

THE OFFICIAL LYTHAM CRICKET CLUB PUBLICATION



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YEAR BOOK 2024



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## LYTHAM CRICKET CLUB

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Founded in 1855

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2nd XI - Niall Dunn  
3rd XI - Eoghan Murphy  
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Academy - Peter Legge & Danny Gilbert

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Under 10A - Martin Wallwork  
Under 10B - Ian Mulligan  
Under 11A - John Bushell & Tom Low  
Under 11B - Ian Parker & Chaminda Athukorala  
Under 12 - Michelle Robbins & Andy Parker  
Under 13 - Allan McKeown & Senthil Murugesan  
Under 14 - Lee Topping & Dave Tanner  
Under 15 - Peter Legge, Dave Robbins  
Jonathan Livesey  
Under Under 17 - Chris Burgon

Welcome to the 2024 cricket season, it's wonderful see you all at Lytham Cricket club again with all the hopes and ambitions that new season brings.

It was a difficult start to the year given all of the rain; it is hard to believe that only a few weeks ago the whole ground was underwater, and the start of the league season was put back! So I start by thanking all of the ground staff and committee who have worked to get the games started once again....now that we can feel a semblance of Lancashire sun from behind the clouds we can look again across our truly glorious cricketing field where our seasons hopes will be played out!

The biggest change since the end of last season are the new changing rooms, the building and development of these represents hours of work by our cricket secretary Susan and her husband Nick, who tirelessly sought funding, organised and ultimately brought about this great addition to our club, our wholehearted thanks must go to them.

Looking forward to the season I always ask what are our aims? For me the most important feature is always to provide the best possible atmosphere and community to allow cricket in Lytham to flourish across all senior teams and junior age groups. We hope that the first team will be as competitive as possible and challenge for promotion to the premier division, for the second team to continue to play in a very tough division, and for the third team to play enjoyable cricket that provides the bridge between senior and junior level. We also have an Academy team that is brilliantly supported by parents that is also another essential avenue for young cricketers to progress into senior teams.

It is with great pleasure that the ladies team continues to develop, and I thank all those involved in expanding the diversity of our community, I am sure the section will develop into a major part of the club.

Our junior section continues to flourish, and on behalf of the club I thank Peter Legge and all of the parents who run teams and support youngsters throughout our many age groups. The

Friday nights when the sun shines and the barbecue burns provide a unique atmosphere where we can all come together as a club and enjoy the fruits of our wonderful community.

My thanks at a playing level go to Matthew Taffe our first team captain who has, and continues to, work tirelessly to organise encourage and bring about the best possible standards in our 1st XI. I also thank Niall Dunn who has taken over the captaincy of the second team and has already shown both flexibility and maturity in developing himself in this role. Another young captain is Eoghan Murphy who brings his tireless enthusiasm to this important role. I wish them the very best of luck and success in these roles.

We also welcome our club professional Zach Foulkes who is an attacking batter who bowls brisk seaming deliveries at first class level in New Zealand, both him and his partner have thrown themselves into our cricketing community and we welcome and wish them all the best. At second team level we have recruited an Australian cricketer Nick Sheen who is already proving adept taking wickets in Lancashire, he too is proving himself to be another great asset to our Club.

What more can I say than it is a privilege for me to be part of the Lytham Cricket club community and to help ensure cricket remains strong for the next generation. I thank everyone who contributes and is part of our cricketing family.

I wish all of our teams the best of luck in playing cricket in a correct and respectful manner in the toughest possible way...

So have a top season all and see you in the bar or wandering around the field on a warm day with a cup of tea!!

**Martin Hackett**  
Chairman



# A View From The Box

Well, it's that time of year again! Seven months without a ball being bowled, whites all ironed out and clean, coloured pens and pencils sharpened, bar was stocked up thanks to Terry and his team, pitch was looking spectacular thanks to Tom Wells, PA System was installed and everything was in place for what should be an exciting season ahead.

The club started by signing Ryan Hogarth from Standish CC from the Palace Shield and our overseas professional, Avinash Yadav from India.

Our first game of the season was Sefton Park away and much to our delight, it was called off nice and early by Sefton Park Skipper, Paul Horton which meant I could spend my afternoon in Sunderland .... thankfully they didn't dampen my spirits, we won!!

As the weather was better during the week, we hosted newly promoted side, St Helen's Town. The away side won the toss and elected to bowl. A solid score from Richard Staines gave us our first ton of the season, 115, which included 16 x 4's and 2 x 6's and 4 wickets for Captain Taaffe. We hammered them by 122 runs, 25 points in the bag!

The return of Matthew Wood from Northern CC brought more positivity to the team. A great start from him making his league debut at home to Ainsdale, taking 4 wickets in 15 overs and a comfortable 63\* seeing us thrash them by 9 wickets. 20 points. An early exit in the National KO v's Blackpool dampened our hopes of a good cup run.

The merry month of May was here and so was our pro, Avinash Yadav. Despite taking 7 wickets on his debut v's Spring View, we succumbed to a defeat by 44 runs. This would also be the theme throughout May with early Cup exits to Northern and Rainford. A month not so merry.

Being eliminated in all cups, we could now fully focus in the League. June arrived with a bang; we are away to Bootle. A glorious sunny day, Captain Taaffe won the toss and elected to bat. We amassed 245-7 off 55 overs. Richard Staines (74) and Matt Taaffe (58). Yadav taking another 5-fer, we won by 69 runs, claiming another 25 points!

Back on home soil, we were up against Liverpool. The away side won the toss and elected to bat. We bowled them out for 189, Yadav claiming yet another 5-wicket haul, his 4th of the season. Special mention goes to Club Legend, Guy Roberts scoring 101 (17 x 4's) which guided us to a 6-wicket victory, taking yet another 25 points.

On the road again to Old Xaverians. The home side won the toss and elected to bat. We bowled them out for 219. Jack Saunders taking

his first 5-fer for the 1st XI and with solid knock from Ed Fiddler (75) and Tom Jefferson (82\*) we won by 5 wickets...yet again...taking another 25 points!

Caldy was next up at home. Captain Taaffe won the toss and elected to bowl. Another 5 wicket haul from Yadav, 4 wickets from Tom Hessey and a wicket for Josh Holden saw us bowling them out for 168. A 105 fourth wicket partnership between Taaffe (83\*) and TJ (40\*) saw us home, winning by 7 wickets. I suppose you could say sweet revenge from the previous meeting between the two sides! 20 points! Ending the month with four wins in four and taking 95 points out of a possible 100! A joyful June!

July started off with a draw away to Highfield, Matt Wood scoring 60. Despite starting the game at Sefton Park, the heavens opened and ultimately ended the day, no result!

I then jetted off on my holidays to Turkey, missing our draw away to St Helen's Town. A big thank you to Davis Tattersall for covering and to Lester Jefferson for keeping me up to date! A close game I believe! I returned on the Thursday before our away game vs Ainsdale and would you believe it.... abandoned! Defeat at home to Spring View on the last game of the month really dented our promotion hopes.

With seven games remaining, we were away to title contenders Newton-Le-Willows. We were waiting patiently in the club car park (Lytham) for Taaffe to then confirm that the game had been called off.

Bootle at home was up next. On a slightly wet outfield the game was underway with the away side winning the toss and electing to bowl. We scored 164-7dec off 38 overs, TJ top scoring with 47. Bootle were well in control at 107-4, but with great bowling from Yadav, we bowled them out for 122!

We travelled to Liverpool the following weekend with only 10 men. Despite telling Matt Taaffe several times I can play 11th man... we played with 10... gutted, ha ha ha! We bowled them out for 120, Yadav and Wood taking 6 wickets and 4 wickets respectively. With a solid knock of 62\* from Staines, we won by 1 wicket! Special mention to Joe Ashton who smacked the ball for 4 in the penultimate over. Taaffe was a relieved man at that moment, never in doubt in my opinion!!

Promotion candidates Birkenhead Park was the last game in August. The hosts won the toss and elected to bowl on a very wet outfield and green track. They bowled us out for 136. The Park felt confident in knocking it off, but we had other ideas. Step up Jack Saunders! We bowled them out for 72, Jack taking yet another 5-fer, 2 wickets for Yadav and



Openshaw and a wicket for Woody. There was a glimmer of hope for promotion. We crushed Old Xaverians by 128 runs, Birkenhead Park lost to Bootle, which meant we were 1 point off second place.

