining games, which resulted in us finishing on the same number of wins and points as Uxbridge. They won the league by virtue of runs scored per wickets lost over the two games we played against them.

We played the county quarter-final against Richmond. After a man of the Match performance with the ball by Navin Worthington, we managed to keep them to a score of 120. At 87-1 we really had the game won, but a middle order panic led to us losing a close game by 1 run.

Richmond went on to win the county title convincingly on finals day, easily winning the semi and final.

Throughout the season we had some very good disciplined bowling by Taran Patel and Ekansh Mishra. Excellent batting by Syan, Nathan and Niam. A special mention for two very hard working cricketers who epitomised the excellent spirit in this team, namely Karthik Burla and Dwij Patel.

It was a case of small margins this season. The first game of the season came as a shock, but the team was relentless after that. The standard of opposition in this league wasn't great, but that first game loss which ultimately cost us the league title, making our County draw much harder, will serve as a lesson that you must never take the opposition lightly.

Carl Clarke U14 Manager

U15A

League : 1st

Cup : West Area Winners

County : Semi Final

This U15 team had many talented players, but was still predominantly made up of U14 players. To that end, winning the U15 Division 1 league and the U15 West Area Cup was a great achievement this year.

Consistent batting performances from Nathan, Krish, Syan, Aaryan and Niam made it difficult giving opportunities to all the talented batters in the team. We are in a very competitive U15 league as reflected by the top three teams separated by 20 points. It was difficult to rotate the batting against the weaker teams if we were setting a score. When we managed to score heavily we bowled all the bowlers. In summary batting time has been difficult for this group of talented batters because we do have a very strong top five batters.

We managed to give opportunities to a number of bowlers and its pleasing that we have competent all-rounders - stand out contributions from Nathan, Syan, Ekansh, Taran, Kavidu and Navin. It has been pleasing that new additions to the squad like Ekansh, Taran and Navin all contributed and gelled into the team seamlessly.

There is always room for improvement in all aspects of the game but fielding is something that we need to improve. We do have good fielders but consistency is a challenge. At this level, close matches are won by smart management of fielders (heed their strengths and weakness) and fielders that spend a lot of time training this important aspect.

We have talent in this group as noted by 4 players at Middlesex and 7 at Harrow Borough. Of the three games we lost (Stanmore in the league and semi-final on Finals day were avoidable, we were set for a successful chase but faltered – it is hoped that we adopt and heed the lessons learnt and don't leave stepping on the gas too late.

My hope is that this group stays together for many years with the majority having already appeared in our adult teams (my thanks to those captains for allowing these opportunities) – this can only be great news for Harrow CC.

My thanks to all the parents and coaches (both in the winter & Tuesday night training) for their help. The parents in ensuring the colts get to the games on time, helping with the set up for matches and scoring (Manoj and Kingshuk) and accommodating each other in terms of sharing lifts to away games.

From an inconsistent start to the season, this team heeded some home truths that I shared after the first four games - we are much more accomplished team now, our management whilst fielding is much better, rotating of bowlers is much improved . What's pleased me as a coach is

the way this team gels and encourages the lesser inexperienced players - they have listened ! It's been my pleasure coaching this group.

Anil Karia U15A Manager

U15B

League : 2nd

The U15B team started the season with a heavy defeat at Lohana, not able to muster even 60 runs and only taking four wickets. This seemed to suggest that the boys would struggle this season, especially as there were a number of U15A teams from other clubs in this division. However, this didn't take into account the capacity for learning and improvement this set of players would go on to exhibit.

From humble beginnings, game by game the team played better and better. From struggling to score 60, the team began to post scores in excess of 100, 130 and then 150. The bowling and fielding improved each game to enable us to bowl teams out. They improved to such an extent that by the end of the season they were one game from winning the league! This was all done whilst giving everyone a bat and/or a bowl - there were no players who 'only fielded' in a single game this year.

So many players improved this summer, it's difficult to mention all of them. Practically the entire batting line up recorded their highest individual scores. Abdul Moiz Baig, Karthik Burla, Nishant Shah, Max Haddon, Aryan Devshi, Savraj Gharyal, Sufyan Khan, Dwij Patel, all registered career best scores this season. The bowling was assured, with so many options, practically everyone in this team got a bowl. Savraj and Angelo were the standout seamers, whilst the spin of Aryan Devshi was the biggest surprise package. Steady support came by way of Arian Chakravarty, Dhruv Patel, Nishant & Sufyan. Angelo grew as a captain and the players learned to take responsibility for their fielding positions.

