

# WCC Reports 2022

## Seniors

Unfortunately a few weeks before the start of the 2022 season, a few players decided not to continue playing cricket, which meant the recruitment over the winter had left a smaller playing membership to fill two teams. Despite this, the club had already committed to having a 2XI in the York Vale league. In order to fulfil 2XI fixtures, the club approached the Vale League committee to ask if some of the Saturday fixtures could be moved to Sundays. Some 1XI players were asked to play both fixtures on the weekend to try and see the season through.

Despite the best efforts, it became clear that with the low playing numbers, it was unsustainable to continue with 2 senior teams. The club members were polled and it was decided that the 2XI was to be withdrawn from the York Vale league, with a view of fresh recruitment over the winter and to resume the next season.

The 1XI had a shaky start to the season, having lost matches that should have been won. Consistency was lacking, in both performances and player availability. This made it difficult to field competitive teams at times, and even had to take the field without a full team, and in one instance conceded to Drax.

Despite the shaky start, new signings were introduced and the 1XI soon built momentum, notching up some big scores and comprehensive victories, which included a club record of 6 centuries in a season. Victory in the last game of the season would have seen the 1XI finish 5th in the league, but unfortunately the home game loss to Eastington meant a respectable 7th place.

## Juniors

The junior section of the club continues to grow and go from strength to strength. The All Stars program was taken on by Garry and Lauren, and proved to be a success. The All Stars remains a good recruitment platform for junior cricket, and our thanks go to them both.

### U9

In addition to the All Stars, the club has three junior teams in the YDJCL. The U9's was run by Garry, and despite the very low numbers, managed to win the league. It is hoped that more players can be added as those move up from All Stars.

### U11

New club member Paul Rogers managed the U11 team, which had enough players to make up 2 full teams. Despite the healthy numbers, player availability remained inconsistent with cricket competing with other interests. The policy of player rotation and ensuring every child plays a similar amount of games, ensured that interest remained high amongst all the children. There are some very talented players, which we look forward to seeing their progression.

### **U13**

At the start of the season, there weren't enough players to constitute a full team. Instead of folding the U13's, it was decided that the opposing team coach would be contacted to see if WCC U13's could borrow some of their players to make a game of it. It was also decided to ask the parents of the more competent U11's if they would like to play in the U13 matches. As the season progressed, more players joined, and WCC were able to field a full team. The U13's played against some stiff competition from the bigger clubs in York, and managed to win just under 50% of the matches, which was a big improvement over the last season. This season, there is enough interest from the players to continue to play at U15.

### **Midweek**

It was decided to continue the midweek team in the same vein as the previous season, to use the midweek matches to introduce junior cricketers to the senior game, with the emphasis on them contributing as much as possible, and not focus on the results. This was balanced with a few senior players to assist in their development.

This was a big success in terms of junior development, and showed encouraging signs of bringing them on into 2XI cricket. A big hurdle for the step from junior to senior is the length of the matches. The midweek games have given them junior players the belief that they can play at a senior level, and have been encouraged to move up to the 2XI as the longer format gives them more opportunities to be involved.

I am confident that a few will try 2XI cricket this season, and will enjoy it, hopefully inspiring the rest to have a go.