



Target Chartered Accountants
Bath and District Youth Cricket League
Est 1978

Somerset Handbook Report 2007



Season Overview

Season 2007 was another thoroughly enjoyable and successful season for the League but unfortunately will probably be remembered for the lack of cricket that was played more than anything else. Despite the best endeavours of the League's Officers, the Member Clubs and the young players, the heavy rains of late May..... and then June.....and then July (!) put pay to far too many matches.

The league fixtures are focussed in this relatively short window so to have such indifferent weather was a huge blow and scuppered the good preparations.

With over 30% of league fixtures lost to the atrocious conditions, the League rules of sharing points from cancelled fixtures, rather than endeavouring to rearrange games were vindicated. Every Member Club stretches their volunteer resources and facilities to play as much youth cricket as possible and to contemplate rearranging well over 100 fixtures during the school holidays would have been impractical.

Whilst it's sad to see fixtures lost and cricket not being played, the welfare of the young people is paramount and this is where the League is fortunate to benefit from sensible administrators across the Member Clubs to do the right thing without the League's interference.

However, when cricket was played it was of the highest quality and demonstrated the strength and depth across the region where 24 clubs entered 83 teams in our league competitions. The Under 11 section continues to grow both in number of players / teams participating but also in quality.

The progress in the primary school age group is clear to see; the maturity and technical ability is hugely impressive, which coupled with great enthusiasm and athleticism provides a fantastic foundation for future years.

The Roll of Honour for the league's competitions was shared across many Member Clubs. The League continued with the structure it developed in 2005. In our under 13 and under 15 divisions, a "premier" division was created and this enabled fairer competition to improve the development of all players.

The League has taken the decision to not to implement any formal structure for Under 9s Kwik Cricket but with a high majority of the Member Clubs running Under 9 sections the future is both bright and in safe hands.

The League's over-riding philosophy of encouraging participation without prejudice is key in this area so the regular round robin tournaments that are organised across the region on Sunday mornings through the summer provides regular participative cricket in a safe and friendly environment. The combination provides an excellent footing for both introducing and developing the game.

Any form of (positive) public showcase is always great for the game and we were fortunate that Bath Cricket Club were chosen to host two 20/20 International Ladies cricket matches in August. The event had excellent organisation, was well attended and will undoubtedly introduce new people to the game.

On Sunday 12 August and Monday 13 August, England Ladies took on New Zealand Ladies at the North Parade Ground in Bath and the crowds bore witness to the highest skill levels.

The international ladies matches were complemented with a match between the ECB Learning Difficulty XI and the ECB Physical Disability XI also various Girls' Cricket Activities.

The event demonstrated clearly the game's popularity and its ability to provide such enjoyment and diversity.

The above event combined with Somerset County Cricket Club being the home of England Ladies will undoubtedly ensure continued success in the county in this area of the game.

From a Bath Youth Cricket League perspective we continue to see a huge growth in girls cricket and the League is particularly pleased with the more frequent appearance of young girls participating in the league. Many of its Member Clubs can now boast success in the area and as the critical mass builds hopefully we will see some more girl only sides to complement the mixed sides.

The League is proud to have national champions amongst its members with a success in the Under 13 National Knockout Cup. This was won convincingly by Bath Cricket Club and will go down as one of the Clubs major accolades.

Not only was this a major achievement for the Bath club but also a major fillip for the League and Somerset County.

The competition started with county based competitions in each of the ECB's 38 counties, with the winners going through to the regional finals, whom then played off for the right to qualify for the national finals.

More than 1,600 teams entered the competition, but Bath won through to the final eight for a week-long cricket event at Oakham School, Rutland to contest the MCC Spirit of Cricket Under 13 National Club Finals.

The North Parade club side had an unblemished (played seven, won seven) record throughout the week tournament to top the table and take the title. Several Bath players excelled in a strong team effort and there were notable and consistent contributions from Henry Hayes, Harry Rouse, Charlie Wills and Alex Wright through the week.

Other finalists: runners-up: Wolverhampton (North West); 3rd: Countesthorpe (North Midlands); 4th: South Northumberland (North East & Scotland); 5th: Chesham (East); 6th: Hastings & St Leonard's Priory (South & South East); 7th: Northop (West Midlands); and 8th: Scholes, Holmfirth (Yorkshire).

The League continues to be grateful to its main sponsor, Target Chartered Accountants for its financial support and also the benefits of the League's strong association with a local and leading business. The quickly expanding professional firm has its head office in Bath and has been the League's longstanding sponsor partner. Target provide essential funds for the League's volunteer work with local cricket in the community. To mark the

League's gratitude, a new Under 15 League Cup trophy was purchased and renamed "Target Accountants Under 15 Knockout Cup".

The Cup Finals' Day was successfully held on August Bank Holiday Monday and was kindly hosted by Keynsham Cricket Club. The League would like to thank Keynsham for their support and also the BWCACUS for providing the umpires for the day.

At the end of the summer, the owners of the Bath Chronicle decided to withdraw the paper from daily circulation and revert to a weekly paper and a focus on the internet. The paper has always been a strong advocate of the League and providing good publicity and profile thus ensuring the

The League has canvassed the feedback from the Member Clubs at a recent post-season meeting and the general consensus was very positive so little change is expected – = just more of the same and hopefully an improvement in the weather!

As we approach our 30th Anniversary year we continued to be proud of our success and look back fondly on another successful year full of notable landmarks. Whilst the League would always like more volunteers we considered ourselves to be very fortunate to be supporting a game that is growing in popularity, seeing more diverse participation and witnessing progress in ability.