Our final away game of the season arrived, Caldý. Taaffe won the toss and elected to bat. We set the target at 225, with Captain Taaffe scoring his first 1st XI 100\* (13 X 4'S). We rolled them for 74. Yadav claiming his ninth 5 wicket haul of the season and with 3 for Openshaw and 2 for Saunders, this put another nail in the coffin for the relegation candidates. Birkenhead Park beat Liverpool, taking it to the last game of the season.

Finally, the last game of the season is upon us, and we had to go all out to win. We even got Steven Croft to dust down his Lytham kit. The away side won the toss and elected to bowl. We were bowled out for 101. During the tea interval we learned that Birkenhead Park beat Old Xaverians, ending our hopes of promotion. Despite taking 7 wickets on Yadav's final game, we lost by 1 wicket, a good game of cricket!!

Overall, a season with mixed emotions, a lot of inconsistent weather, early, disappointing cup exits, but a lot of positives.

A big thank you to David Tattersall and Caroline Blundell for scoring at such short notice, PA System stored away safely until next season, my voice will be loud and proud!

Heading into my 15th season at the club, here's to a great 2024! I am hearing good things already. Watch this space!

**Luke Norris, 1st XI Scorer**

As we look ahead to the start of the 2024 season, I wanted to quickly reflect on the 2023 season and how things have shaped leading up to this season.

2023 was another successful year for the 1st XI with a top 4 finish, with an outside chance of promotion back to the Premier League on the last game of the season.

We played some fantastic cricket and players improved their skills tenfold as the season progressed which is a testament to their commitment and mentality.



**Matt Taaffe**

Players continued to grow and develop with Jack Saunders, Matthew Wood and Richard Openshaw sharing the majority of the wickets around Avinash's Left Arm Spin.

Unfortunately, Richard Staines will not be returning in 2024 due to work commitments and moving to Bristol. Richard was my first signing as captain of Lytham and what a player he was! His ability to keep wicket was the best I've seen of someone that isn't in professional cricket. He scored some crucial match winning performances with the bat and was a large character in the dressing room and around the Club. A big hole to fill. We wish him all the best with his career down in Bristol.

Moving on to 2024, I'm looking forward to seeing how this season develops.

We have signed Zak Foulkes as our Overseas Professional. Zak is from New Zealand and plays his First Class Cricket for Canterbury. Former Lytham professional, Peter Fulton is currently head coach at Canterbury where Zak goes about his trade.

We have heard glamorous reports of Zak's Cricketing ability and look forward to seeing him in action this summer and we look to have another successful summer as a team and more importantly as a Club.

We have had some more additions to the Club this season. Jamie Thomson joins us from Blackpool CC. Jamie is a highly skilled opening bowler, who doesn't let a batsman settle in their rhythm. It is great to have Jamie on board, unlocking his full potential in Lytham colours.

Nick Skeen, arrives from Melbourne, Australia as our second team overseas player for this season. Nick brings with him vast experience and enthusiasm in Senior Cricket and looking forward to seeing him develop the younger players in the Club.

As a Club we have opted for a different approach this season with signing Zak as our overseas professional. As many of you are aware we have had a left arm spinning professional for the past few seasons. I am over the moon with our decision to go down this route, this will allow more players opportunities and responsibilities to develop their skills and make an impression on the side.

Promotion is always at the forefront of our mind and a goal that we set out to achieve each season. Division One is an extremely tough league to gain promotion as we have witnessed over the past three seasons. However, I am confident that this is our year.

If we can string a large group of wins together and try not to drop any points to teams around us in the league, this should land us in good stead come September.

On a personal note, going into my fifth year as First Team Captain, it an honour to lead the club and the players we have. I may be a little biased, but there is no better place to play and socialise than at Lytham CC.

Thank you to all the players, members and spectators and see you around the ground in the Summer.

Here's to a successful season.

## 2nd XI 2023

In terms of league games, the 2023 season was a disappointing one for the 2nd XI. Out of a possible 22 games, they won 6, drew 1, lost 12 and had 3 no results. This saw them finish in 9th place on 223 points. That being said skipper Tom Myerscough had to deal with the usual availability issues throughout the season which is not what a captain needs on a weekly basis.

Having said that the 2nd XI Chester Cup run was a completely different story. Played 4, won 4 to become the 2023 Chester Cup Winners. Something they hadn't done since 2010.

It was Lytham at home to Formby for the final. Formby won the toss and elected to bat. Some great bowling from Lytham restricted Formby to 146 runs, all out. Skipper Tom Myerscough 9-2-26-3 and our South African overseas amateur, Kurt Sabella with 7.5-1-30-4.

Some great batting from Lytham, Niall Dunn 33, Jacob Sainsbury 27 and Tom Myerscough 28\* saw us reach out 147 target, with 4 wickets to spare.





Firstly, I would like to give thanks to Gary De Garis and Brian Dunn, our umpires throughout the season. Thanks for keeping the spirit of cricket alive! Also, a thank you to Richard Wood & Carole Linton for scoring. Additionally, a big shoutout to all the players across the club for fostering inclusivity, special mention to Taaffe for leading this, cheers skip. And not forgetting the committee, groundsman, my dad Dom, and other senior members in supporting us. Your behind-the-scenes magic doesn't go unnoticed. Lastly, of course, a big thank you to Terry, Josh, and the rest of the bar staff for keeping a steady supply.

Now, let's talk cricket. Our journey this season had more ups and downs than England's recent ashes performance. Unfortunately, we started off with a loss to BAC/EE Preston, but then rebounded with 3 straight wins against Garstang, Charnock St James & Grimsargh. Thanks to Chris Fox & Aarin Chiekrie for stepping in as captain whilst I was away for two of those weeks. Before you asked why, no, it wasn't because of a suspension.

Everyone played their part against Garstang. Additionally, Fox pulled off a stunning Bairstow impression. Only difference being Fox was stumped off a wide, standing miles out of his crease; captured live for your viewing pleasure on YouTube. Luke Norris, take notes!

Against Charnock, Ryan Hogarth's 43 and Eoghan Murphy's 4-for carried us to victory. I then returned for Grimsargh away, in what can only be described as the most village setting the 3rds have ever encountered, complete with a boundary-hugging tree within the pitch. Callum Doyle's 5-for, Will Stephens's 29 runs, and Myles Child's 27 runs helped seal the deal. Not to mention my dad's heroics at the death with Myles (I was told by a certain person I had to mention this). On top of this there was even some emotion (shall we call it) shown between an umpire and a spectator, which of course added to the entertainment.

The season continued with some nail-biters until a convincing win against Fleetwood which saw Harry Thornton and Kurt Sabella, take 3 wickets each, as well as our top order batsmen sharing the love.

We ended the season finishing 7th out of 12 in the Palace Shield Sunday 1st division. We won 5 games out of a possible 10. I'll swiftly glaze over the no result, which we undoubtedly would have won anyway. In the end, it was a commendable effort from all the lads within our debut season in the new league.

Some notable mentions:- Firstly, Stevie Dodd's 67 runs with a 100% strike rate against BAC/EE Preston (with seven 4's and two 6's). We had Kyle Macaulay's 63 runs v's Preston Royals

(with eight 4's and no 6's, get to the gym Kyle), Alan Simmons's steady 38 against league winners Penwortham, and Ethan Brown's consistent bowling throughout the season, having the lowest economy.

Now, the awards! For outstanding batting, this lad scored 189 runs off 243 balls faced, with a strike rate of 78%, almost as good as mine. He top scored with 58 runs against Torrisholme. Although it must be said, Chazza, no sixes in your innings, however, 25 fours! Charlie Nixon, was the well-deserved recipient of the 3rd XI batting award.

And for the bowling, I have already mentioned him having the best economy among our bowlers. He's one of the youngest in our ranks, with his season's stats of 30 overs, 6 of them maidens and 7 wickets in total. Ethan Brown collected his trophy.

Additionally, we also had awards for standout performances from Stevie Dodd's blistering 67 and Callum Doyle's tree-defying 5-for.

Thanks all, for a season filled with cricket and the occasional unexpected obstacle. Here's to more sixes, more laughs, and an even better season in 2024. Cheers!