This was an eye opening season for 15B. Made most memorable by the attitude of the players. They all played for each other and showed great spirit. Everyone got a chance and they performed admirably. They were helped by a very supportive parental group who gave great support without ever being pushy or overbearing. Importantly, the parents of this group showed genuine interest in seeing all the boys do well, not just their own children.

This season was by some distance the most enjoyable I've had taking a junior team - my thanks to all the players and parents for making it so easy and rewarding. Also to Anil, Manoj & Carl, my fellow Tuesday night U14-U17 coaches, who have all at some time coached these boys. There are definitely a number in this group that could go on to be very decent adult cricketers.

Suk Bhupal U15B Manager

U17

League : 2nd

Middlesex Youth Cup Winners



A year where we got a glimpse into the future of adult cricket at the club and it looks be a very healthy one. The U17's went undefeated throughout their league campaign, and only two heavy downpours in games where the team looked in a good position to win cost us the points that would have won the league.

The recognition this team deserved did come along however in the form of the Middlesex Youth Cup. The cup run proved to be an amazing experience for them. They played at Hackney Marshes one week, Highgate the next, and ultimately at the home of cricket Lords! Public transport and Uber deserve a healthy word of thanks. These boys are very self sufficient. Send them a selection text and they manage to do the rest themselves.

Most of this team has already played adult cricket. Captain Sadam is a regular in our 1st XI, and the likes of Musa, Krushal, Myles, Arjun all got a taste of 1st XI cricket this year. New boys Riten and Dupesh acquitted themselves very well and there were also opportunities for some of the younger boys Syan and Niam. There are plenty of leaders in this group - their understanding & overall game sense was one of the highlights of the season.

The boys relished every opportunity to play whilst developing their game sense, teamwork and ability to flourish in pressure situations. Different players stood up on different occasions to turn games around from seemingly lost situations. Most importantly they played with smiles on their

faces, bonded as a team, and discovered that they can achieve. A memorable season where playing at Lords and winning a trophy will be something they can cherish long into the future.

Zikomo Smith U17 Manager

Part 5

U19-U21

Organised cricket in the U19 & U21 categories is relatively new, having been pioneered in our area by Ian Moore and his team at Middlesex County Cricket Club. It is an important stepping stone to adult cricket but also acts as a category in its own right which the players really enjoy. Coloured clothing and pink balls add to the general ambience and it allows for teenagers to carry on playing cricket with their friends once they have finished junior cricket but are still making the step up to regular adult cricket.

U19

Group Stage : 5th

A mixed season for the U19s, but the fact that almost the entirety of the team barring senior player Arunan are still U17, and U15 in some cases should be cause for extreme optimism. Losses against strong Eastcote and Ealing sides were followed by good wins against Uxbridge and Ealing again. Whilst the bowling of this young side was a serious strength, the batting and fielding were areas for potentially rapid improvement; the side is extremely talented in this regard but needs hard work in the winter months to ensure they fulfil this.

This is a very new tournament and we probably haven't found the sweet spot for it yet. Other clubs perhaps took this competition more seriously. Hopefully when the current crop of U17 players move up an age group, we may find that the hunger, desire and availability to compete in this tournament is rekindled.

Dan Steward U19 Manager

U21

Group Stage : 1st

Knockout Stage : Semi Finalists

2018 represented the best performance in a Middlesex Development League season to date for the Harrow Hurricanes with the team reaching the semi-finals of the full tournament. To get there we had a number of victories over strong teams, in particular beating Ealing in the quarter finals by 2 wickets, chasing 240 to win. The team lost to a strong Osterley side in the semi-finals. In every match the team showed character, resilience and energy and above all played as a unit. Fateh Singh led the team well as captain, being a mentor, ensuring the team took ownership of their performances.

In batting, centuries from Sachin Patel (106 versus Uxbridge) and Dan Steward (123 Not Out versus Ealing) were standout performances, several players made important contributions with

the bat at key moments. Important partnerships at key stages was something the team did well this year. The bowling was strong and balanced - Sachin, Aashir Rifat, Shanil Karunaratne, Sadam Zabith, Moussa Ali and Fateh Singh operated well in tandem throughout the season as well as putting a number of good individual bowling performances. Pritesh Manoj and Syan Bulathsinhala put in a few bowling performances which showed their great potential.

The bowling was always supported by solid fielding. What was also a real standout was the number of talented wicket keepers in the squad - Arunan Sunthareeswaran, Yousef Ali, Mandeep Singh and Dan Steward all kept at various stages. The club must nurture its keeping talent. In terms of logistics and team selection, Ziko ensured that a balanced, strong team was picked, and turned out ready each week.

