

2ND TEAM CAPTAIN'S REPORT

1. AIM

After successfully gaining promotion into a higher division, the Championship, our aim was very clear - we were to maintain our position within this league.

2. SQUAD

We had quite a depleted squad this year. We lost a few of last year's regulars to either the 1st team or to family life. We welcomed back Jos Long as our overseas player as well as Scott Robertson who had made too much money in London and was ready for the quiet life in Edinburgh. We relied heavily, again, on our 3rd XI to provide us with regular players. I'd like to thank Fiddy for his patience and enthusiasm over the season.

3. SEASON

Season of 17/18 was a great season for many reasons. We had a strong squad of social cricketers who would rather not train but enjoyed each other's company on a Saturday. East league division 1 was the good standard for this type of cricket, however, this was poor preparation for the Championship. The step up into the Championship was steeper than expected.

We were met with a few variables - fielding restrictions, we had neutral umpires, who were at times very poor (and could not decide on what a wide was), most importantly we were faced with teams which had at least eight or nine contributors. They were either selecting the strongest XI players within their clubs or 2nd XIs which were full of young cricketers who were aspiring to play for the club's 1st XI (Carlton and Grange). We also had low availability across the club for a lot of the season. This would mean regularly losing players like Rob, Craig and Calum to the 1s. Despite all this we enjoyed a summer full of competitive cricket ensuring we picked up bonus points almost every game. These points were key in maintaining our position in the Championship. Special mention for Scott Robertson who lead the bowling attack and finished top wicket taker for the team and Josh Long for topping the batting averages.

4. IN REVIEW

Our league position was true not reflection of our cricketing ability. The teams which were around us in the league kept avoiding us due to rain and we kept playing teams at the top of the table. From the initial six games with the bottom four teams we only completed only two. Had we played more of these games, I feel we would have recorded more wins and seen ourselves further up the table.

As for the squad, sometimes it can be difficult to make yourself available for selection week after week when you are in a team which is producing good cricket but still not managing to create winning moments. Would like to thank all the regulars who still played with a smile on their faces and kept working towards the end goal. It is fair to say that on game days we were competitive, we were positive, and we were good socially. This was reflected in other teams voting us to be top of the fair play table, which normally goes to the team who tried to enjoy the game rather than the team which didn't cheat

Huge thank you to everyone who came to watch the 2nd XI play

Barbara for her incredible service to the club, Lawrence for doing the book and to the committee for looking after everything behind the scenes.

As mentioned, our goal was to maintain our position within the league, we hit that goal, and this should be celebrated. As a club we are continuing to see a lot of success which is fantastic. The 2nd XI players and the committee now know what is required of a team within this league, and the new captain has a wonderful platform to build from.

Skipper Twos