



HENLEY CRICKET CLUB JUNIOR SECTION REPORT – SEASON 2007

MEMBERSHIP

We continue to reap the benefits of our success in providing the best coaching. Children joined us this year as a result of our work in local schools; they have joined from other clubs where the coaching is not as good; we have representative-level players joining us from other clubs as they hear from their team-mates what is on offer at Henley CC.

PLAYING/COACHING FACILITIES

With the increase in membership comes the demand for more competitive matches. Having only one main ground, and this not always available due to senior cricket demands and (this year more than normally) the vagaries of our climate, is a problem.

Gillotts is available to us, at no cost. Other playing facilities such as Stonor are very good but expensive.

It is hoped that continuing negotiations with Shiplake School will bear some fruit. I have agreed to help Oratory School (Charlie is now a student there) with their work with local prep schools; in turn they have agreed to our holding one of our inter-school competitions on their main ground free of charge. I will keep working with Oratory in the hope we may be able to expand our use of their facilities.

All this said, demand for playing facilities, for seniors as well as juniors, remains an area of concern.

COACHING IN SCHOOLS

Our work in Henley schools, partially funded by Chance to Shine, has been a great success in 2007. Schools have expressed delight at the work done by our coaches. In addition, the organisers of chance to Shine wish us to continue with the project in 2008; DC is to be used by them on a consultancy basis for other clubs wishing to join the scheme.

Timetables for all schools bar one have been agreed for Summer term 2008; coaches will be assigned to these timetables before Christmas.



COACH EDUCATION

Our coaching team continues to be a good balance between 'professionals' and volunteers. The club continues to support volunteers who seek ECB qualifications and this year Linda McNab will join their ranks as Henley CC's first 'home grown' qualified female coach. This is an important step forward for the club as it re-emphasises our inclusion policy and will help to support the continued growth of our girl membership,

PLAYING SUCCESS

The under 13s won the Berkshire County Championship, winning all their games. Although we have a number of County players in the squad, it was not only they who 'starred'; indeed, Ben Davis was the key player in the final.

Our girls teams at last are taking shape; success has been due to our work in the schools, principally Gillotts, and the persistence of our coaching team. We have put a small number of girls forward for County trials and are making plans for more competitive matches for girls in 2008.

ORGANISATION

We meet as a section later this month to tackle organisational issues.

DC has been in discussion with Marc Ayres regarding content of the website. In addition, it is intended to automate the registration process and, importantly, improve communication with parents and junior members via website announcements.

Liaison with Berkshire CCC and the ECB is ongoing. Entry to the ECB website of HCC development planning data is an onerous annual event, but this is a key criterion for future funding and closely related to our Focus Club status.

Our Clubmark status has been renewed as a result of DC completing a 'health check' on our club in liaison with Mark Roche, Berkshire CCC Cricket Development Manager.

THANKS AND THE WAY FORWARD

My thanks are due to our team of coaches and team managers for making my life less hectic than it might otherwise be. Steve Downes in particular, but not exclusively, has been a real help, especially in organising work in schools.

Developing junior cricketers means that they must be given opportunities to reach their potential. We must provide competitive senior cricket for the more able juniors, and Chris Johnson has been instrumental in helping to give them this chance.