

SECTION 5 - AREAS

West Area Cricket Association

The West Area has undergone radical changes over the past year, with a number of changes to personnel. Andy Lee stood down as chair, to be replaced temporarily by Jill Redmond, who in turn resigned, and until the AGM next February 2009, Brian Towner has agreed to take the helm.

Our new Administrator is Sally Clark, and we also have a new Community Coach, with Alan Smith taking on the role from John Davies. However, we are fortunate in that we are still able to benefit from John's vast experience as he remains a crucial cog in our coaching machine. Also, thanks to John who runs the courses, there has been an unprecedented number of qualified Level Two Coaches in the West.

The West was more successful in the past year than in previous years, with more youngsters going through the system to represent Sussex at in the various age groups, and we have seen some impressive performances from many of them during the course of the season.

Again we saw Clubs struggling to fulfil fixtures on the arranged date due to clashes with Area matches, but our thanks and congratulations go to all managers for getting as many matches played as they did. Winners of the various Leagues were as follows:-

	Winners	Runners Up
U9	Bognor	Chichester/Midhurst
U10 White	Worthing	Arundel
U10 Blue	Bognor	Midhurst
U11 Bowl	Bognor	Chichester A
U11 Shield	Eastergate	Arundel
U12 Bowl	Bognor	Chichester
U12 Shield	Arundel	Worthing Chipps
U13 Bowl	Worthing	Chichester A
U13 Shield	Arundel	Pulborough
U14 Bowl	Midhurst	Middleton
U14 Shield	Arundel	Worthing
U15	Middleton	Chichester
U16 Bowl	Eastergate	Findon
U16 Shield	Goring	Worthing

As far as the 2008 Area Cricket Festival was concerned, the Western Warriors enjoyed mixed fortunes.

The Under 11s won two, lost three (one by only one run) and one cancelled due to rain. No-one scored a fifty, but the strength of the squad was illustrated by the fact that several players made regular significant contributions. U11 Player of the Year, Beck Hemingway (Chichester PPCC) topped the batting averages with 22.80, but five others averaged more than 17.50. On the bowling front, the leading wicket takers were Harry Pacey (Middleton CC) and Beck Hemingway with four wickets apiece.

The U13 team, played some very good cricket, but a lack of concentration, on occasions allowed the opposition to take advantage and defeat us. Two victories in the season was a fair reflection however. There were good performances from a number of players, worthy of mention; George Stephens, (Chichester PPCC) the captain, led by example in the field, also scoring runs. Aru Kathesgesil, (Stirlands CC) bowling leg spin had a good season, taking wickets regularly. The player, who developed the most from his time with the squad, and Player of the Year, was Ryan Mullen (Arundel CC). Ryan, made great strides with his batting, scoring runs in every innings, his best being 70 v the East.

The Under 15s had a very good year and won their league, despite most of the players coming from the U14 age group. Mention of just a few, but remembering that all season it was very much a team effort; Tom Chamberlain captained the side and learned a great deal progressively; Will Burrows kept wicket well and made some fine contributions with the bat, and Tom Stride is developing into a fine all rounder and did well with both bat and ball. The fast bowling dept comprised of Harrison Temple, Henry Luxton and Tom Stride who all had good seasons. Ellis Woolley and Charlie La Foret provided the medium pace, with Jack Davies adding his guile and spin.

Brian Towner
Chairman

North Area Cricket Association

Like all the others part of the UK the 2008 season was blighted by poor weather. In the 1st round of games at u10/11s Ben Canfield scored a superb 83* out of a total of 109 off the bat as his colleagues beat an out-of-sorts Southern Sabres team. Nathan Pugh had a good day taking 3-23 with the ball.

In the u12/3 Nathan Bailey had a good day all round. While batting he scored 53 to support Ollie Bidlake (38) and help the Knights score a respectable 159-8 in 40 overs. Nathan then went on to take 3-27 to help secure victory over the Sabres by 31 runs.

Jonny Crickmore and Dominic Baun in the u14/5s both made 50's while playing "on a road" at Horsham Main Ground. The Knights amassed 235 in 50 overs that proved too much for the Sabres, who were all out for 101 in 32 overs. Alex Lowther bowling quickly in spells and the main Knights bowler, finishing with 3-17.

