



## Report to Hillhead Sports Club June 2024

I am pleased to present the annual report for the Cricket Section of Hillhead Sports Club for the year 2023-24. This has been another remarkable year of growth, resilience, and exciting developments for the cricket section. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all the other members of the committee, players, volunteers, and sponsor whose dedication and support have contributed over the past 12 months.

The current 2024 cricket season is ongoing and is not scheduled to finish until the end of August this year. There has been changes this year to the leadership of the first team with James Lindley-Dawe appointed as the new first team captain, supported by Sneehan Das and Cameron Horn as Vice Captains.

### Senior Teams: News & Results

The year 2023-24 brought both challenges and triumphs for our teams. The first XI finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in the WDCU Premiership 3, which resulted in their promotion to Premiership 2 for season 2024. The 2<sup>nd</sup> XI finished mid table in 2023 however have started 2024 with 4 wins and no losses, leaving them at the top of the Championship 2 table.

One big change for season 2024 has been the introduction of a Hillhead Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> XI, which I am informed is the first time this has happened since the 1990s! The third XI are playing in Championship 3 and have so far won two games and lost one game. In addition to this we continue to have packed mid week T20 schedule and a variety of Sunday friendlies to help develop junior players.

### Junior Cricket

It has been a great start to the Hillhead Juniors 2024 season following a strong attendance to our winter nets at the High School of Glasgow.

Our Wednesday training sessions are frequently attracting 25-35 participants and we are fielding 4 league teams at junior level. 2 in conjunction with West of Scotland and 2 stand alone, we also have a very competitive Kwik Cricket team attending Sunday festivals. In terms of results we have been very competitive this year with all team competing near the top of their respective leagues. We will hope to put at least 4 players forward for regional trials this year. We have also had 5 junior players represent senior sides in both league and development games.

Allstars and Dynamos have again proved popular with 31 participants, 26 Allstars and 5 Dynamos.

Involvement is improving with parents and senior players stepping into assist and we now have 7 working towards or achieved foundation coach status and PVGs. Membership continues to grow with prospective members turning up most weeks.

### **Finances and Fundraising**

Following successful fund raisers last year, the race night and the Craig Cup Dinner, the club finances remain stable. The current bank balance sits at c.£13,500. I would note that there remains outstanding liabilities with regards to the payments due to HSC from the section and the payment of the loan for the TRIMAX. I would like to note thanks to Bernie Mitchell, Phil Murray and of course Richard Bond for their help last year in planning and organising the events we held.

### **Facilities and Equipment**

I would like to make a special note of thanks to Gary Kitchner for his help in recent months with the groundworks. The outfield at HCC is looking the best it has in the 10 years i have been at the club. New groundsman Andy Carswell has made a promising start ensuring that we continue to build on the work done in recent years to improve the cricketing facility at Hillhead Sports Club.

During the off season we trained indoors at the high school of Glasgow between October and March. This ensured that members are able to play cricket throughout the off season, to ensure they still get value for their membership. The off-season training between season 2023 and 2024 was the most comprehensive in recent years.

### **Membership**

We have seen an increase in the number of members in the cricket section over the recent months. Building ties with both Glasgow and Strathclyde University has led to an influx of new players. Senior membership is now above 60, the highest it has been in the past 10 years. More so this represents an increase somewhere in the region of 50% compared to 12 months ago. We hope to be able to continue to grow HCC.

## **The future**

As we look ahead, replacement of the Porta Cabin remains a priority for the cricket section, along with continuing the progress made on the grounds and membership. We would also like to explore the potential of having a women's team at some point in the coming years too.

James Thornhill

Chair

Hillhead Cricket Club