

The 2023 season was a successful season for 4s. In 2022, the 4s were relegated to Hampshire League Division 6. Relegation resulted in the 4s competing in a standard of cricket that was appropriate for its quality of players. Whilst the 4s did not win all their matches (won 5 and lost 6), regular wins and competitive losses provided an excellent developmental experience for colts. Sadly though, as with our other teams, development was curtailed by limited playing time brought about by the poor weather. The continued development our colts' skills in the 4s was aided by Steve Chiverton continuing to prepare excellent wickets at QE2.

This season saw adult debuts for; Drew Bennett, James Capstick, Ewan Whittaker, and in total, seven colts played at various games for the 4s. It's great to continue to see a clear pathway from our colts into the 4s for adult cricket. This pathway, however, does not stop with the 4s as many of the 2022 4s colts went on in 2023 to play in the 3s, 2s and 1s. It was also fantastic to see so many colts act lure their dads out of retirement to play the odd game when required.

Throughout the season a total of 41 individuals turned out in the 4s. Whilst we failed one week and had to concede a fixture, this is a dramatic improvement upon last season's three concessions. This is the manifestation of an excellent club effort to ensure that 4 sides took the field every week. Everyone on the committee, the captains, dads, and players throughout all 4 sides, really came together to ensure all fixtures went ahead. A special thanks goes to Ryan O'Connor, the 3rd team captain, who played a pivotal role in this endeavour.

On the pitch, there were notable batting performances from Jamie Fletcher, Dan Duell, KGP, Dan Doyle and Kartik. With the ball, Kartik, Tom Ferrier, Sheelan Shah, Fin Hall, Fraser Smith, Drew Bennett, James Capstick and Ewan Whittaker all bowled well in games. A special mention goes out to Steve Rollinson who continues to put his body on the line, sometimes against the wishes of others, to keep wicket in the side.

Jamie Fletcher

4th XI Captain