

Junior Convenor's Report Poloc Cricket Club AGM, January 2011

I'm not sure what number of Junior Convenor's report this is for me, but again I'm pleased to be able report on a year where, as a club, our juniors have had on-field success, have represented themselves and our club well, and where a number have achieved representative selection.

Before giving a few details of what took place on the playing side, can I again thank the many people who put in the required time and effort to facilitate cricket for our juniors. This ranges from our new groundsman Adam Richardson, through our 2010 overseas player/coach Fraser Quarterman, to those, like Stuart Rousen and Zameer Chaudhry, who were near ever-present in their being available to assist with transporting players to and from matches. In this category I would also like to make mention of Matt Coyle, Carl and Tinus Huyser, David James and Cameron Armour who were regular contributors to junior coaching sessions during the year. Also to thank is Brian Spence who, along with David James, commandeered our Under 10s participation in the summer Sunday morning Kwik Cricket festivals. Colin Scott, Ian Adshead and Les' Ingram-Brown should also be thanked for their respective, and often unseen, work in-and-around the club, without which the ground, and wickets in particular, would be less conducive to encouraging our youngsters to play good cricket – thanks to these guys, your work is appreciated.

On the club coaching front we again provided year-round coaching, weekly winter coaching taking place at Hutchesons' Grammar School Sports Hall, outdoor age-group coaching taking place three evenings a week during the season.

Mention of coaching should also include the coaching done in local schools. Last year I reported we had delivered coaching programmes in, or had coaching links with, eight schools. In 2010 this increased to twelve as, for the first time, and in partnership with Glasgow City, our coaches delivered coaching programmes in Tinto, Mossspark and Merrylee Primary Schools, and renewed its links with Sir John Maxwell Primary School. A big thanks to all those involved in delivering these coaching sessions.

Also in this general vein it's maybe worth mentioning the developing links with two further education establishments: we again continued to host Glasgow Caledonian University matches in 2010, and started a new link with Langside College. Both are good examples of how we can assist the development of cricket in our community, at the same time generating much-needed profile and income for the club.

Turning now to on-field activities. In 2010 the weather was much kinder and, including Under 10 Kwik Cricket matches, our juniors played 84 matches. On the basis the season lasts twenty weeks, end-to-end, that's more than four per week. It was also 39 more than in a rain-affected 2009 season. I believe we continue to offer our young players a comprehensive playing programme. In addition to these junior games the Academy XI – essentially junior players – played eight matches. Six of these were in the Strathclyde League, a league that again saw the Academy complete an unbeaten campaign. And only a quirk – now changed for 2011 – in the Strathclyde League rules prevented the Academy competing in the Strathclyde Shield game at the end of the season.

Talk of the Academy XI's success brings me nicely to how our junior age-group sides did in season 2010. The highlight was the Under 18s winning their league, going through their league campaign unbeaten. They also made Finals Day of

both the Frank Smith Trophy and the Under 18 Scottish Cup. Congratulations to all those players who played in the Under 18 side last season. The Under 15s had a more mixed season; only one defeat up until August saw them in contention in their league, but three defeats in August put paid to their title challenge. The Under 13s struggled a little in their league, as a young side full of potential found the step-up from Under 11s a big ask. There are, however, big hopes for this group in 2011. The 13s tied match at Hughenden was also a highlight of the season, that is if you can set aside a coach's nerves sitting watching it from the boundary! Our Under 11s were also a young side in 2010, but recorded an encouraging winning season nonetheless. As with ours 13s, the Under 11 group has a lot of players with potential – 2011 will be a season where we continue to look for development in these youngest players' performances, and in their technical developments.

The end-of-season league tables saw the Under 18s as winners, the Under 15s finishing third, the Under 15Bs runners-up, the Under 13s eighth, the Under 13Bs runners-up, and the Under 11s seventh. A good season.

A number of individual players also turned in performances of note. Three Under 18s, Bilal and Danial Chaudhry and Craig Young, scored more than 200 runs. Bilal also dominated the bowling statistics in Under 18 cricket, taking 27 wickets. Haris Chaudhry's 18 wickets and Umer Aziz's 14 made up an impressive 59-wicket haul for the side's seam attack. In Under 15 cricket Elliott Rousen scored more than 200 runs, just pipping Saif Sajjad who scored 185, to be top run-scorer. Saif however enjoys the accolade of having the highest individual score of season 2010: 86 against Hillhead. Ross Armour and Lewis James were the top-scorers in Under 13 cricket – their respective 150+ runs dominating that age-group's batting statistics. Lewis's younger brother Calum scored 100+ runs in Under 11 cricket, as did Aliyan Qureshi, whilst Kess Sajjad took a remarkable 23 wickets at this age-group.

Beyond club cricket there were representative honours for a number of our young players. Ross Armour was involved with the 2010 junior Western Cricket Academy, touring Jersey with it in August. Also touring with the Western Cricket Academy – this time the senior academy – were Danial Chaudhry and Craig Young. These two players also represented Scotland at Under 17 level in 2010. Area squad recognition was also achieved by a number of our young players including Ross Armour, Lewis James, Akhil Ahmed, Aliyan Qureshi, Hasan Ahmad and Kess Sajjad at Under 13 level, and Oliver Raine, Saif Sajjad and Elliott Rousen at Under 15 level. At Under 17 Area level Scott Millen and Craig Young featured. Looking to 2011, Ross Armour, Elliott Rousen and Saif Sajjad have been selected for the newly-created Cricket Scotland Under 15 Regional Development Centre, Danial Chaudhry and Craig Young are in the Under 18 Western Cricket Academy, and Bilal Chaudhry is in the Scotland Under 19 winter training squad.

Congratulations to all the players mentioned, but also to the many others whose contributions to the various teams are in many ways, and on many occasions, just as valuable.

A final comment in closing about our new astro-turf net bay facility – for both juniors and seniors this was a big asset to practice and coaching and will, I hope, continue to be such going forward.

Keith Young
Junior Convenor
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