

## **Steep Cricket Club – Junior section.**

### **Report 2011 Season**

Steep have continued to go from strength to strength in only their second season since the re-birth of the junior section in 2010.

Junior Co-Ordinator Jon Noble reflects on the season:

We started the junior section last year after an absence of some 10 years. I took my Level 1 Coaching Course in 2010 and started an U11 side with around 18 boys signing up. This year John Smith, the 1<sup>st</sup> XI captain also completed his Level 1 course, and we were joined by a willing parent Ian Campbell as a volunteer and manager, as well as the benefits and advice of Dave Elsey who ran the successful junior section a decade ago.

This enabled us to field an U11 and U13 team in the South East Hants leagues this year, and we increased our intake to 36 boys.

The U11 team have had a fantastic season, winning their league by just 4 points from Hambledon after a very nail biting end to the season. Some of the boys had played the year before, but there were many who were having their first season. The boys played 12 games, winning 10 and losing only 2. A fantastic season for the boys, and a testament to the hard work put in by Ian and John. To have won a league title in only our second season has been a fantastic effort and a real boost to the club. There are some very good talents in the squad with 5 boys being put forward for district trials.

The U13 team was made up from mostly boys from the previous years U11 team, supplemented by 3 or 4 older boys who were recruited during the season. Most weeks we were playing against teams that were made up of primarily older players, and therefore it was a tough first season, but we won 4 and lost 4, including 2 morale boosting wins against our local rivals Petersfield, matching the feat of the U11's. Next season most of the boys will remain in this year group so hopes are high for a good season. 4 boys from this age group have been put forward for district trials.

The club are very excited about the future. We aim to create a positive and fun learning experience for the boys, built on Steep Cricket Clubs long tradition of being a friendly local village club. Jon Noble, John Smith and Ian Campbell are all currently taking their Level 2 Coaching Courses which will improve the experience and abilities of our coaching group which will significantly benefit the boys involved. Next year we are planning to have 4 teams - U11's, two U13's teams, and an U15 team. We expect interest to be high, and already have a number of new enquiries for next year. We would particularly be interested in hearing from boys interested in playing in the U15 team as we will need some more boys for that age group to make it viable. Anyone interested can obtain contact details at the clubs website [www.steepcc.co.uk](http://www.steepcc.co.uk).

The importance of the youth section cannot be underestimated with 4 of the current first team coming through the previous youth set up. We have a 10 year gap to make up, but with the talent on show in the first 2 years confidence is high that it will not be long before the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> team are once again being supplemented by boys that have come through the ranks.

We have been brilliantly supported in the start up phase by our sponsors Agincourt Contractors who are a massive supporter of local sport, and also by grants from organisations such as the Michael May Foundation which have enabled us to purchase the equipment needed, get coaching training and provide net sessions.



Above are the successful U11 team (photo attached IMG1862).

Back row (Damien Broadhurst (Agincourt Contractors, Sponsors), Josh Winter, Liam Peters, Jack Bowden, Robert Wands, Jon Noble (Junior Co-Ordinator)

Middle Row (Andrew Dale, Rory Hewitt, Will Yates)

Front Row (George Smith, Jack Campbell, Cam Hathi)



Above are the U13 team.

Back row (Damien Broadhurst (Agincourt Contractors, Sponsors), Tom Mcdermott, Harrison Peters, Harry Hicks, Billy Barnes, Matt Edmondson, Jon Noble (Junior Co-Ordinator)

Middle Row (Chester Smith, Jack Noble, Charlie Hall)

Front Row (Tom Cleminson, Ed Crew, George Scott)