

Hythe 1st Team Cricket Season Summary 2024

This season was a bit of a rollercoaster. We had some new faces join the team, notably Obaid, Abdul, and Liaqat, who really strengthened our bowling depth. Going into the season I felt confident but then lost a few key players just before the season started. Availability was once again an issue with 33 players used throughout the season, but we kept going.

When we clicked, we were really good but some weeks we were terrible.

Some notable wins were Bashley in the cup, Titchbourne Park (skipped by Richard's), Bramshaw, Burrige, Old Basing, and Ryde really showed what we could do when everything fell into place. But we were also unlucky in a few tight games, notably against Shrewton, Bashley, and East Woodhay, where I felt we could have taken the win.

The Presidents Cup was a near miss, too, as we came up just short against Lymington. Gareth Berg was the difference-maker in that game, but our bowling performance showed just how far we've come as a unit.

A special mention goes to Jack Knight-Owen, our very own Jonty Rhodes. If there was a 'Captain's Player of the Year,' it would definitely go to him. Played the number 8 role. He was sensational in the field, despite his mum probably cursing me every time his whites came home covered in dirt!

Talking of clean whites. Dan Duell, who joined us towards the end of the season, also deserves a shout-out for his positive energy and showing he can definitely play at this level with the ball.

On the batting front, Brokeback Keegan Fortune finished the season with 504 runs, while I managed 412. Will McKay also had a standout performance with 75* against Shrewton, and I hit 127* against Old Basing. Keegan also had a solid 73 against Old Basing.

In terms of bowling, Obaid was a standout with 23 wickets at 23, including a brilliant 5/27 against Titchbourne. Keegan also contributed with 19 wickets at an impressive 15.62, while Liaqat took 4/15 against Ryde.

A huge thank you to a few people who made this season easier and more enjoyable. James Page, you've been an amazing sounding board, and your advice has been invaluable. The committee's support has been fantastic as always, and Mike Bowman really helped me out by scoring towards the back end of the season – making my job as skipper much easier.

A massive thanks to Ian and Steve Chiverton for getting the nets up and keeping the ground in great shape. Sue Froggett and Simon Dixon, you were legends running the bar during games, and Steve Chiverton also deserves a mention for his work on the cricket pitches.

All in all, a tough year, but one that has shaped me. It's my last season as captain, and it's been a challenge I've appreciated, even though I'll be glad to hand over the reins. Thanks to everyone for making it memorable!