

PORCHFIELD & ISLAND BAKERIES JUNIOR CRICKET

2018 was a tremendous year for the Under 13 age group. Following successful winter coaching organised by the IW Cricket Board at Ryde School, playing numbers meant that we were able to field two teams in the 9 a'side U13 league played on Monday evenings. The more experienced Sharks team only lost 1 game all season to take the runners up spot and the Tigers side finished in 7th place following wins against East Cowes and Northwood. This meant that more than 20 players got regular games during the season and with regular Thursday evening coaching seeing good attendances as well, all the players had lots of opportunities to develop and play. We also entered the winter U12 indoor league played at Rew Valley Sports Centre and finished mid-table with 2 wins from 4 games played. Although we didn't have the playing numbers at U11 level to play every week, the weekly coaching brought together enough players at this younger age group to play 3 games in the latter half of the season. Big thanks must go to Neil Westhorpe from the IW Cricket Board who took the lead coaching role at the Thursday sessions and Matt Webb who supported him. Thanks also go to Dave Pratt and Nigel Oliver from Porchfield who supported the weekly coaching by opening the bar and ensuring the parents enjoyed themselves as well.

Under 11's

2 friendly games were played against the newly formed Arreton U11's and a narrow cup defeat at the hands of East Cowes meant that a lot of players who had only recently started coaching were able to play some meaningful hard ball games. Provided there is sufficient response to the winter coaching we have scheduled for West Wight early in 2019 the club will be hoping to play U11 games throughout next season. It is also hoped that we will be able to enter the U15 league in 2019 which will push the young players as they will all be much younger than this age group but it will offer better opportunities to help them in their cricketing journey.

Under 13's (Sharks) - Played 8 (won 7, lost 1)

The new 9 a'side format for U13 cricket on the island meant that we were able to select two teams to play in the league. The Sharks team was captained by Oscar Vandecasteele who used his experience of playing regular county cricket to lead the team to victory in all but one match against eventual winners, Newport. Our juniors have regularly been second best against some of the more established youth teams over the years but to record wins over Ventnor, Ryde and Shanklin was outstanding. The end of season awards saw batting: Ptolomy Letchford, bowling: Charles Palfrey, fielding: Oscar Vandecasteele and player: Callum Green. Big thanks go to Sam Vandecasteele and Simon Letchford for organizing, umpiring and scoring. In addition to Oscar, Charles Palfrey and Edison Buckner played in county games.

Under 13's (Tigers) - Played 8 (won 2, lost 6)

With all the players being Under 12 or younger, many of the Tigers team had not played at U13 level previously so it was equally pleasing to see the team compete well in all their games, not being bowled out and regularly taking wickets. The end of season awards were given to batting: Ethan Cripps, bowling: Marcus Cooke, fielding: Joe Calder and player: Charlie Adkins. Richard and Matt Webb were pleased to be able to organise the games for a great set of youngsters. Marcus Cooke represented the island at county level.