Hythe and Dibden 2nd XI 2023 end of season report

A disappointing end to what was difficult season in 2023 which saw the 2s relegated from their league. Despite the run of poor results the side battled hard in each and every game, and were unlucky not to get over the line in a number of them. Amongst the obvious disappointment there were positives to take from the season.

Throughout the season there were notable contributions made with bat and ball. With Jonjo Stovell scoring the only 2nd team 100 of the season and Andy Wakely making several 50s. Dan Duell made his maiden 2nd team 50 and shared a 50 partnership with Billy Parry was a standout moment showing despite it being a dead rubber match players were prepared to play with pride for the badge. Wickets were hard to come by despite chances being created by periods of good bowling. Dropped catches prevented bowlers from claiming as many wickets as perhaps they deserved. This proved detrimental over the course of the season costing the side a few games. Matt Boothman claimed the only 5 wicket haul of the season. Notable performances were made by Dan Jones, Billy Parry, Gary Dyer and Callum Simmonds.

Player development is ultimately what the 2nd team is there to do, it is encouraging that players are continuing to move up through and into the 1st team. Matt Boothman, Ben Jones and Callum Simmonds all playing 1st XI cricket during the season. There were also players who came up into the 2s who made significant development such as Billy Parry, Harry Wakely and Toby Lambley, showing the strength of the colts section and the progression paths available.