

Triple winners for Rich's Cricketers in City Schools Cup Competitions

Congratulations to our junior cricket teams!! They all won through to their respective age group finals and in three out of the four matches came out deserved victors. Only the U15 side suffered defeat - at the hands of a very strong Crypt team.



All the sides relished the superb playing surfaces and true pitches and the standard of cricket for the most part was extremely high. The U14s made up for some indifferent bowling with secure and powerful batting; the U13s enjoyed a close game which swung first one way then the other; the U12s contained their opponent's batting well and then powered their way to an easy victory with a masterful display of batsmanship by Andrew Green and Will Alder.

Special thanks again to the Rotary for sponsoring this competition and to King's school for allowing the finals to be played on their splendid Archdeacon ground.



The U12 City Cup Winners

**Peter Moore, Sam Tompkins, Alex Guilford, Will Alder, Alastair Cupper
Henry, Woody Morris, Joe Conway, Callum Broady, Tom Chapple, Andy Green**

Cricket Season 2002

1st XI Cricket - P4, W1, D1, L2

In a shortened season in which two matches were lost to exams the school showed a commitment and tenacity to their game. However their batting and bowling lacked the consistency necessary to put the opposition under real pressure. (IJG)

- v - Marling

Batting first the school scored 126 for 9 in their 30 overs. P Green 25. Marling easily overhauled this modest total.

- v - Newington College Development XI

Once again the School hosted Newington College from Sydney, Australia. A team of 14-16 year old development players toured South England and were with us for two days. Unfortunately the cricket was washed out after the luncheon interval with the school on 85 for 2. Despite this disappointment the players and their hosts had an enjoyable two days and I am sure firm friendships were made. Many thanks to those who went to the trouble of hosting the boys and to Paulette Maxted for organising the lunch and tea. Newington plan to return to England in two years' time and despite the washout we will be high on their list of intended games.

- v - King's

On a good batting wicket the school bowled poorly to help Kings to 178 for 8 in their 35 overs. R Bhaiyat 4 for 23. Rich's batting could not match the scoring rate.

- v - Rendcomb

Batting first on a pudding of a pitch the school worked hard to reach 101 for 9 declared. M Taylor 25, T Dodwell 21. In reply Rendcomb struggled against some good bowling but managed to survive on 80 for 9 for a draw. T Moseling 5 for 25.

- v - Crypt

In a 30 over match the school batted first reaching 167 for 4. T Moseling 86no. J Davies 32. In a close finish Crypt were bowled out for 164 losing by 3 runs. T Moseling 3 for 30.

U15 XI - P7, W2, L5

This has been a disappointing season during which tidy bowling has been let down by undisciplined batting. In the absence of a batsman willing to provide backbone to an innings, the U15s have struggled to post scores large enough to set opponents a challenging total. The discovery of Max Gibbons' left-arm in-swingers explains much of the late-season revival, returning 5 for 5 against Churchdown. He took 9 wickets over the season. Other notable performances with the ball came from Richard Kimber and Tom Roberts each with 7 wickets. Batting achievements were few and far between: no batsman reached 50 in the course of the season. Apart from the occasional lower order cameo, little was offered by way of a proper innings, except by Michael Joyce. The side were rapidly dismissed from the County Cup by St Benedict's but advanced by way of their two victories against St Peter's and Churchdown to the City Cup Final where they were well beaten by a strong Crypt XI. (PVS)

U14 XI - P8, W5, D1, L2

Despite the weather causing havoc with the fixtures, this has been an enjoyable season. The team has been a pleasure to be with, with excellent team spirit and very competent performances on the pitch. The highlight has been the team's success in reaching the

Rotary City Cup with some good wins en route to the final. The team, under the excellent captaincy of Ciaran Conway, has displayed some fine cricket, with all the players contributing positively to ensure solid team performances. With excellent habits instilled into the team from two years coaching with Mr Brown, the U14s have the potential to get even better! The team must be congratulated for their excellent win against Beaufort in the final of the Gloucester City Rotary Cup. (PDL)



U14s catching practice in the gym

U13 XI - P8, W5, D1, L2

There is little doubt that the U13s have talent and potential in abundance. In a season that has been decimated by poor weather and cry-offs from opposing schools, there have been some moments of quality cricket, particularly in the field. However until the squad members learn to work together and play to their strengths as a team, they will not realise their full potential. The team managed to reach the final of the District Cup, where they put in a good display to lift the trophy. Team captain Alex Winter and Vice-Captain Andrew Downes have worked hard throughout the season and deserve thanks for their efforts on and off the pitch. (RS)

U12 XI

The U12 cricket team suffered extensively from the vagaries of the weather and some ill-timed cancellations by opposition schools. They ended their season though on a high by winning the U12 City Schools Cup - thanks again to the Rotary for sponsoring this competition and King's school for allowing the finals to be played on their splendid Archdeacon ground.

In contrast to much of the preceding month's shower dodging, it was a beautiful summer evening graced by a superb batting performance from Rich's batsmen Andy Green (30) and Will Alder (23no) who steered the side home comfortably to win with still 5 overs to spare against city rivals Crypt. They obviously enjoyed the properly prepared pitches and smooth short-cut outfield as they stroked the ball imperiously around. Will Alder especially made batting look easy - and it was not due to any poor bowling either!

Fielding was also a joy as for the first time our fielders could go down with confidence that the ball would not deviate suddenly and fly up past their faces. Both sides contributed to some excellent cricket - it was just that on the day our top order bats took early control and really relished the true playing surface.

This success was in stark contrast to the team's first game of the season way back in May when they contributed heavily to their own demise - 56 bowling extras given away in a total of 83 was just too much to make up if the opposition do not return the favour - and Newent didn't!

Watching the way our young players rose to the occasion and so blatantly relished the first class playing facilities at Archdeacon Meadow made me wonder just how much more progress ones such as they could make given the right conditions and resources. How many fail to fulfil their true cricketing potential because of the poor quality of resources and severely curtailed school cricket season we 'enjoy' at Rich's? (PJB)