Against the East, the North boys attained a good score of 153 runs, which they defended quite easily by winning by a margin of 43 runs; eight of the Eagles wickets were lost "BOWLED".

In a low scoring game the North u12/3s lost to the East by 6 wickets and were overcome by a good side from the East – 76 played 78-4. Perhaps a game the Knights wanted to forget in a hurry but not short of effort and trying their collective best. Victory didn't come until the 25th over for the East.

At Chiddingly, the motto of the game isn't over until it's over came through loud and clear. The Eagles posted a score of 180 in their 50 overs. In no time, the Knights were 42-6 but Alex Evans and Matt Cox put on a partnership of 81 for the 7th wicket. This and a quick fire 35 from Alex Lowther saw the Knights home by 2 wickets with 10 overs to spare. Congratulations to both teams for a splendid game but also the spirit in which it was played.

The next round of fixtures were all cancelled due to rainfall.

Two weeks later the rain relented. Scores for the u10/11s game between the North and South is not to hand but the u12/13s had a thrilling game at Horsham CC – where the teams scored exactly the same total number of runs (101) but the “EXTRAS” was the difference, with the Knights conceding 1 more “sundry” – the Sabres winning in the final over. The u14/5s played at Portslade CC the highlight from this match was a well-constructed hundred from Jamie Noble, who left immediately after the game to fly to Beijing to support his older brother competing in the Olympics. Pick of the bowlers was Freddie Parffrey of East Grinstead who bowled consistently fast bowling, left arm and causing plenty of problems on a bouncy dusty track.

In the last rounds of fixtures the Northern u10/11s played the Warriors at Arundel CC. The West’s innings closed on 124 which was easily overhauled by the Knights – Joe Ludlow playing magnificently with a score of 69*. The 12/13s had a good contest with the West but lost by only 11 runs. West scored 151-4 off 35 overs, 100 opening partnership between former county player, George Stephens and his batting partner, Tom Lee. The North never came to terms with the task and was always running short of the eventual total. The u14/5 game against the South was abandoned half way through the game at Horsham Trinity CC.

Thanks go to the team managers and coaches for all their work, not forgetting the clubs, groundstaff and officials from the various clubs and schools throughout the season for making the Knights welcome wherever they played.

On a final but sad note, it would be remiss not to record the very sad loss of Dr. John Dew, MBE who passed away at the end of the season. “The Doctor” was always a very welcoming and genuine host, which added to the pleasure of playing at Horsham, an out-ground for Sussex CCC. Our thoughts are with his surviving family and closest friends with their recent loss.

Graham Irwin
Chairman

South Area Cricket Development Group

The South Area enjoyed another good year in the U.11, 13 and 15 age groups. During the winter months we offered quality coaching to over 100 boys across the age groups and this proved very successful. In the final selections we had 23 players in the county squads.

The winter training took place at Downlands School in Hassocks and the County ground in Hove. We used some different venues this summer. With special thanks going to Brighton College, Hurst College, Portslade Cricket Club and Rottingdean Cricket Club for allowing us to use their excellent facilities.

The side that stood out the most was the U.13’s who ended up winning their festival which was a great effort.

The player’s of the season were as follows:

U.11 – Liam Gravett

U.13 – Harry Klus

U.15 – Steve Crosby

Finally I would like to thank Chris Waller, Norman Gifford, Pat Green, Joey Appleton, Ron Gray, Patrick Spencer, Nick Hobbs and Des Mackrill for all their hard over the winter coaching sessions and the matches in the summer.

Dominic Clapp

Community Coach

East Area Cricket Association

With a new name and a new streamlined Committee 2008 promised to be an exciting year in the continuing development of Junior Cricket in the East.

The Area Programme started with Assessments in September which were well attended and once again there were signs that the standard of player nominated is getting higher each year. The initial 8 week Pre-Xmas Training Programme gave over 100 young players the opportunity of benefitting from extra coaching. Once again the quality of the Coaches was exceptional and my thanks go to – Simon Funnell, Ian Gillespie, Adam Maharaj-Newman, John Tomsett, John Smith & Chris Fox for their time and efforts.

