

This year the Hythe and Dibden 4<sup>th</sup> XI had a difficult season. We only managed to play 11 leagues games due to a combination of bad weather and poor availability. In those 11 games, the 4<sup>th</sup> XI won 2 games and lost 9. The highlight of the 4s season came in our early season with our win against Southampton Tuskers. In this game, we batted first and managed to score 125/9 and then bowled Tuskers out cheaply for 56. This came off the back of an excellent spell of bowling from Dan Duell and Dan Prentice. Together they produced an unrivalled afternoon of magic in the 4<sup>th</sup> team. It's great to see two Hythe and Dibden home grown colts showing the skills they've developed as they've grown up through the club.

Throughout the season, the 4<sup>th</sup> XI saw a revolving door of characters both new and veteran, skilled and unskilled, young and old, putting on their whites to ensure as many games as possible went ahead. The most impressive performance in this category came from Dave Parry who managed an incredible 62 in the pouring rain at home to Fawley. Ewan Whittaker managed to secure players player for the season with a batting average of 119. I am sure if he'd had not moved so quickly to the 2s, his average would have been even higher as he just refused to get out. Toby also returned for one game with a devastating 74 not out.

The 4<sup>th</sup> XI is mainly about development and even the results weren't as great as one might have wished for on the pitch, the benefits of the team can be seen throughout the entire club. Dan Duell, a 4<sup>th</sup> team stalwart, secured a permanent home in the 1s this summer, whilst Callum Simmonds saw himself playing games for the 1s and 2s. By the end of the season, Harry Wakely, Toby Lambley, Ewan Whittaker and Dan Prentice were all regularly playing for the 2s, and Billy Parry, Drew Bennett and Fin Hall continued to develop their skills in the 3s and 4s. All these colts are now firmly entrenched throughout the cricket club and making positive contributions to their relevant sides all started their journeys as 4<sup>th</sup> team cricketers.

The 4<sup>th</sup> XI would also not be a success without the special group of adults who create an incredible environment for our colts to take their first steps into adult cricket. Whilst it would be impossible to name everyone these include Chiv, Mossy, Fraser, Pete, Kartik, Luke, Steve Rollinson, Sheelan, Kev, Dave Parry, and for his excellent umpiring, Ian Prentice. Without the support and patience of each of you, the 4<sup>th</sup> team would not be possible.