**Joe Ashton**

## Academy Report

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Tricky year this one as we started off with high hopes, but as a group of naturally talented sports kids we immediately lost three key players to Rugby leaving the team hugely short. However, as some head down the rugby road at the weekend, opportunities arose for the younger U13's to come through. This for me has been the highlight of the year, seeing that opportunity well and truly grasped by this group of younger ones.

It's a huge step up for you to start playing senior cricket even at this level, not to mention bowling over 22 yards and fielding when adults hit the ball at you, comes at you hard doesn't it! We have had some interesting moments certainly in the field this year... Bobbins at the start (don't worry I won't detail the attempted catch here!!) but the result after some difficult training sessions and key game time, saw you diving around the field fearless of the ball coming at you. So, here is a massive pat on the back from me, for all of you.

Over the season we annoyingly had 4 games cancelled that couldn't be re arranged which left us playing 8, winning 2 and losing 6. Have to say though that 2 of the losses were in the last over and by 1 wicket in one and 2 runs short in the other.

### Highlights...

Mitch Flintoff 5 for 27 of 7 overs v Blackpool and key to our 71-run win (regardless of Woody's 118 off 112, yeh ok, well done too Matt!)

Matt Topping 3 for 23 v Lancaster and to get 3 wickets was a huge confidence boost, which is all we're ever really after at this stage, again a key part in winning by 83 runs supported by Harry Jackson with his tennis backhand shots scoring 75 on the same day.

A win against Torrisholme by 9 wickets saw Archie Jackson devilish spin, returning 3 wickets for 15 runs, again one for the future is born.

His first 50, Ethan Burgon opening the batting against an aggressive Kirkham team. We will work on his strike rate as time goes by but batted wonderfully well for his 52. Was always going to be a struggle though with Kirkham fielding Saturday 1st team players and battering our bowling for 40 overs getting 302! Despite that aggression Henry Roberts, fought back with a valuable 40 and a 91 partnership with Ethan Burgon.

A thriller in Norcross who set us just 76 to win. Leggey opened the batting, carrying his bat and securing 50 in the process. On a bloody awful wicket no one else could stay with him, with the next highest score being 7! We lost by 2 runs, that one really hurt.

St Annes at home, we lost on the last ball! Notably though Alfie Kelly opening, getting 60, setting us up nicely. They just scraped home.

Over the season there were a huge number of positives to take away, Bobbins (Michael Robbins) and his fielding, Joe Tanner, Matt

Topping and their 6 wickets each. Arthur Allerton, James Livesey, certainly bowlers for the future and Hector Maclean-Bristol keeping well throughout the year.

### Awards

Batting award. Our opener, very often getting us off to a solid start, high scoring against St Annes with 60 and totalling 132 runs this year for the academy with a 26.4 average. Well done Alfie Kelly.

Bowling. Tricky as many contributed this year with wickets, a special mention needing to go to Mitch Flintoff for his first 5 for this year, but for his devilish spin, for the first time playing over 22 yards at his age, consistently taking wickets, well done... Archie Jackson.

Player of the Year. With 153 runs, averaging 30.60 plus his 8 wickets across the 6 games played, if I could just get him to put his tennis racket down who knows where he could take his cricket!!! His, let's just say unorthodox off spin (I think it's off spin) is nothing from any text book I've seen but works. Well done... Harry Jackson

**Peter Legge**



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# Lytham Cricket Club

# Senior Cricket Awards 2023

## 1st XI

Matt Taaffe (batting)  
Jack Saunders (bowling)  
Guy Roberts (performance)

## 2nd XI

Niall Dunn (batting)  
Tom Myerscough (bowling)  
Jason McGreehin (performance)

## 3rd XI

Charlie Nixon (batting)  
Ethan Brown (bowling)  
Steve Dodd & Callum Doyle  
(performance)

## Academy XI

Alfie Kelly (batting)  
Archie Jackson (bowling)  
Harry Jackson (performance)

## Under 17

Toby Curran (batting)  
Michael Robbins (bowling)  
Archie Legge (performance)

## Under 18 Player of the Year

Matthew Wood

## Under 21 Player of the Year

Niall Dunn

## Clubman of the Year

Tom Myerscough





# Senior Presentation Evening 2023



A great night was had by all, celebrating the achievements of our U17's, Academy and Senior players.

Some great speeches, good food and beer with plenty of laughs along the way!!

We were also excited to launch our new Lytham Cricket Club Website which went live during the evening. Lester Jefferson gave us a demo of the new site on the big screen, which looked amazing. Lots of new content and photos which we hope to keep adding to on a regular basis, as well as plenty advertising opportunities for local businesses to help support the club.

A huge thank you to Lester who put a lot of time and effort into setting it up and continues to give his time to keep it updated and add new features.

If you haven't seen it already, please visit [www.LythamCricket.co.uk](http://www.LythamCricket.co.uk)





# A message from the Junior Chairman - Peter Legge

Firstly though a few thank you's.

All of the juniors were provided with wonderful new training kit this season which I have to say makes them look very smart and professional. This was not possible without the incredibly kind donation received from a parent, you know who you are and genuinely, a huge, huge thank you. That'll be the last time you get drunk with me at the bar eh!!!!. Topping up the donation came AKS with the shirt sponsorship enabling the kits to be provided, again thank you. I am sure you will all agree seeing the kids fully kitted out on a glorious summers evening with a glass / pint in your hand is something to behold.

Sticking with AKS, they very kindly also sponsored our junior presentation evening and provided us with the Spirit of Cricket awards which one of you from each of the older age groups received.

Avi and Kurt, 1st and 2nd team pros for the presentation of the awards, thanks guys. Avi came over from India this year to play 1st XI, not a bad year too with 60 wickets to your name so far and helping hugely towards the chance of promotion. Kurt came over from South Africa playing for our 2nd XI, missed the start of the season but still with 21 wickets to his name has been a key factor in both the recent league and cup run this year.

Danny Gilbert our full-time pro coach. The organisation and specific cricket drills he brings along with the experience of running larger groups of kids is invaluable, thanks Danny.

Susan, as always and again, same as last year and the year before and the year before. Thank you.

Anyway, the kids...

What a year we have had, a record 220 kids subscribing with all being accepted, resulting

in a few panicking coaches when we gave out the numbers in each group at the start (sorry Charlotte) but I think you'll all agree it turned out ok - I'll get even more for you next year.

On a serious note, though, clubs like ours simply cannot survive without the time and effort that our volunteer coaches put in. It's a thankless task at times and me included question our sanity for doing this throughout the year. We start the season full of enthusiasm and come the end, we are looking up to the sky, saying thanks that the season is finally over!

Games that your kids play in don't just magically happen during the week or at weekends, the planning, organising, dealing with the kids (and sorry some of the parents too) is time consuming, sometimes stressful but ultimately incredibly rewarding.

The result of all this over the season has been clearly shown out there with wonderful successes achieved.

It all begins with the Kwiks and a massive thanks to Antony Mulligan for running this huge group this year. Over 40 kids age 6/7/8 to manage. I struggle with 3 of my own and to organise so many, teaching them the very basics, superb and thank you.

From the Kwiks we try to pull a few of the 8-year-olds into a specific group to ultimately start getting them ready for hardball cricket. Ian Mulligan, thanks and I think you enjoyed it! But genuinely these two groups are where it all begins and are the foundation for the next generation of the Club.

U10's started out playing hardball for the first time this season and have been an absolute credit to the club. Ben, John, Charlotte and Martin, a large group to start the season and apologies for the initial stress but I think it turned out OK, with some excellent hardball cricket being played from both groups, the

benefit of this will be seen as the next couple of years go by.

U11's finishing 2nd in their group which shows the hard work that's been put in this season from Michelle and Andy

U12's, won the league, a huge achievement Allan and Senthil and is wonderful to see the reward from all the hard work put in.

U13's, league champs also, Lee, Dave a cracking group and well-done chaps.

U14's, some great performances in a very strong league, Charlotte, Dave and Jonathan, thank you.

U15's, my group, should've been 2nd but finished 4th, I'm not bitter about this at all, moving on.....

Finally, U17's, only 4 teams in this group as most have moved on to senior cricket but a thanks to Chris and Mark for running the games this year.

And finally...

I sometimes take a step back on Friday evenings when the sun is out and take a glance across the ground seeing 200 kids being coached and simply smile. Times like those make us realise the benefit of all the hard work so many of us go through for this to happen. We have an incredible set up at Lytham, never to be taken advantage of, nor taken for granted.

