

Wanstead Cricket Club, Junior Review 2022



U14s win the Sir Alastair Cook Cup



U11 girls teams in Wanstead girls cricket festival

2022 was another successful year for the junior section of the club with almost unprecedented sunny evenings throughout the season! This was taken full advantage of with cricket of some description organised for juniors five days a week. Over 200 juniors attended Thursday and Friday training on most weeks. Membership for boys again was full by April and the girls section continued to flourish - In total we had over 350 members. (See App 1)

All ages had a full fixture list with 170 games arranged in total with the Under 14s winning the prestigious Sir Alastair Cook trophy. The girls had the most number of organised games on record we look forward to growing this further.

This amount of cricket could not be achieved without a very significant commitment by many volunteers and particular recognition goes to our managers, coaches and administrators who allowed all this to happen - many volunteering for the first time. It was particularly pleasing to see our junior coaches again supporting Friday training.

The Tape Ball League continued successfully into its second year giving an opportunity for 35 of our younger juniors to gain early experience of competitive but friendly matches. The Women and Girls festival returned and again was a highlight of the summer with over 100 taking part.

The continued success of the junior section however can perhaps be shown by the impact Wanstead juniors had in adult cricket. The first team frequently boasted 9 ex or current Wanstead juniors with five juniors making their debut for the first team in 2022. The club was particularly proud to see Robin Das, who represented the U19s in 2021, pulling on an England jersey as 12th man at Lords. The message is clear, if juniors are committed to their cricket, they will make good progress and be given their chance at Wanstead.

Development of the girls' section

For the first time we had a dedicated Thursday training evening for girls with two sessions, the first for younger girls using a softball. The second session for girls using or starting to use hard ball. Thanks to the generosity of our sponsor TTS Solicitors, we were able to provide an external level 2 coach to lead all the Thursday evening sessions. This ensured a high level of coaching through the season.

Being separate from the boys on Friday allowed training to be more focused, previously training had been on a Friday with the boys so was very much limited by space. Perhaps most importantly however, Wanstead women also train on a Thursday so it allows for easier progression to the women's team; the girls who are ready using the nets with the women. An exciting development for 2023 is a new league for a second women's team which will give further opportunity for our older juniors to have competitive matches.

A big thank you to Chris for overseeing the whole girls' section and Jo for working tirelessly to organise games and festivals and to Jen for providing the coaching.

Our coaches and managers

We are lucky to have such a strong and committed team of coaches and managers. A huge thanks to Chris, Helen, Jo, Jen, Ash, Phil, Atiq, Carl, Simon, Samran, Jim, Neil, Peter, Sanjay, Andy, Zorzi, Dave, Amber, Len Finlay, Dev, Saeed, Ritesh and Oz.

A mention also to Dave Ramdial and all the junior coaches who supported him, who together introduced cricket to 60 under 7s. At the beginning of last season there was just one session for the U7s - last year there were three such was the demand - great to see the future Wanstead cricket stars learning a love of the game.

The Friday sessions also wouldn't have been possible without the many junior coaches who attended the earlier session. It really is encouraging to see such enthusiasm and commitment for the game and the club.

Following the preceding two years when the availability of coaching courses had been very limited, a focus has been on upskilling the coaching team through participation in ECB coaching courses. 15 coaches have received a qualification in the last 12 months.

Success on the field (See App 2)

Winning is not the prime objective of the junior section of the club. Enjoyment and the development of young players and their love of the game takes precedent. However it is of course nice to win our fair share of games.

Congratulations to the Under 14s who won the county U14s, Sir Alastair Cook Trophy and on the same day won the U15s Cox and Kings Trophy. Well done also to the U13s who came runners up in the Len Stentiford Trophy and the u11 girls who won a festival at Chelmsford.

In total over 170 games were played against other clubs. In addition our youngest players took part in the Fundamentals League and the Tape Ball League. As usual there were also a number of interclub matches.

Here's looking forward to a successful 2023.

If you have any questions or comments on this report, please contact Jon Gritten, Head of Junior

Appendix 1

Membership by age group.

	U7	U8	U9	U10	U11	U12	U13	U14	U15	U16	Total
Boys	69	20	33	29	20	22	23	20	18	13	267
Girls	23	8	10	14	9	9	3	2	10	6	94
Total	92	28	43	43	29	31	26	22	28	19	361