Once the County Squads were selected the Area Programme was back into full swing as the 3 Area Squads trained for a further 8 weeks. Jason Finch was added to the Coaching Staff as the finishing touches were put to the Summer Programme with 2 outdoor practice sessions.

Unlike the previous year all the age groups had the opportunity to play Area Games and I hope that the players who represented the East enjoyed the experience regardless of the final outcome.

The Area programme continues to evolve and we are extremely lucky in the East to have Lakshmi Newman as our administrator. Her work behind the scenes is tireless and on behalf of all the Coaches I must say a big thank to her. I must also thank our Treasurer John Smith for ensuring we balance our books a role he has done with efficiency and good humour at all times.

This season was Simon Funnell's last as our Community Coach; the East is where it is today because of Simon's determination and desire and hard work to ensure our progress. Although we lose our Community Coach we still keep Simon's experience on our Committee as the Cricket Development Officer for South & East, we wish him well in his new role and thank him for all that he has done in helping with the development of The East Area.

2008 saw an advancement in Girls Cricket as the EACA fielded an U15 representative side which played against the U15 SWCA Development Team. The Girls who played all enjoyed the game and it showed that interest in the Girls Game is ever increasing.

The Sussex Cricket Board has a clear vision and a planned way forward. The Areas have an important role in helping them to achieve their targets; in the East we look forward to the challenges that lie ahead.

Roger Newman

EACA Chairman

Hastings and District Cricket Association

General Administration

At the Annual General Meeting held in November 2007, John Osborn was re-elected Chairman together with the existing Executive Committee and John Towner (Bodiam CC). They have met on four occasions. There are 33 clubs affiliated to Hastings & District. Newenden, Polegate & Stonecross and Eastbourne Martlets are also affiliated for Indoor League purposes.

Hornbye Park

We are lucky to have such an outstanding development and we are grateful for the support given to the Association. However, the costs of hiring Hornbye have increased substantially over the last few years and will continue to do so in 2009. This could have an adverse effect on the staging of our competitions in the future.

Sussex Cricket Board

Thanks are due to Mike Waghorn for representing us on the Recreational Forum. The demise of the Sussex Cricket Association has now opened up other avenues for clubs to obtain financial assistance through various grants - information can be obtained from the SCB offices at the County Ground Hove.

Cup Competitions

Two evening cup competitions were held. Our congratulations go to Crowhurst Park on retaining the Gordon Busbridge Trophy and The Legion on winning the Hastings Observer Cup. The Best Batting Award was shared by Richard Hawthorne (Robertsbridge) and Paul Nice (Bodiam) who each scored 103 in earlier rounds. The Best Bowling Award was won by Jimmy Adams (Bodiam) for his 5-25 against Hastings Priory. The Association is extremely grateful to the ever efficient Martin Bincow for the time and energy he spent in organising both competitions.

Indoor Cricket

This was played at Hornbye. There was cricket four days a week from October to March with a break over Christmas. The sponsorship of Rush, Witt and Wilson allowed for providing week-end fixture cards for all players and umpires. 19 teams played at the week-ends and 18 in mid-week. The week-end league winners were Bexhill (1st div.), Beaulieu (2nd div.) and Hastings Priory Colts (3rd div.). The mid-week league winners were Bodiam (1st div.), Iden (2nd div) and Sidley (3rd div.).

The Association is indebted to Mike Griffiths who drew up the fixtures, appointed the umpires and, with Geoff Hillier, collated the results and produced the league tables. Thanks are also due to Mick Pengilly for his work in collating the entries from the clubs.

Ken Turnbull/Stan Hoadley Indoor Cup

15 teams took part in this year's competition which was held in January and was again won by Hastings Priory.

Youth Coaching

The Association is again indebted to Ian Gillespie for organising winter coaching sessions.

Umpires

Our thanks go to Mike Griffiths of the local Umpire's Association for supplying umpires for all our indoor and outdoor competitions.

Conclusion

The Association wishes to thank all its sponsors, Gordon Busbridge, Rush, Witt & Wilson, Hastings &

St.Leonards Observer and Ken Turnbull without whose assistance it would be very difficult to run our competitions.