Can we have a rest now until next season please.

Thanks

**Peter Legge**



The U17 season was a short but enjoyable affair with only a handful of clubs fielding an U17 team in the North division of the Palace Shield comp.

Lytham's team was made up of predominantly U16 and U15 boys supplemented by the younger age groups, so it was always going to be a challenge playing up in the U17 age group. That said, the boys managed to be competitive in all the fixtures played and there were some positive individual performances, particularly from some of the younger boys who really stepped up.

The opening fixture of the season saw Lytham pitted against a strong and far more experienced Garstang team, but the boys acquitted themselves well, restricting Garstang to a respectable 119/8 off 20 overs. The pick of the bowling coming from Michael Robbins with a very tidy 2 for 7 off 3 overs. Despite Felix Twitchett's decent knock of 39 no Lytham were unable to keep up with the required rate as Garstang's greater experience told and Lytham fell comfortably short with

79/5.

Next up came Leyland CC which proved to be the highlight of the U17 season. Having won the toss and chosen to bat, Lytham's top order was strengthened by the addition of Matthew Wood. However, it was the contributions of Archie Legge (44) and Toby Curran (42) which resulted in Lytham compiling a creditable 109/5 off their 20 overs. Lytham's bowling proved too strong and once Archie Legge removed Leyland's Lancashire batsmen, the result was in the bag with a match winning contribution from Michael Robbins with 3 for 8 off his 4 overs. Leyland eventually restricted to 71/7 off their 20.

With Fulwood unable to field a team, our final fixture was away to St. Annes. On a tricky pitch, St. Annes chose to bat and were restricted to a very modest 75/7, the pick of the bowling again coming from (yes you guessed it), Michael Robbins with 3 for 7 off 3 overs. Lytham looked to be in the driving seat at half time and with Matthew Wood at the crease (36 off 43) Lytham were in the game.

Frustratingly, Lytham finished up 20 runs short having been bowled out with 5 overs remaining, having been blown away by the St. Annes opening bowler who ended with figures of 6 for 10.

Overall, an enjoyable, if all too short season – congrats to the award winners below and thanks to all who turned out for the team this year. And lastly, thanks to parents and scorers for their support as always.

Awards.

**Batting** – A close call with several players in the running (Matthew, Archie, Felix) but the award goes to Toby Curran

Bowling – Stand out bowler for the season is Michael Robbins

All Rounder – Archie Legge picks up the all-rounder award finishing with the second highest number of runs and wickets

Chris Burgon

# U15's

This season was a good, but a slightly frustrating year, seeing us finishing 4th, 2nd if we take the points from the Vernons game which they repeatedly couldn't make, which we could have!

Of a total 8 games played we won 5 and lost 3.

Topping the table could have been achieved through better availability of the kids and not having one of our annual 'off' days, typically against table topping Fylde, I think wise to move quickly on from that game eh boys!!

That aside the development of some of you has been massively encouraging, with some of you now stepping up into Senior cricket, standing you in good stead for the future.

Due to the availability issues we had, and as frustrating as that has been, the flip side saw kids from younger groups stepping up and playing. A big thanks on this to Joe Tanner, Arthur Allerton, Matt Topping, Hector Maclean-Bristol, James Livesey, Archie Jackson

and Michael (Bobbins) Robbins, all of whom contributed massively with both bat and ball.

## Thank you's

Scorers, as ever Lee, Jon, Philippa, Tim. Really helps having that support on match day, is stressful enough attempting to organise the rabble and having this part of it, taken away is massively appreciated.

## Awards

Bowling – Leading wicket taker this year with 9 across the teams he's played in. OK the odd one goes wrong here and there and when I mean wrong, I really mean wrong, but when they're right, they are unplayable.

Harry Craig, well done Sir

Batting – Consistent and at the time of writing this is the 3rd highest run scorer in the club, including in senior cricket. A few 50's and some bloody good knocks at senior level too. Well done, Archie Legge.

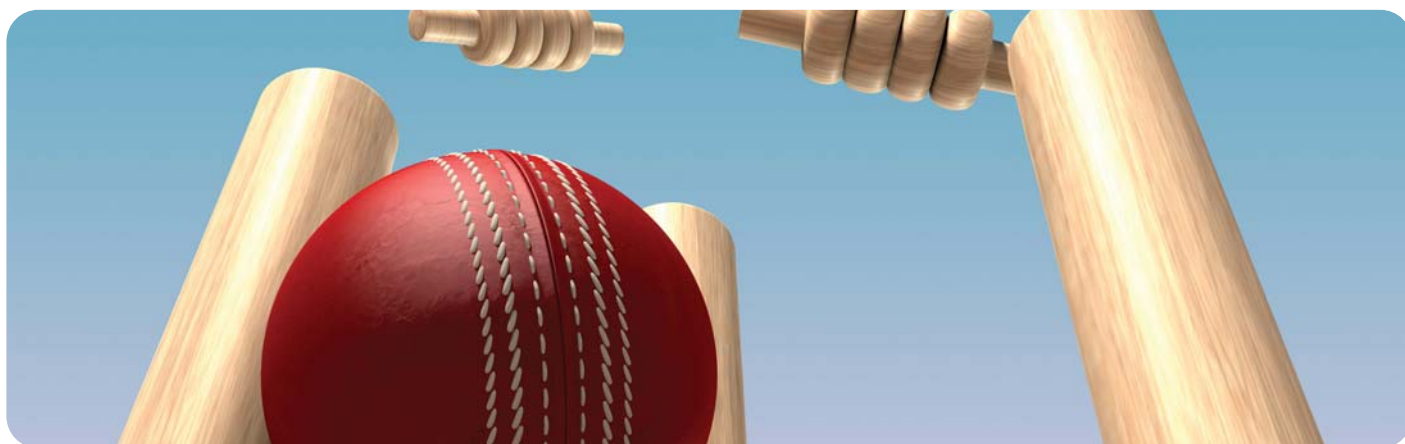
Coach's player of the year – He's kept his damn head still!!!!

Because of this his batting has improved massively. Bowling, lands in the right spot, has kept his head more this year than any other and is close to nailing it. A top score of 35 whilst opening against Penwortham, a great lad to have in our team.

Dan Burgon, well done.....

Spirit of Cricket – Tricky one this as many of you are deserving of this, so have looked at all aspects of this wonderful sport we play, ability, attitude and so on. This kid is always at training, always available, plays where is asked, bats where is asked without moaning. An all-round good kid. For the odd batting shot he plays he would get the batting award, clearing the fence at Eccleston for 6 to name one of a few. But then some of his shockers replace that!!!

A well-deserved award goes to Lewis Bently.



## U14's



The majority of the previous year's U13's group attended winter nets training for 2nd year running and with a few additions we were pleased to have a squad of 17 players for the 2023 season.

We finished 8th in the league out of 11 teams, winning 3, losing 6, with 1 no result. A number of the games saw us losing by close margins, on another day who knows!

As per previous years we didn't have a permanent captain throughout the year due to the necessary rotation of players, and a smaller number of players were given the opportunity to captain the team during the season. It is encouraging to see a number of

those selected start to develop their captaincy skills and take on the additional responsibility with maturity and develop their understanding and management of the game.

It was pleasing to be able to fulfil almost every fixture this year without having to call upon players from younger ages due to the squad size, and it goes without saying that the coaches are very thankful to the parents for bringing the players to training, for travelling to a number of away games to grounds further afield this year, for their help in setting up and clearing up at each home game, and to our resident scorer John, THANK YOU.

Coaches – thank you to Dave and Jonathan for their assistance and energy at training each week, and to Danny for his work with the U14's during the season.

It goes without saying that none of this could be possible without two very important individuals, who Dave, Jonathan and I would like to thank on behalf of the squad and the parents, thank you to Susan and Peter for all their hard work, guidance and dedication.

### Now on to the Awards

The batting award goes to the player who scored both the most runs over the season and also the highest individual score in a match – this player retired on a superb 53 not out away at Euxton and it is a delight to see his confidence improve throughout the season, and become a great all-rounder – the award goes to Nathan James.

The bowling prize goes to someone who has had an exceptional year for the U14s, older age groups and the academy team. It has been

wonderful to see this player develop their all-round game, become a superb fielder, and more importantly a constant threat with the ball – with 11 wickets during the season and a best of 3 for 1 against Croston, I am delighted to present the award to "Bobbins"! Well done, Michael Robbins.

