

## **Porchfield & Bakeries Colts ~ 2017 Season**

*“Let’s hope the players continue to want to play cricket next year and other adult members of the two clubs see the benefit of offering cricket to young players. A forlorn hope but you never know.....”* That was the finishing thought put forward in last year’s colts’ review. Well, the young players certainly wanted to continue to play cricket and, with the help of a number of parents and the same few volunteers from the two clubs, 2017 turned out to be a very successful season.

Massive thanks go to Richard Webb, Richard Robertson, Ian Simmonds, Will Pratt and Matt Webb from both Island Bakeries and Porchfield for their support at various times at coaching on Thursday evenings. 14 weekly sessions were held throughout the summer and there were many weeks when more than 20 youngsters came along. The coaching ended with a very well supported BBQ evening and a highly competitive parents v players game. Paul Buckner from the Island Riding Centre very kindly donated sponsored shirts and caps for the U13 age group and the club will make these available for 2018 as well.

### **Under 12 Indoor League & Cup**

A team was entered into the winter competition for Under 12’s held at Rew Valley Sports Centre and performed well. A mid table finish saw the team win as many as they lost and compete well in all the games. The same players will be available again this winter so hopefully another enjoyable run out for the youngsters before the 2018 season.

### **Under 11’s ~ Played 12 (won 9 - lost 3)**

As a sign of the good numbers of players at this age group, we were able to field different players in the U11 pairs matches played on Sunday mornings from those U11’s who played in the U13 Monday evening games. Overall, we had 18 U10 and U11 players who played throughout the season. 8 friendly matches were won, mainly by players in their first year of cricket. We won through to the U11 Cup Finals at Newclose at the end of August but unfortunately lost both matches to finish losing semi-finalists. It was still good to see the team compete with the best sides in colts’ cricket on the island. Thanks are given to Martin Oliver for umpiring many of the games.

### **Under 13’s ~ Played 9 (won 2 – lost 7)**

The decision to enter a side into the U13 league was totally vindicated by the performances of a team that was much younger than many of their opponents, and by many players who were playing non pairs cricket for the first time. Although only 2 matches were won, the 3 games that were not able to be played were against opponents that we could easily compete against so the overall results are not a true reflection on how the team played. Highlights included Oscar Vandecasteele’s batting, Charles Palfrey hitting a last ball 4 to win a game against Ryde Cavs, Nico Weeks taking 3 -11 against Newport, Tom Flynn taking 3 wickets in a narrow 2 wicket defeat to Ryde and Ptolly Letchford scoring 30 not out against a strong Ventnor team. Sam Vandecasteele was a tremendous support, acting as both umpire and organiser on the field.

Oscar, Ptolly and Charles all played county games in 2016 and a further 4 young players have been put forward for coaching by the Cricket Board this winter.

A very long, tiring but ultimately enjoyable season which has helped many youngsters take their early steps along a path to playing cricket. 2019 could possibly see many of these players eligible for adult games. Let’s hope our two respective clubs recognise the benefits this may bring.