



Cricket

2003/4



First XI Cricket Report

The six boys who were Year 7s in last year's unbeaten team seemed inconsolable immediately after our first fixture of the season, a very narrow loss to Yardley Court in a nervous and rather sparkless encounter. But the hype and expectation that had held sway before the season's onset had, thankfully, been dismissed and the boys came to realise that playing for an unbeaten season should not be a criterion for the definition of a successful term's cricket. The records show that the First XI went on to register five wins and two draws in their remaining fixtures; however, what was more significant was the manner by which the boys developed not only their own games but their shape and determination as a cracking team.

William Wheeler proved that his skills as a captain were equal to his playing abilities; although rather conservative at times, his ever-alert positioning of his fielders, his shrewd manipulation of the bowlers and his encouragement of his fellow players were catalysts in the heavy defeats of Holmewood House, Ashdown House, St Andrew's, Newlands and Stonyhurst. After a slow start, William's batting proved to be a major strength: his poise, balance, concentration and keen eye allowed the team to accelerate and dominate, whether chasing or setting a target. As an opening bowler, William learnt that rhythm, consistency and a variation of pace would cause more damage to an opposition line-up than sheer speed. William certainly made his mark and will, no doubt, cause much damage for Eastbourne in the following years!

Stuart Flint's contributions with both bat and ball were tremendous. Aggressive, alert and fiercely competitive, Stuart approached each game with the philosophy that it should be won with time to spare. With a strike-rate and batting aggregate (two half centuries included) second to none, Stuart's belligerence with the willow was not without control or exceptional timing. As William's new ball partner, Stuart also learnt that speed is not as valuable as accuracy in delivery and control. The award of the bowling cup was in recognition of this development over the summer and of the numerous scalps taken with simply unplayable deliveries.

Robert Perry's confidence continued to rise after he persuaded himself that his abilities with the bat were significant. A model top order batsman, Robert's technique was matched by his obvious intelligence as a remarkably focused batsman. Robert was the last man in the team who could be drawn into a rash stroke; instead, his body would take the blows caused by quick balls at which most boys his age might have attempted an uncontrolled swipe. As a change bowler Robert exhibited similar characteristics: concentration and containment.



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His stance and technique may have been somewhat unorthodox, but Ewen Cameron's explosiveness with the bat was a sight to behold. With an incredible eye, Ewen's ability to frustrate opposition captains and demoralise almost any bowler made him an ideal middle order batsman. His merciless, savage knock against Stonyhurst was a highlight of the season. With his massive in-swingers, Ewen matured rapidly and he proved to be a valuable change bowler who was able to bowl tight and consistent lines.

Imran Iqbal more than proved his worth as an opening batsman and change bowler. Possessing probably the most correct technique, Imran saw off a number of threatening opening attacks to establish foundations for the team's batsmen. His accurate seamers provided William with a valuable first change bowler. Although only a Year 7, Imran's maturity, confidence and composure belied his age and he should play a major role in next year's First XI campaign.

Hamish Auld partnered Imran at the very top of the order and, occasional flashes of impatience aside, he proved to be a reliable and very well balanced batsman with the potential to occupy the crease when required. With the wicket-keeper's gloves Hamish was excellent: steady, focused and deceptively agile, his contribution behind the stumps was generally quiet but never without value.

Probably a bit unlucky to be in a team with so many other all-rounders, Max Weston rarely complained of having little to do. As a capable batsman with a good eye and as a solid, nagging seamer, Max's cameos were always whole-hearted efforts in which determination and enjoyment were well combined. As a fielder Max was excellent, pulling off some of the most startling catches of the season: clearly a talented sportsman!

Dilip Varma's expansive and aggressive shot-making (when not overly flamboyant!) was well matched by his ability to produce unplayable, in-cutting deliveries. Certainly, Dilip's commitment was total; his support of his team-mates continual and always vocal!

Although he was two years younger than the bulk of his team-mates, Max Spedding proved that he was worth his place in the First XI. Not only an electric fielder, Max was another player with an exceptional eye, having the ability to score quickly with his trademark flicks to the on-side. Once he had adjusted to the longer pitches, Max's seamers provided us with yet another bowling option. He will be prized in the First XI next year!

I doubt that Christian West will forget his knock against Stonyhurst where he highlighted the depth of ability in the team. Christian's most valued contribution was as one of the fastest and most agile fielders on the circuit and, although his opportunities to bat or bowl were affected by the strength of the players around him, Christian remained a committed and highly enthusiastic player.

In his first full season of cricket, Louis Yeung made a name for himself as a boy with real talent. Through tireless practise inside and outside the training sessions, and through total focus in the matches, Louis became a fixture in the side in spite of his very limited experience. I do hope that he continues to play this game in which he has such potential.

This was a very talented group of cricketers. Selfishness of any form was rare and the desire to succeed permeated the squad. Following the season that we have all enjoyed, I expect that each of the boys will take up the game once again next year with justifiable confidence in their significant cricketing abilities. Once again, a pleasure to coach!

Kevin Doble



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2nd XI



3rd XI Cricket Report 2004

The 3rd XI played some exciting cricket this season and there were some memorable moments. Hugh Cooper smashing a "six" and then getting bowled next ball, Fred Keeling getting two wickets with the first two balls of an innings and only denied a Hat Trick by a "debatable" umpire's decision in favour of the batsman, some brilliant collisions when three players converged for a high catch and they all ended up in a heap and the ball fell lamely between them. This happened at least twice! The match results pale into insignificance beside the individual moments of glory.