The Coaches award, the coaches have selected a player who has shown great commitment throughout the season, not only to the U14s, older age groups, and academy team, but they have also given time to help coaching younger age groups during winter nets, and on Friday evenings prior to their own training. They are so committed they even started working collecting glasses at the club at weekends. The award goes to James Livesey.

Finally, the Spirit of Cricket Award. This award goes to a player who has always plays with a smile, demonstrates great commitment to the team, and is a great competitor, not that they always believe that!

The award was clinched by their memorable bowling performance away at Chorley, when their 4 wickets for 9 runs nearly helped us pull off what would have been a fantastic result only to fall just short of the run chase!

The award goes to Izzy Thomas!

Thank you to everyone involved with the U14s and all those involved with the junior section.

**Dave Robbins**

## U13's

This time last year I stood up here to say that after a successful season the under 12's, as they were then, were 9 days away from playing the final at Stanley Park to retain their Palace Shield title. As I speak today the under 13's, as they are now, are 9 days away from another final at Stanley Park in an attempt to win that trophy for a third successive year. In that three-year period this group of young cricketers have won 26 and lost just 2 of 28 fixtures played in the Palace Shield (a 93% win rate) including 14 wins out of 14 at fortress Church Road. This is testament to their undoubted talent, keen focus in training (well, most of the time eh boys) and also their game management which has seen them repeatedly recover from some sticky situations.

The stickiest of sticky situations in the last 12 months was that final against Leyland in mid-September last year. Seb Clarke's 23 when he came in at number 8 moved us from 50-6 to 90 all out. With 5 and a half overs left, Leyland were 78-3 needing just 13 to win, a very sticky situation. The boys game faces came on as wickets started to fall and runs dried up. With Matthew the pick of the bowlers, we took the trophy by bowling them out for 89, much to Leyland's disbelief. And ours to be absolutely honest.

This season the separate north and south divisions were replaced with a single division which meant we would face opponents Euxton and Chorley for the very first time. Playing each opponent only once however meant just 8 fixtures which left us very little margin for error needing to finish in the top two of nine to reach the final. More importantly this gave Dave and I many a selection headache as we tried to balance competitiveness with inclusivity given our 22-strong squad.

The season started well with a comfortable 8 wicket win away win against a strong St Annes team with Isaac Butterfield and Freddie Bourne leading the chase. A narrow win against Thornton with captain Joe Tanner and Henry Roberts in the runs was followed by a comfortable win against old rivals Leyland with Henry Roberts taking 4 for 5, the best bowling figures of anyone in the league this season. Then it happened. After winning all 14 of our fixtures in standard cricket, unbeaten in over a year, on a very hot Sunday morning that caused my scoring iPad to overheat, we lost at Euxton. A late illness meant we faced the prospect of playing with 10 players. I must have had a sixth sense as I threw my youngest son Daniel's whites into the car. Daniel bowled an interleague player as Euxton made 97-6.

After a couple of dubious LBW decisions given by their umpire (not that I am a bad loser) we lost wickets regularly and fell 5 runs short when we were bowled out with 9 balls to go, despite a valiant late 22 from Arthur which looked like it might get us over the line. We'll see Euxton again in the final next week.

The very next night and guess what, we lost again! This time we were at Clitheroe in the Lancashire Cup, against the very dominant champions of the Lancashire League, winners of 18 of their previous 19 games. Yes, I spend a lot of time on play-cricket. We were unlucky in not taking early wickets which allowed Clitheroe to hit a big total that we were not able to chase despite an excellent effort with the bat, particularly from Henry and Seb. Clitheroe then very narrowly lost the Lancashire Cup Final to Didsbury. This meant Didsbury went through to the national knockout and after 5 more wins, tomorrow they face Ealing at Lord's in the Under 13 National T20 Final. Something for the current under 12 Palace Shield champions, Allan and Senthil's team to target next season!

Back to the Palace Shield, with four games left we knew we could not afford any more slips starting with third place Chorley who posted



an imposing 126 to chase. Some powerful batting, particularly from Isaac, Freddie and Joe saw us home with 4 overs to spare.

Then came the season's most dominant performance away at Fylde. We were bowled out after 17 overs with an imposing 174, the highest score in the league this year as Isaac, Joe and Archie all retired out. We then bowled Fylde out in 9 overs for 45 runs to win by another league record 129 runs. The highlight was the only hat trick the team has had in 3 years, all brilliantly caught off the bowling of Ben Sands.

It was then that the wheels fell off, thanks to the great British weather. From mid-June to early August the final two games against Fulwood and Garstang were arranged four times and five times respectively only to be rained off. We managed to get teams together every time only for the weather apps to correctly predict our doom. If the games were to be voided, we would finish third and miss the final. However, a combination of perseverance and flexibility won the day. The games finally got played in August and two comfortable wins saw us win the league by 9 points to face second place Euxton next Sunday in Blackpool.

#### **Bowling Award**

Twenty of the boys bowled for us this season with 18 of them taking wickets in a real team

effort. The top four wicket takers, Joe, Archie, Henry and Arthur all had very similar figures, all averaging around 10 runs per wicket and the award could have gone to any of them.

The winner this year has been used almost exclusively as an opening bowler against the better batsman and has again impressed with his attitude and commitment in training and in games as well as his increasingly ferocious left arm bowling. The winner of the Bowling Award for the Under 13's is Arthur Allerton.

#### **Batting Award**

Twenty-one boys batted for us this season and as I have detailed there were important contributions from many. Daniel Young had the best average of 44, Leo the best strike rate of 140 and Joe the most runs with 148 but the winner of the batting award is another opener. In his first full season he has delighted us with his enthusiasm for the game and his powerful batting. The winner of the Batting Award for the Under 13's is Isaac Butterfield.

#### **AKS Spirit of Cricket Award**

We have many players who have shown great commitment to their development and the team all the way back to the winter nets way back when. Our winner has done this and has shown dedication in his mastery of batting, spin bowling and even wicketkeeping when required. His hard work and talent have seen him make the Interleague squad against some

tough competition. The winner of the AKS Spirit of Cricket Award is Archie Jackson.

#### **Coaches Award**

In such a successful team it is no surprise that we have many talented cricketers. Henry continues to represent Lancashire under 12's, as mentioned Archie plays in Interleague whilst Joe, Matthew, Arthur, Henry and Archie have made the successful move up to Pete and Danny's Lytham Academy squad where they have all had great success and gained valuable experience playing in senior cricket.

The winner of the Coaches Award has made the biggest contribution to the Under 13's this season. He scored the most runs and took the most wickets, often performing in high pressure situations. Just as important for me has been his leadership as he organised pre-match warm-ups, delivered team talks, organised the field, decided on the bowling order and contributed to discussions with Dave and I on batting order in his role as captain. The winner of the Coaches Award for the Under 13's is Joe Tanner.

#### **Lee Topping**



## U12's

In January when we said we would run A & B teams, we were yet to see the league, with 12 teams this meant 21 matches in a 3-month period – so thank you to parents for the lifts and having to rush out of work to get to Tarleton and Longridge. We wanted to give as many boys cricket as possible and that remains our intention, but we do need more help with matches – taking teams, umpiring and scoring.

We had 28 players in the squad and started nets in early February, which really paid off as we were able to hit the ground running when the season began.

The squad is made up of a great bunch of guys and the camaraderie, attitude and approach, has been a really important cornerstone to this squad since the beginning and those values remain unchanged, as they are a lot to do with the success and enjoyment of the squad.

Having a number of new players in the squad this season ensured there was greater competition for places in the A team and it also allowed us to introduce a number of boys who had not really played much cricket into the game and hopefully they all have enjoyed the season.

Even though we were buoyed by the 2022–2023 season (I am sure we will never forget the nail-biting finals of the cup game) we still had never set out to explicitly win the league as a goal. We just took each game as it came and ensured that if the right processes were in place, results would look after themselves in both A and B team games. The boys took on feedback and acted on it. One of the most pleasing things was the decision making made by the boys themselves on and off the field. Certainly, in previous seasons, we tried not to overcoach during matches and so the boys had already developed the aptitude to make those critical decisions and we feel this has held them in good stead this season, especially when the pressure and intensity of some games was increased. The way the boys played and conducted themselves in those situations is a testament to our ethos and their character.

