



Consolidation and promotion

Chairman's Report

April 2024



"The real beauty of cricket lies in the battles we fight on the field, the friendships we make off the field, and the memories we create together."
Zaheer Khan

Senior Cricket:

To summarise, the 2023 season ended with 4 sides consolidating their place in their respective leagues and 2 sides gaining promotion.

We welcomed back Divyaansh Saxena in the 1st team as our overseas player. He had a great first half and was performing well as leading run scorer. We said farewell halfway through the season so he could turn to India as he was selected to take part in the Mumbai camp. We wish him much success in his developing career and one day hope that he dons that Indian shirt!

Divvy's replacement was Kelly Smutts from South Africa. He was an enthusiastic and capable player who also did well, culminating in a century in the last game of the season.

Congratulations to the second and thirds for a tremendous 2023 season, both gaining promotion, which means in 2024 the thirds will be playing in E West and the seconds will be playing in C West.

The women's hardball team achieved amazingly well again, maintaining their place in the premier league in Devon, while the softball ladies continued to be competitive in the South Softball League.

The 4ths were successful maintaining their place in the league and again offered many young players a great introduction to senior cricket.

All sides were ably captained. Thanks goes to Connor Bryan 2nd XI, Jon Roberts 3rd XI, Nick Glanfield 4th XI, Charlotte Massey Women's XI and Steph Kaczalska Ladies' Softball.

A particular mention goes to Mark Orchard, 1stXI, as he steps down from captaincy. Mark has done an excellent job captaining the 1st XI for the last 2 seasons, giving players opportunities to express themselves on the field and supporting their development. I would like to express my personal thanks for his commitment and look forward to seeing him on the playing field this season.

Special thanks goes to Sid Sheriff, Phil Knight and Tony Milton for scoring, and the umpires Brian Stubbington, Paul Worth, Richard Hussey and Mike Whiteside, without whom our games do not go ahead.

A testament to where the club is in terms of 'inclusive culture' and 'thriving as one' is the last game of the season social, where we had 5 teams engaging and celebrating achievements.

Junior Cricket:

Once again, we attracted a considerable number of players and were able to field U10, U11, U12, U13, U14, U15, and U19 sides – 7 boys' teams in total. Our younger children had opportunities through Nick Glanfield to participate in the ECB's 'All Stars' and 'Dynamo Cricket' sessions. Softball sessions continued and were carried out by 'Achieve 4 All' supported by a raft of volunteer helpers from Paignton Cricket Club, enabling the children to gain so much experience and opportunity. We also had girls teams at U11, U13 and U15, with U17s starting in 2024.

I personally would like to thank Jon Russell, Colin Knight, Jon Roberts, Tony Milton, Tim Barber, Jack Harman, Tony Medlock, Nick Glanfield, Nick Harman, Hollie Perkin, Ella Gill, Stu Kirkup, Trevor Massey, Matt Gill, Jason Woodcock, Rory Medlock, Brenton Pedley, Max Pedley, Jacob Lander, Tracey Woodcock, Rio Kioyikkara, Lorna Crang, Maz Russell and Abbey Hughes.

A special mention goes to Stuart Kirkup who started the U13 girls, who had a number of 4/5 at the start of the season, growing to in excess of 15 players! He also effectively organised the 3rd and 4th team training nights. Jennie Kirkup inadvertently became our official Paignton CC photographer, undertaking all the amazing team photos displayed in the club house refectory. Thank you, Jennie, they look amazing.

Hopefully, I haven't missed anybody out, but if I have – sincere apologies as it's not intended. I am super proud of our cricket community and the supportive culture we are building at Queens Park. An incredible band of volunteers, managers, and coaches, who give up their time to support and encourage the unique development of every player. Without these people, the junior section would not exist, and I am pleased to say that we continue to grow, develop and expand our team of coaches and managers.

Finally, particular thanks to Shelley Roberts for her vital safeguarding role.

The Ground

Ollie Woodcock was our groundsman for the 2023 season, managed by Terry Farkins. Ollie did an incredible job in producing top-quality wickets for all ages. There was so much pride taken in the wickets, meaning that every child could develop their cricketing skills due to the excellent state of their wickets. Thank you for your hard work and commitment.

The Clubhouse

We had a very successful social year with bar takings high. One thing Paignton is renowned for is its incredible social life. We pride ourselves on being a community club, which is friendly and welcoming. Friday evenings were again very popular and well attended, and had a lovely atmosphere. It was great to see parents/carers able to relax and enjoy a drink and social chat whilst watching their children actively engage and enjoy their cricket. Most Saturday evenings there was a band of young men and women who enjoyed sharing each other's company in a relaxing environment. Special mentions to Mark Crang and Tony Milton who supervised the bar, and Tracey Knight, for organising the social events which were successful and well engaged. Once again, an extended thank you also goes to Jason and Tracey Woodcock, for continuing to ensure our planters bloomed and were well cared for.

A heartfelt thanks to the committee who are the engine of the club. Their hard work and support are unwavering and without these people, the club doesn't move forward and grow effectively. As a club, we have some very clear aspirational goals. We aspire to offer high-class cricket with the best facilities, whilst at the same time ensuring cricket is accessible to all levels and abilities across all ages. We strive to be a fulcrum of the community, where people can enjoy the game of cricket in a pleasant and welcoming environment. In 2023 we certainly achieved this.

Farewells

Finally, a personal and heartfelt thanks goes to the following:

- Terry Farkins, for his hard work and commitment driving the club forward
- Sid Sheriff, who is in his 80s and has scored for the 1X1 over the last two years.
- Jason Woodcock, who has retired from nearly 40 years of playing for Paignton Cricket Club, a consistent run scorer.

Jason and Terry are still part of the Paignton cricket family and will continue to support and I am looking forward to enjoying a beer with them throughout the season.

Tim Ward PCC Chairman