I particularly enjoy the variety of excuses that are reeled out after batsmen have played, missed and been bowled. Some this season have included "That's not fair, he bowled it straight" and "This bat's too small". Perhaps to hide the embarrassment of "not being all that good" these excuses and others are used to deflect criticism that in fact it was a poor shot.

Nevertheless, I feel that the 3rd XI have enjoyed their matches, ably captained by Hugh Cooper and the players voted William Gage "Player of the Season".

N J Butcher



Cricket

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4ths



Colts A



Colts B

Colts A Cricket Report

The Colts AX1 have worked really hard at developing their skills this term and performed well in their matches. The strength of the team was probably in the batting and it often proved a difficult task to decide which unfortunate boy had to be at No. 11 in the order. Tom Harvey was the most reliable batsman at the crease and his sound technique always ensured that we got off to a sound start. Warat Thavisin hit the ball hard and he was unfortunate to be run out for 46 against Yardley Court when a fifty looked a certainty. During the term, Jake Willis-Fleming and Charles Newman showed the ability to occupy the crease for long periods and both boys look good prospects for the future. Newcomer, Carwyn Jones also did well as the team's opening bat in several games.

In the field, James Mursell did a valiant job as wicket-keeper and improved with every game. Callum Marris kept things tight with his steady medium pace bowling and there were good contributions from our other seamers, Scott Collier and Oscar Jeremy. Jake Willis-Fleming and Charles Newman formed a potent opening attack which seldom allowed our opponents to play freely at the start of the innings. Tom Harvey was certainly our most accurate performer with the ball and Warat Thavisin added good variety with his well flighted off breaks.

The final match against St.Ronans summed up the talent in the group as a real team effort enabled us to overhaul a large total of 141 in the last over of the game. I have enjoyed working with the Colts this Summer and I have been really encouraged by their performances.

NWB



Cricket

2003/4



U10 A



Under 10 B cricket report

The Under 10 B squad has made great progress this season, particularly with their bowling. It has been so good to see virtually everyone in the squad, able to bowl when called upon to do so. Line and length can still be problematic but this is something which comes from experience. James Mannion and Oliver Bensted-Smith made particularly good progress, one as a pace bowler, the other as a leg spin bowler. Watching an Ashdown House batsman comprehensively bamboozled by a genuine, turning leg break, was a real pleasure. Batting remains a weaker element for many of the children. Batting requires patience and concentration, qualities which many of the children lack at times!!! Many of them would be able to do a good forward defensive in practice, but would be overcome by match nerves when 'out in the middle'. However, some lusty blows were hit by Harry Buxton and Patrick Wadsworth at times, and Oswald Wedmore's running between the wickets in the match against Ashdown House, provided much needed impetus to our innings.

Special mention should be made of William Colderick, whose batting with Patrick Wadsworth, kept us in the game against St. Ronan's. Playing against their Under 11 B team, we were in all sorts of trouble at 9 for 5, but Patrick and William put on a 50 partnership, allowing us to reach 87 all out. Although this was to prove inadequate, nevertheless, it was a very good achievement and showed the benefit of patient and judicious application.

Fielding tended to be a little variable at times and this is certainly an area, which everyone could improve upon. 'Catches win matches', so the saying goes and all the children need to remember that fielding is the one part of the game that everyone does, no matter what. Hector Fraser excelled in this department, throwing himself around the pitch to stop any runs and Harry Buxton scored 6 out of 7 direct hits on the stumps in the St. Ronan's match. A number of times, however, poor concentration resulted in unnecessary runs being scored or missed opportunities. The boys were always full of enthusiasm, however, and were fun to take. Well tried everyone!

EYB



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Under 9A Cricket Summer Term 2004

Having taken the under nine cricket team in my early years at Vinehall I was only too pleased to accept the challenge once again this term. Our first three games were all cancelled either due to the weather or postponement. When we finally arrived at our first game away at StAndrew's, the boys were really excited, and what a game with the result going down to the last ball with Vinehall coming out the winners by just one run.

Our next game was away to Newlands with both teams playing well the team secured an eighteen run victory. Our first home game brought Holmewood House to Vinehall and although we scored more runs than in our last two games, Holmewood were too strong winning by thirty- three runs. The next match against Marlborough House was also lost to the weather. Our next fixture brought Sevenoaks to Vinehall in a reduced overs game we won by forty runs, our bowlers securing the victory by taking ten wickets. In the last game of the season we travelled away to St Ronans, although not our best performance we managed to score one hundred and nine runs winning by forty three runs. The pairs format of the game of cricket is an excellent introduction to the game giving youngsters the opportunity to bat, bowl and generally improve their basic cricket skills.

The boys who have played in the A squad this year:-

J Keeling, F Wells, O Giles, C Williamson, R Troy, A Todd, A Pugh, J Wardle, D Roberts, E Jeremy, J Jones, A Everall, C Reid, W Furlong, W Orr, B Simmons, H Coombes.

A Team Results.

Vinehall v StAndrews	won by 1 run
Vinehall v Newlands	won by 18 runs
Vinehall v H/House	lost by 33 runs
Vinehall v Sevenoaks	won by 40 runs
Vinehall v StRonans	won by 43 runs

I would like to say a big thank you to all the squad for their hard work in lessons and matches alike and also to all the parents for their support from the boundary.

J Newman.