### U12 A

#### P11 W10 L1

One of the most enjoyable games of the season for us was the Lytham Thunder v Lytham Lightning and it was testament to the approach the boys have to this interclub game – highly competitive, enjoyable, use of intelligence and empathy.

#### Highlights from the season include:

Leyland – lesson in self-belief, we lost to them 2 years ago when we were starting out and we said they were a team we needed to aspire to, and we would use them as a barometer of our progress. I don't think we thought we would catch them up so quickly, with a really good win.

Tarleton – really important away win, with real maturity and composure needed, which also showed the depth of the squad and how players could step up if given the opportunity.



Longridge – this was the game played on the full-sized wicket, but in hindsight, it was a good loss, and it was best thing that could have happened to us, because we knew it was do or die the following week against Blackpool. The hunger and desire shown the following week was massive.

Blackpool – you don't want to know what was going through our heads and heart when we were 0 for 3 in the first over and then 11 for 5 a few overs later. But the resilience shown in that game was second to none and to dig in and dig deep as a team was immense, cricket aside that is one of the major reasons we do this, the impact we can have on the boys' character is more important than cricket, they won't forget that moment, it will always be there when times are tough – the support shown built the self-confidence and self-belief.

That win meant we won the Palace Shield U12 league.

### U12 B

#### W3 L8

It is important to put things into context before we talk about the B team, they were playing in an A team league, and we wanted to try and find the balance to the team between those who had not played any cricket before along with those with a bit more experience. Wins against Great Eccleston, Broughton & Fulwood, Tarleton, a strong performance against St Annes and a last wicket nailbiter against Chorley to finish in a creditable position in the league. We are the only club that has played a B team, playing against other teams A teams, so the learning curve is steep and quick, and progress has been made across the board, with a number of boys playing their first game of cricket this year and learning the game, taking their first wicket, hitting their first runs or boundary, or taking their first catch, which is as pleasing as winning the league. Interestingly, we had 20 players played for the A team this season which shows the strength in depth.

### General

To the parents, thank with regards to your use of the What app – with only one social media fall-out this year, which was cleared up very quickly and eventually most of us worked out how to use Teamer.

Thank you to those that scored this year Richard, Liz, Steph, John and techno Steve for being the first to brave the online experience and also to Pete Legge for scoring and taking the team on a number of occasions and his general support throughout the season. Big thanks to Susan, with all the work she does in sorting out fixtures and training schedules and in running the whole show, it would not happen without Susan and Pete.

If we are to run two teams again next year, we need more help for matches in umpiring, scoring and possibly some form of team manager, we look forward to the applications rolling in.

### Awards

#### U12 A team

Batsman – Ethan Legge (top runs scorer)

Bowler – Archie Brown (top wicket taker)

Coaches Award – Rohan Murugesan (all-round performances with bat and ball, intelligence shown in the field and a couple of really vital innings when we were really under pressure)

Spirit of Cricket – Joe Moss (based on the spirit of improvement)

Hattrick – Archie Brown (4 wickets for 1 run against Blackpool, only realised it was a hattrick a couple of days later when we checked the stats, given all the excitement)

#### U12 B team

Batsman – Rupert Williams (top run scorer)

Bowler – Monty Milligan (top wicket taker)

Coaches – Hamish Gilchrist (improvement, attitude, resilience under pressure, approach to make things happen)

Spirit of Cricket – Oliver Van Rijn (first year playing the game and his attacking approach to batting).



When we met up last winter to discuss our disappointing results from our first hard ball season and to plan our next campaign, it was hard to ignore the fact that our passionate and invested squad had limited access to the one thing which would propel their cricket development...namely playing cricket matches. For context, pretty much every other club in North and West Lancashire have to use players up and down their age groups to form a team, no doubt tough for their administration, but affording their players up to 3 times more opportunity to play than ours.

So, we decided, with Anthony Woodman coming on board to help, to run 2 teams, which very much practice and train as one large squad, playing in the West and North leagues of the Palace Shield/Northern League combined competition.

It is fair to say that the master plan was looking shaky when the A team took a bit of a battering in their opening game on a freezing night in Longridge. The team do have some very determined characters however and this set back just seemed to encourage the team to work even harder – there are a number of players in this team who use the practice facilities constantly and this hard work reaped

rewards as the team only lost 2 more games all season, creditably coming second in the league behind a very good Longridge team vastly more experienced in hard ball cricket than ourselves.

The B team were unfortunate to be placed into what, on reflection, was a slightly tougher league. Again, there were some tough and cold away fixtures which could have knocked the enthusiasm out of many, but never us. Again, the effort and determination to improve saw our performance grow incredibly and the team deserved at least a tie in the last game against Fleetwood – to come so close was testament to everyone's efforts to catch up technique and confidence, again against teams with a lot more competitive cricket behind them.

The take away from the season is the staggering progress across the whole squad from where we started. Everyone has improved in one dimension, some in all 3 and some spectacularly so. We are a good fielding squad a developing bowling squad and our run making ability, either from striking or aggressive running is finally starting to blossom. This stems from the fact this is a tremendously attentive, hardworking and passionate group. They should be immensely

proud of themselves and hopefully continue to link this attitude to their improvement in the seasons to come.

Finally, some thankyou's and congratulations. Thanks to Anthony, we could not do this without you and especially to Michelle without whom nothing would get done – it is a big group to herd, but it always managed with detail and good cheer. Most will only see 10% of the effort she puts in, but we remain ever fortunate for her leadership.

Congratulations to our award winners this season: Matthew Parker (A team bowling), Dan Topping (A team coaches' award), Max Moore (A team batting) and Fraser Stuart (B team batting), Sadie Atkinson (B team bowling) and Alyssa Woodman (B team coaches' award). Plus, Tom Bain and Charlotte Robbins, who were awarded the AKS Spirit of Cricket awards by our squad member parents. Congratulations also to those who made the Interleague squads; Charlotte, Alyssa and Penny – and we all look forward to our new season of playing 'proper' cricket.

**Andy Parker**

## U10A's

It was a pleasure to coach this talented group of up-and-coming cricketers. I felt lucky to have 22 to pick from for our matches.

The winter nets training benefited this group to get them ready for this coming season, thank you to Charlotte for organising this.

There were some memorable moments from this season, for instance, Oliver Craig hitting the balls like Freddie Flintoff sending them out of the boundary or trying to!!!

Joshua Moss in control of his crease getting his singles whenever he could.

Gabriel Sharkey's fast bowl "bringing on the thunder" as he calls it and rightly so.

These are just a few highlights from our first season of matches.

As always it is difficult to select only a few for awards, however the coaches decided on the following

Batting – Joshua Moss

Bowling – Oliver Hall

Coaches Award – Gabriel Sharkey

AKS Spirit of Cricket Award – Harry Parker.

A big thank you to the parents that helped this season, without you it wouldn't have been a great summer of Cricket!!!!!!

**John Bushell**



## U10B's



The season started with the U10's as one group back in February 2023 for their first ever winter nets. Thank you to Andy, John, Ben and the many other parents that helped out with these sessions. It was a bit of a baptism of fire as two children got hit with a hardball in the first session but thankfully there were very few incidents after that.

Following registration at the end of March, there was a surge in U10 numbers to 37 and ultimately the group was split into an A and B group. The U10B's (B for Brilliant as one of the children commented in the first week) with the exception of one child, comprised of all the U9 age children, so the kids played competitive cricket a year early.

Their first match was away against Tarleton, who ultimately went on to win the league. We lost but by no means were we overshadowed. We actually scored more runs but unfortunately lost too many wickets. The team very much held their own throughout the whole match and never lost their spirit. Tarleton's coach messaged me after the match to say well done to the team and that for their first game they played really well with lots of character and smiles on their faces throughout.

We won our next match the following week at home against Blackpool. The kids played really well and won by 19 runs. It was great to get that first win under our belt. I am not going to do a match-by-match summary but

it is worth mentioning the victory over Great Eccleston, when the team won by 1 run. A thrilling nail biter of a match. Overall, the team played 9 matches, won 5, lost 4 and finished a very respectful 4th out of 10 teams in the league. We also managed to squeeze in two friendlies at the end of the Summer, winning both matches, which was a great end to the season. A special mention must be made to Isaac Wallwork for the highest batting score of the season with a net score of 20 runs in the last match of the season.

