

**Poloc Cricket Club**  
**2007 AGM**  
**Junior Convenor's report**

Picture the scene: it's early September and it's a Poloc:Clydesdale double-header. At Shawholm the Dark Side's Under 15s have to applaud on to the field the Poloc Under 15s who had already secured their league title two nights before. Then, two hours later, the 'dale Under 11s have to applaud off the Titwood ground the 'loc Under 11s who'd just secured their own league title with victory over their southside rivals. Does cricket – nay, life - get any better?

2007 might well go down in the club's history as its most successful ever.....discuss?

The bare bones of the season's results certainly suggest this: four league titles; a cup final appearance; and Area, District and international honours for Poloc juniors.

The leagues won were the Under 11, Under 13, Under 15B and Under 15, with the Under 18s reaching the Frank Smith Trophy Final.

The Representative honours won by Poloc players saw Saad Salim play West District Under 12, Craig Young and Haris Mahmood play West District Under 14, Zaeem Mirza play West District Under 16, and Noman Kenneth play West District Under 18. Craig Young also represented the club, and Scotland, at the European Under 13 Championships in Denmark. Throw in a number of boys playing Area cricket, and Craig Young and Haris Mahmood being selected to play in the annual *Shell* Inter-City tournament between Glasgow, Edinburgh and Belfast, and many of our youngsters can be said to be developing well. regular involvement in senior cricket is also proving beneficial to our juniors' development.

Particular highlights of a great season include:

- the Under 13s going through the league season unbeaten *en route* to winning the title - this group of players has lost just once in three years now in the league – remarkable, and a performance that rightly saw them awarded the Alasdair Thomson Trophy for "Junior Team of the Year";
- at Under 15 level no fewer than five batters scoring 50s showing a depth of talent;
- five youngsters taking more than 30 wickets, including Haris Mahmood who notched up a remarkable 48;
- the all-round performances of Craig Young who scored 585 runs, took 37 wickets and grabbed six catches and eleven run outs in junior cricket; and
- Saad Salim playing for every – yes *every!* – junior side from Under 11 to Under 18 – who else do you know has the email address: "saadthecricketchamp@hotmail.co.uk"!

And then there were the outrageous batting antics of Danial Chaudhry! What can be said of his batting fireworks? Over a thousand – yes, a thousand! – runs in junior cricket is truly remarkable. And to cap his season, young Dani' found himself making his 1st XI debut,.....in a winning Rowan Cup Final side. And his season-ending unbeaten 76 against Ferguslie at Under 18 level probably summed up his year, as the 'loc youngsters chased down 128 to win inside sixteen overs.

On the playing side, the season ended fittingly with the two players playing their final junior match for the club, skipper Noman Kenneth and team-mate Hasan Khan, opening the batting and batting through to beat Glasgow Accies.

Off the field there was great progress too – here's a few highlights:

- year-round coaching established with pre- and post-Christmas indoor sessions;

- schools coaching extended to nine local schools, and one other forming first-time links with the club;
- the Poloc Academy established, with structured development coaching being provided to the club's most promising youngsters; and
- participation in all of the WJDCU's [six] junior leagues for the first time.

The club's junior programme is continuing to develop therefore. The outcome of this development can be seen by numbers, activities, results and individuals gaining representative honours. And underpinning this development are the efforts of many individuals. Crucially in this regard we have benefited enormously from the input of Cricket Professional Garry Hampson. Garry's work in the last two years took on the work started by Wes Thomas in 2005, and the "fruits" of Garry's labour can be seen I believe, and are indisputable. How many other Scottish clubs' professionals decide, of their own volition, to travel to a junior game they are not meant to be attending simply to monitor the progress of *their* players? Or produce individual training schedules for junior players? Or produce photographic analysis of youngsters' bowling and batting techniques? Or diligently prepare written reports on schools and other coaching sessions carried out? Poloc Cricket Club has, I believe, been fortunate to have Garry Hampson's services.

Others to whom the club is indebted include: Matt Coyle, Overseas Amateur Robin Cheesman, Stewart Shearer, Arran Jodah, Keith Sheridan and Saleem Sajjad. All assisted with coaching and fulfilling junior fixtures. The support of a number of parents and members at many games is also worthy of mention: thanks in this regard to Alasdair Thomson, Samina Sajjad, Zameer Chaudhry & extended family, CJ Lafferty, and the ever-present Mr Salim, father of Saad Salim, Poloc's - and arguable the planet's - keenest cricketer! I must have missed others and for this I apologise - all support is hugely appreciated.

A word of thanks too, to Groundsman Colin Scott - "Moss", or "that scary man" to juniors! Colin's unstinting efforts in weather-watching, and pitch and ground preparation, are of immeasurable value. Our juniors do not perhaps fully appreciate the work he does, nor the advantage they have in learning the game at Shawholm. If rumours are to be believed, however, maybe Ferguslie's juniors might be next season's beneficiaries of his TLC?

To conclude I'll return to some stat's: it's five years since I first wandered in to Shawholm to hand my son over to Keith Sheridan to start his cricket education and, as such, I guess I felt it was a kind of anniversary of sorts; a reason to look back. Much has changed on the juniors front in those five years, and - though they can lie from time to time - the stat's perhaps best tell the story:

In 2003 the club played 19 matches in two leagues, winning 37%  
 In 2004 the club played 18 matches in two leagues, winning 44%  
 In 2005 the club played 35 matches in three leagues, winning 66%  
 In 2006 the club played 51 matches in four leagues, winning 73%  
 In 2007 the club played 67 matches in six leagues, winning 84%

Real progress I hope you will agree.

So a good season - but no complacency. Pride - but no swagger. Season 2008 is just around the corner and 2007's successes are now confined to the history books; good though they were. Here's hoping we can carry on where we left off; it shouldn't be for lack of effort.

Keith Young  
 Junior Convenor  
 12 December 2007