

This year was a bit of an up-and-down season, but there were plenty of positives to take away. Most importantly, we managed to avoid relegation, finishing 8th in the table. Along the way, we secured strong wins against Totton & Eling and Eastleigh, as well as a hard-fought tie against Brockenhurst. Overall, I felt we were competitive in the majority of games; at times we just needed a little more composure to turn narrow defeats into victories.

A huge bonus this season was having Andy and Harry drop down from the 2s (thanks, Jonjo). Andy finished as the team's leading run scorer with 402 runs, while Harry topped the wicket-taking charts with 15 wickets. Their contributions made a real difference.

Special **congratulations** must go to Ollie Dixon, who played his first season of men's cricket. Ollie should be proud of his achievements: 82 runs with a best of 36 not out and 10 wickets. Although, I must admit my ears are still ringing from the constant: "Pete, what number am I batting? Pete, when am I bowling?" Well done, Ollie!

Other notable contributions included:

- Kartik – 280 runs (would have given Andy a real challenge if TJ hadn't picked him!)
- Matthew Bennett – 144 runs and 12 wickets
- David Parry – 111 runs (mostly in boundaries!)
- Drew Bennett – 8 wickets

In total, 37 players represented the team this year, and every single one of them contributed. A huge thank you to everyone who made themselves available – it was much appreciated.

I'd also like to give a special thanks to Kartik for his role as vice-captain, for organising match fees, and for stepping in as skipper during my absence.

The 3s also benefited from some very talented colts this year, which bodes well for the future. I can see Hythe becoming a strong side again in the years to come.

Finally, a big thank you to Chiv for preparing our pitches at the QE2. And, as Richard said in his report last year: more batting practice required... lol.

Thanks again to everyone for their efforts and commitment this season.

Skippy Pete