This is a brilliant group of kids. Well done to them all: Penny, Austin, Frank, Verity, Charlie, Nithin, Thomas, Sebastian, Ted, Will, George, Oscar and Isaac. They turned up to training each week, raring to go and were always so enthusiastic. There was no messing about, and they were all just mad keen to play cricket. They were a joy to coach. I wish they could have all got an end of season award because they all deserved one but unfortunately that wasn't possible.

### Awards

The awards were chosen at the end of the league matches. The bowling and batting awards were taken from Play Cricket statistics based on the league matches for the U10 group.

### Bowling award

This was awarded to Oscar Townsend as the highest wicket taker of the season with 7 wickets. He bowls with such great accuracy

and only conceded one extra run in all the matches played, which is remarkable for this age group.

### Batting award

This was awarded to Ted Procter with the highest net score of the season with 60 runs. He is a great batsman and always keen to get some cheeky singles.

### Coaching award

This was awarded to Thomas Parker. He had a great season both batting and bowling; and received a number of admiring remarks from opposition coaches. He also played a match for the U11's, so effectively playing up by 2 age brackets, which was amazing for his first season of hardball cricket.

### AKS Spirit of Cricket Award

This was awarded to Charlie McKeown. He has such a great attitude, both in training and matches and encapsulates the spirit of the game. He also had an excellent season with bowling and batting and even took a turn at wicket keeping at the end of the season.

A massive thank you to Martin Wallwork, who was invaluable in helping run the sessions each week with some great coaching techniques and a brilliant knowledge of cricket. He was also our in house Play Cricket expert and scored most of our matches. A huge thanks to Andy Parker for umpiring the majority of our matches, which he did on top of umpiring all the U11's matches; and many thanks to Senthil Murugesan for stepping in to cover the couple of matches that Andy couldn't make. A big thank you to Susan, for basically doing everything!!! And to the young helpers: Hector, James, Michael and Felix, who were great with the kids and gave them some really helpful tips. The final thanks goes to all the parents and families for bringing the kids to the matches, which this year were far and wide; for their support and encouragement and also for setting up and clearing away while the kids and I had a chat and ate chocolate biscuits.

**Charlotte Maclean-Bristol**  
U10B Coach

## U9's

Firstly, to parents who have helped on a Friday, and even more so, the ones who have helped out more than once, it was appreciated.

Also, a huge thank you to the other main coaches, Richard, Guy, Allan and Avi, attending week in week out, it was a massive help.

This year there was a mixture of abilities in the group, consisting of some coming up from the Kwiks with me from last year, some remaining in the U9's from the previous year, and others

who are who are completely new to the game, only joining this season.

The first few months were taken up with re-educating the simple things, catching, bowling technique etc. But we noticed consistent improvement week after week, which then led to some really good quality (and competitive) games at the end of the training sessions.

Overall, the kids have come on massively, and we have seen some great performances

batting, bowling and fielding. There are some really keen and budding cricketers in this group, all willing to learn and try their best.

I for one, am looking forward to the games next year, seeing how they get on playing competitive hardball cricket, and from what we have seen this year, I think they will be a great team to come and watch.

**Ian Mulligan**



# Junior Cricket Awards 2023

## U10A

Joshua Moss (batting)  
Oliver Hall (bowling)  
Gabriel Sharkey (coaches award)  
Harry Parker (AKS Spirit of Cricket Award)

## U10B

Ted Procter (batting)  
Oscar Townsend (bowling)  
Thomas Parker (coaches award)  
Charlie McKeown (AKS Spirit of Cricket Award)

## U11A

Max Moore (batting)  
Matthew Parker (bowling)  
Dan Topping (coaches award)

## U11B

Fraser Stuart (batting)  
Sadie Atkinson (bowling)  
Alyssa Woodman (coaches award)

## U11

Tom Bain (AKS Spirit of Cricket Award)  
Charlotte Robbins (AKS Spirit of Cricket Award)

## U12A

Ethan Legge (batting)  
Archie Browne (bowling)  
Rohan Murugesan (coaches award)  
Joe Moss (AKS Spirit of Cricket Award)

## U12B

Rupert Williams (batting)  
Monty Milligan (bowling)  
Hamish Gilchrist (coaches award)  
Oliver Van Rijn (AKS Spirit of Cricket Award)



## U13

Isaac Butterfield (batting)  
Arthur Allerton (bowling)  
Joe Tanner (coaches award)  
Archie Jackson (AKS Spirit of Cricket Award)

## U14

Nathan James (batting)  
Michael Robbins (bowling)  
James Livesey (coaches award)  
Izzy Thomas (AKS Spirit of Cricket Award)

## U15

Archie Legge (batting)  
Harry Craig (bowling)  
Dan Burgon (coaches award)  
Lewis Bentley (AKS Spirit of Cricket Award)



## Junior Presentation Evening 2023





## Junior Presentation Evening 2023





## Decking & Ramp



One of the things covid taught us, was the importance of outdoor spaces. With that in mind and the possibility of obtaining an ECB grant of £10,000 to provide a "welcoming environment," the seed was planted.

Wouldn't it be great to have a larger seating area around the clubhouse to replace the tired and ageing decking that we had? It then got us thinking, wouldn't it be good to have the ability to play some music around the ground during events and provide a commentary for the cricket?

My husband Nick started drawing up some plans and we shopped around for the ideal decking and sound systems. Once we had this, I set about doing the grant application.





## Decking & Ramp



In July 2022 we received the good news that our application had been successful. Obviously, slap bang in the middle of the cricket season was not the best time to be starting a project like this, so we decided to wait until the winter months, when the club was quieter and the weather was more conducive to sitting inside.

I put out my usual cry for help and was so grateful to all those people who came forward from the cricket, hockey and tennis sections to help dig holes, shovel buckets and buckets of sand, gravel and cement into the mixer and ferry wheelbarrows full of concrete to and fro, in the cold and sometimes wet weather.

Whilst all this was going on there were mumblings about the fact that we didn't have wheelchair access to the clubhouse. So once again Nick went back to the drawing board and came up with a plan for a ramp. The volunteers rose to the challenge and started mixing the extra loads of cement needed to make it. Thank you to Hosk Resin and Neil Mallalieu for putting the finishing touches to the ramp.

The decking was completed in time for the start of the summer sports and Terry was given the task of finding some nice new outdoor furniture to complete the look. Well done, Terry!

The PA System was up and running too, much to the delight of Luke Norris, who couldn't wait to get his hands on the microphone. Both he and David Tattersall continue to give us our match commentaries on a Saturday, which all helps to create the Welcoming Environment at Lytham CC.

Thank you to everyone involved.

**Susan Chiekrie**





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## New Additions



### Albert Roberts

Our first team player Guy Roberts and fiancée Olivia welcomed our latest recruit to Lytham Cricket Club, Albert Louis Roberts born 3rd May 2023.

Albert is already showing promise with a love for his bat and ball.

Hopefully he will follow in the successful cricketing footsteps of his older brother Henry and sister Marissa, father Guy and grandfather Peter.

He was a lucky mascot when watching his Daddy for the first time at home, Guy scored 101!



### Thea Norris

Congratulations to Ryan Norris and his partner Nikita on their latest addition to the family. Thea was born on 6th September 2023, a baby sister for Ava.

No doubt we will be seeing the girls on the boundary in the 2024 season and hopefully in a few years' time, they will be signing up for junior cricket, unless Uncle Luke persuades them to take up scoring duties!!



### Ruby McGreehin

Yet another future Lytham player was born on 6th January 2024. Congratulations to Jason McGreehin and his partner Nicola Roberts on the birth of their baby daughter Ruby.

I have no doubt, as soon as they can, Jason and his brother Matt will have Ruby practicing her batting skills.

## Happy couple tie the knot at eighty

Dorothy Brooks and David Kirk (our Dot & Dave) bowled each other over, not on the cricket pitch but on the bowling green, to prove it's never too late for love.

Dave had been a member of Lytham Cricket & Sports Club for several years having ambled into the Club with a rambling mate of his and had soon become a regular; cementing firm friendships with many of the other members.

To celebrate his 75th birthday I thought it a great idea to present him with a cake sporting 75 lit candles. The ensuing conflagration almost resulted in an insurance claim for a new clubhouse; especially as the candles were of the relighting type!

