

## Keynsham Cricket Club

### End of year cricket report 2016

Firstly I would like to thank all captains (and stand in captains) for their efforts over the season to make sure we got teams out that were as fair and competitive as possible and for all the non-match day work that goes in to maintaining five senior sides. Neither Sunday side ended the season with the captains they started with so particular thanks to Andy Kitchen, Mark Branton and Sam Pollinger for doing everything possible to get 22 players on the field at a time when Sunday cricket generally appears to be fighting a bit of a losing battle to retain interest.

I would also like to thank all the off-field support that has been available to support the on-field action, including everyone who has worked on the ground, scored / umpired games and any other thankless tasks that have been picked up over the season. Particular thanks to Tony and Lee Snook who were given maximum marks for their hospitality by visiting umpires for the second year running and make sure we are a welcoming place for opposition teams to visit.

Thanks are also due on behalf of the whole club for Trevor Brooks' generous donation of new sightscreens.

One final thank you to the committee for supporting the 1<sup>st</sup> XI by agreeing to fund Jared Sun, our fourth overseas player from the Auckland area, and to Chris Westgate for putting him up over the summer.

Overall the results on the field were disappointing this year and fell below pre-season expectations. The 1<sup>st</sup> XI had intended to compete to win the league and gain promotion but although we started the season well we ultimately lost too many games to achieve our objectives and finished midtable in 5<sup>th</sup> place. Availability was a bigger challenge for the side than in previous years and we therefore managed the impressive achievement of player ages ranging between 14 and 59 years old. It was particularly encouraging to see Ben Clarke acquit himself well at that level at his age.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> XI had a second consecutive disappointing season which resulted in them being relegated from the Bristol and District Senior Division. The main highlight being Rich Pannell's match winning 157\* v Almondsbury in his "final" appearance. Despite the way the season panned out, it was encouraging to see a number of young players who showed they were more than worth a place in the side and will hopefully be a big part in helping the team have a more positive 2017.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> XI were the clear bright spot among the senior sides, winning the B&D Division 11 after losing just two games all season. A league winning season in a new league structure is a great achievement but more importantly a group of senior players have built a side where our juniors can develop and start pushing for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> team places.

As mentioned already, the Sunday 1s had an ongoing challenge – despite best efforts – to round up enough players keen to play Sunday cricket. In total we were forced to concede four fixtures over the course of the season due to lack of availability. When we could put a side out we were generally competitive with some good wins and an overall 50/50 record of wins and losses from completed

games. The Three Counties League worked as well as could be expected given the challenges of Sunday cricket and we were slightly unlucky to finish 7<sup>th</sup> out of 9 teams as we won only one fewer game than the champions who also had six wins from games conceded while we were the only team to manage zero of these.

As has been the case over the last few years the Sunday 2s was a mix of young players starting out in adult cricket and some slightly more experienced veterans. As result the team had a tough season and finished bottom of their division although they cannot be relegated so will stay in the league next season. Although it has been hard going for them, the team is still a useful opportunity for juniors to start gaining experience of adult cricket as well as offering the chance to play matches at our home ground which the Saturday 3s can't currently provide so it is important the club as a whole tries to support the viability of this side.

On a more general note I personally think the club has made some good progress over the last five years on a number of fronts but there is still plenty of work to be done to maximise our potential. A below par season will always highlight room for improvement and it is important to get buy in from every member for any future plans to ensure we are not left behind by other clubs. More and more teams we are competing against at WEPL level now have some quite significant financial support of one form or another and many who don't have fallen away and become less competitive. I am convinced we can compete at an appropriately high level (not just at 1<sup>st</sup> team level) but it is important we ensure we are maximising the resources, abilities and enthusiasm available to us.

Joe Tarring – Cricket Chair