This team was a mixture of longstanding MDL players and new members but operated as a unit with the young players feeling empowered and part of the team. The team has a lot to be proud of and have set a strong foundation for the future. This is the final season for the three senior U21 players Sachin, Fateh and Dan who have served us well over the years. They have left a strong legacy for this team that bodes well for the entire club.

Alan Smith U21 Manager

Part 6 SENIOR CRICKET

The three senior sides playing league cricket this summer had varying fortunes and each team served to highlight both the progress made at the club and the work that is still left to do. In addition to the 1st, 2nd & 3rd XI's this season we fielded a 4th XI for the first time, comprising mainly of dad's of junior players - this was more of a social team but one which nevertheless enjoyed its cricket, playing ten matches over the course of the season.

Perhaps the highlight was that of the 33 players playing in the three main senior sides, over two thirds of them have come through our own junior set up, having at one time or another been colts at Harrow Cricket Club.

1st XI

League : 1st



A fantastic season for the 1st XI, who won promotion back the MCCL at a canter, winning 15 games on the bounce having lost a winnable game to SKLP. However after this setback the side showed real character, maturity and togetherness, qualities that have been absent at this level of the club for some time. Winning 16 out of 18 games with only one defeat and one game rained off, the points haul of 162 out of a possible 180 will take some beating in future seasons.

Sachin Patel and Ronald Ettienne, ably supported by Hashim Hussain, were the key men; especially impressive, however, were the match-winning contributions from all members of the team and this was truly a team effort. The team must aim to not be complacent upon returning to the MCCL and keep the same hunger and desire for victory as this year.

Dan Steward 1st XI Captain

2nd XI

League : 9th

This was a tough season where we came very close to relegation and relied on good fortune to stay up. However, there were positives to take from this year, the biggest being we have is a nucleus which will help improve the club in the coming years. Core adult players like Khalid, Fahim, Ziko, Fateh, Sarin, Wasim and Kevan have been at the club for many years, these guys have the qualities to help improve young players coming into the adult teams.

Rachit has been a great addition to the club, a very sociable character who wants to compete at the highest level wherever he's playing and has taken 36 wickets this year. Sarin came back from university and hit the ground running, took the opening spot for the season and showed the ability we all know he has. Khushal Ahmed came to the club this year, did all the right things in the 3s and showed his qualities in the 2s with ball and bat.

There have been noticeable young players coming through in the 2s as well, Shanil, Musa, Pritesh, Syan and Aaryan Patel all have bright futures at the club. Once we improve as a team, training together, understanding each other and the club creating a system to improve all adult players the club will grow immensely.

Kevan David-Joseph 2nd XI Captain

3rd XI

League : 7th

This year we tried something new with the 3rd XI. We decided to make it a development team for the best U13-U17 players at the club. It turned out to be a risk well worth taking.

The team regularly featured anywhere between 7-8 colts, sometimes the captain was the only adult in the team. The way these players adapted to adult cricket was remarkable. Week in week out I received a steady stream of compliments from opposition teams amazed at how well our youngsters were competing at senior level - more than one team was left shocked at having been "beaten by a team of kids". In all we won 6 games, tied 1 and had 2 winning draws - a very healthy return. The team gave as good as it got on the field and never took a backward step.

Highlights of the season included a tied game against Highgate where we chased 275, along with impressive victories away to Indian Gymkhana, Teddington & Bessborough. Some of the away pitches we played on were substandard and it's a testament to the skill of these boys that we were able to win on such pitches.

There were plenty of individual highlights. The assured batting of Niam Bhattacharya, Syan Bulathsinhala and Kavidu Fernando who all registered fifties and each scored several hundred

league runs. Krish Nanavati recorded his first century as the team scored over 300 against Indian Gymkhana. The bowling attack featured an excellent U14 new ball partnership in Taran Patel & Ekansh Mishra, with Taran registering an outstanding haul of 22 league wickets. Pritesh Manoj also shone with the ball and made several important contributions with the bat. Spinners Syan, Riten, Navin and Arjun also bowled well, rarely letting teams settle.

The fielding was excellent, it's safe to say that we were the best fielding side in the league, with plenty of youthful dynamism.

A big thank you to the other two "oldies" who helped out by playing a few games this season - Manoj Mishra and Asif Ellahie. Also a word of thanks to the parents who helped get players to games and came along to support and occasionally umpire when called upon - King, Sam, Milan, Sunimal, Nimesh - their regular attendance at matches was a big help.

The cricketing maturity of these players is well beyond their years, so much so that by the end of the season I was able to put my feet up and let Arunan captain - this group were pretty much running games by themselves. There are a number that will definitely become 1st XI cricketers one day. I can only see good things for this group of players,

Suk Bhupal 3rd XI Captain