Dave met Dot at Lowther Gardens bowling club where Dot had been a member for more than a decade. Dave had just joined after giving up playing golf at Lytham Green Drive. He "took a fancy" to the lovely Dot and being the smoothy that he is, invited her for a drink at Lytham Cricket & Sports Club. The popular and lively couples' relationship continued to blossom and we were all so pleased to hear of their marriage plans.

The ceremony took place at St. John's Church Lytham on June 22nd 2023 followed by a reception at The Glendower Hotel in St. Annes on a glorious summer's day.

I was honoured to be Dave's best man – a decision that Dave probably regretted when I was overcome with emotion during my speech! I still haven't lived it down.

Shortly thereafter they moved into a new house in Warton but they missed the proximity of the bowling and cricket clubs. More recently they have relocated in a lovely flat which is a mere stone's throw from Lowther gardens and 2 mins walk from The Club which they visit most weekends.

We wish them health and happiness.

Alan Yates



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# A View from the Bar



You may have noticed a few changes around the place recently.

We have been busy during the winter months of the season, with a little help from an increase in business, grants & fundraisers to complete various projects to bring our club facilities up to date. Plus give the place a bit of a facelift.

Numerous members have contributed much time and effort to achieve this.

Given the age and condition of the club, there's still much to do and it takes time and money to do it. I'd like a bar that fits more than two behind for a start!

Some of the improvements, you can't even see; like the technology employed to help us control how much we spend on energy, water & fuel for heating and our information, internet, sales and audio/video systems.

This June, the Euro's start and England's football teams will, once again, try to realise the dream of "football coming home" – and thanks to that hidden technology, you'll be able to enjoy every England game in our function room "Fan Zone". With incredible sound and 80-inch 4k TV.

Plus, every home cricket match will be broadcast on our built-in screens, so you don't miss a ball whilst buying a drink!

I'd like to thank (on everyone's behalf) Susan & Nick Chiekrie, Nick Parrott, Catherine Broadbent, Nina Nichol, Mark Hodgkinson, Dave Cartmell, Mark Pilling, Steve Mahoney, Pete Kennedy, Neil Mallalieu, Lester Jefferson and a small gang of volunteers (not to mention Bernard Crosby's gang of ground workers

keeping the surrounding areas in fine fettle).

Now we'd like to turn our attention to the main foyer, improving toilet and function facilities; please be patient, it takes time and money.

Two ways you can help...

One is your membership runs for twelve months, not six.

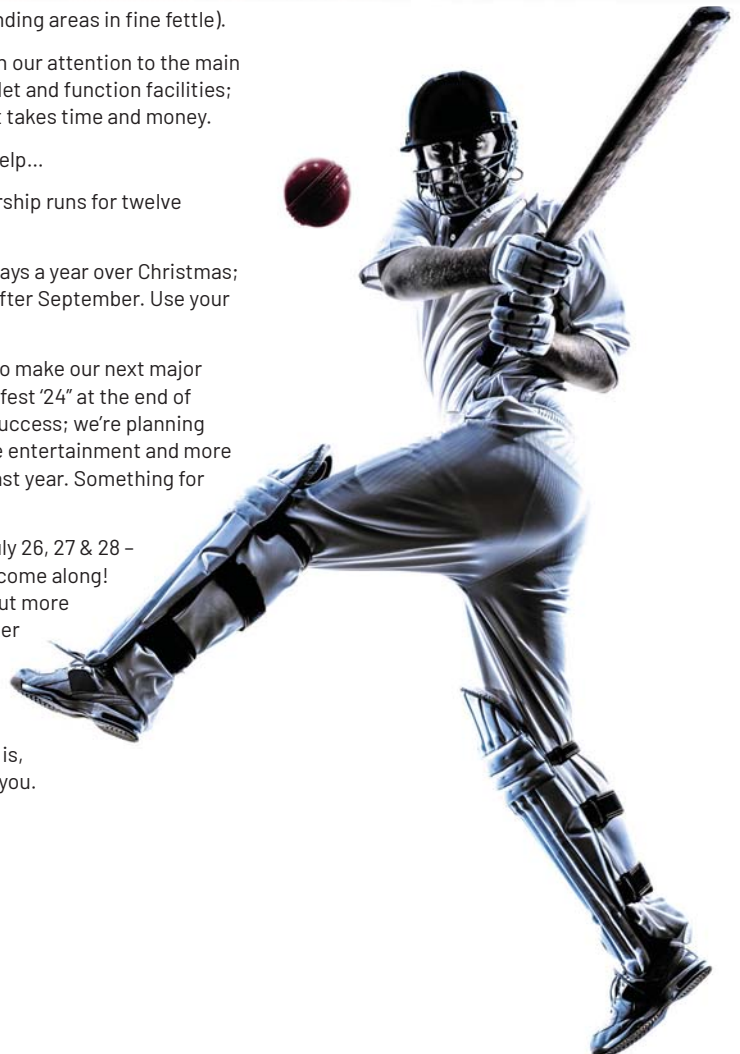
We only close five days a year over Christmas; so, don't forget us after September. Use your club in winter!

The second way is to make our next major event "Lytham Beerfest '24" at the end of July, a rip-roaring success; we're planning more choices, more entertainment and more food options than last year. Something for everyone!

The festival is on July 26, 27 & 28 – save the dates and come along! It's simple maths! Put more money in, get a better facility out.

How fast that happens and the legacy we leave is, in the end, down to you.

**Terry Batty**





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# PUNKS MODS & ROCKERS

(with some Brit Pop thrown in) End of Season Bash



To mark the end of the season and raise some money for club funds, the junior fundraising team thought it would be a good idea to have a themed night.

You can guess from the title what that ended up being! It was great to see so many people put in the effort and come up with some great costumes which set the mood for the night.

A huge thank you to Emma Duffy for helping me decorate the room and to Peter Charlesworth who allowed us to borrow his scooter, setting the scene for the Mods amongst us.

I am really grateful to all the junior fundraisers, who over the years have helped raise money for a mobile net, frog box, gazebo and many more items. They have worked tirelessly on the BBQ, making up sweet bags and baking cakes to sell, entering prize winning floats in the Club Day procession, selling raffle tickets and football cards.

On a personal level I have enjoyed working with these guys and have made really good friends in the process.

As these volunteer's children move into the U17s and senior cricket in the 2024/25 seasons, they will naturally be stepping back

from Junior Fundraising, so we need a new cohort of parents to get involved and come up with more ideas to help raise funds for junior cricket, run the BBQ and bake the cakes.

Please give it some thought and get involved. It is a chance to become more involved in YOUR club and to meet some lovely people.

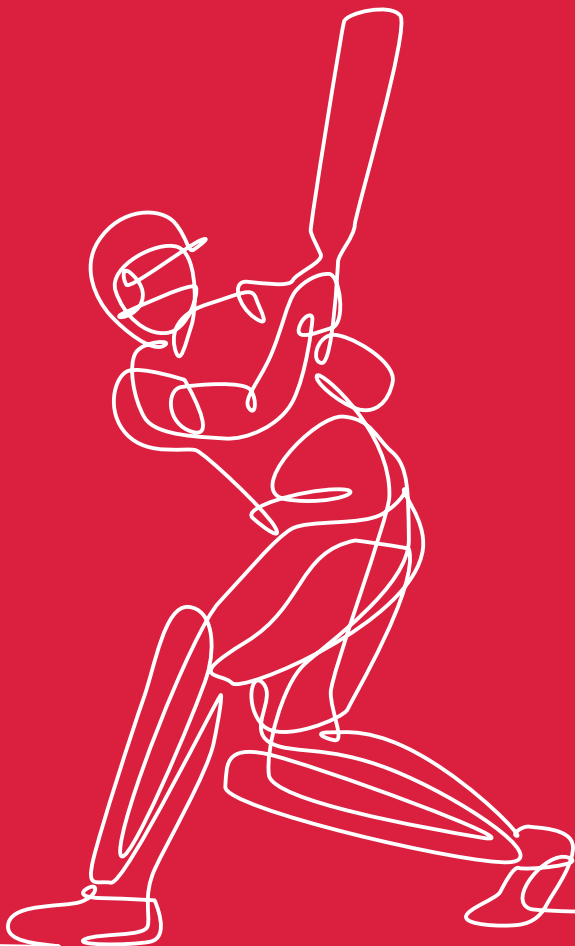
**Susan Chiekrie**

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