

# Great Melton Junior Coaching Report 2023

## Summary

A hugely successful season for all junior teams, proving our coaching ethos - giving everyone game time, taking a game-based approach, and ensuring it's organised, planned and fun, is working! The juniors played 83 matches (not including softball games), winning 57 of them, resulting in the following achievements.

- The U17s won the NCA Alan Kefford Trophy
- The U15s won the NCA Andy Seeley Trophy
- The U9s won the NCA John Dewing Trophy
- The U13s won the Norfolk Final of the ECB K.O. Competition & reached the SF of the NCA Alan Bridgewater Cup
- The U19s were runners-up in the NCB T20 Competition.

Fantastic support by a dedicated and committed management and coaching team ensured all training sessions went ahead (weather permitting) and all matches were well managed, umpired and scored and enjoyed by all taking part and watching. A truly professional outfit that must be the envy of all other junior sections.

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## All Stars – Matt / Rob / Iain / Bronwyn / Nick / Niamh

A slightly smaller group than in recent years with on average 30 children attending. Running 3 groups of 10 that split into 2 further groups of 5 ensured the groups were well organised and run with typically 3 out of four lead activators in attendance. Sessions led/organised by Matt and supported well by the team.

The new location away from junior square helped ensure u9/u11 following session got underway on time. The Ashes event at the end of the season showed just how well the All Stars had come on through the summer, carrying out all of the games / challenges put in place alongside their senior counterparts.

Next season Nick and Iain will be moving up to u9 coaching with Helen Aston keen to get involved alongside Bronwyn with All Stars. Steven Cadge may be able help every other week. Oli Harris and Matt Gilbert supported well alongside supervising their own children and may be able to support again next season.

We may need to look for someone to take the lead on All Stars or look for different time as 1645 set up tricky for current coaches to manage.

## Dynamos – Kyle / Rob / Matt / Harrison / Sam / Steve

Expertly managed by Kyle, now in year three of leading Dynamos. Good number of children making two manageable groups (c.24 per week) with Kyle and Rob leading each sub group of

12, supported by Matt, Harrison and Sam. Pleasing to see a handful of Dynamos have showed proactive interest in stepping up into hardball.

Kyle is stepping down from his lead role so will need a new Dynamos lead not involved with All Stars. Sam and Harrison likely to be involved with A levels so other support required from juniors.

Need to encourage more Dynamos to attend u11 indoor training to try and convert across and look to engage with Juniors especially on Duke of Edinburgh to help support the training.

Bronwyn has offered to help assist with Dynamos. **Need** to check in that Rob is happy to continue and look for other junior helpers.

#### U9 – Joel / Frankie / Ian / George / Sam

The three coaches managed the group size well, once under 11 girls separated out into own group. Pleasing to see technical elements identified in indoor training corrected and improved during season, proving the importance of indoor coaching especially for the younger groups.

Joel and Frankie moving up to u11. With Nick and Iain to run coaching, with Bronwyn in to manage the teams it proves succession is working. May need further coaching support to help new coaches.

Nick and Iain booked onto level 2 coaching course.

#### U11 Girls – Hannah / Niamh / Hope

After a couple of weeks settling in it became clear that the u11 girls would be a fantastic group to coach independently of the boys. This worked well whilst still integrating into u9 and u11s for matches as well as their softball team in own right.

The Girls really benefitted and took well to the coaching by Hannah and Niamh, with good support in the later part of the season by Hope. The continuity that Hannah then provided at the Girls softball made this squad a real success.

#### U11 – Jason / Adam / Corey / Clive

Overall another enjoyable year, good numbers. No major issues but if we're looking for improvements minor suggestions would be:

- Run a session to familiarise parents with Spond and PlayCricket.
- Poll parents ahead of season, or get to sign up via winter nets before committing to number of teams in league.
- Early focus on how to integrate girls required as this depends on numbers but should be checked in on early in season.

Joel and Frankie will be stepping into manage and coach U11 with Joel looking to complete his level 2 coaching.

Corey on A levels and Clive potentially moving, so may need to find other coach support.

Steve Howett had expressed interest in coaching and has been approached.

#### U13 – Chris / Simon / Carl / Oli

U13 splitting into 3 groups and rotating seemed to work well giving balanced time in nets, on junior square and on outfield alongside U15s. Good balance and differentiation between differing levels of ability within this squad. Great integration of girls into the squad with some taking lead roles within the teams.

Adam and Jason will join Carl and Oli in supporting this group in 2023 although Monday nights may be a challenge due to work conflicts for Adam and potentially Jason. Steven Cadge has expressed an interest in helping out so may be able to play a supporting role.

#### U15 – Martin / Jack / Dom

Great results for the team in matches. Better clarification of roles needed in hindsight to avoid confusion on role of coach vs manager that caused some issues.

Team bounced back well and handled themselves extremely well following incident with umpires at Stow. Great to see some of the U15 Girls wanting to attend Monday training and contributing to the team. This squad above all others require and benefitted from the more technical, challenging training for those pushing into senior teams whilst remained fun and engaging for those still relatively new to cricket.

Martin and Jack will be stepping up into the U17 team with Chris and Simon stepping up into U15s. It's hoped that Dom will retain and progress his technical involvement with this squad. Mark Newbold (level 1) looking to step in and help also to continue to provide link to 1<sup>st</sup> team and to complete his level 2.

#### U15 Girls + Ladies – Matt / Aslam and Ladies Coaches Jonathan, Kerrie, and Simon

Good start to the season with U15 girls team competing well in U15 'boys' competition, with team raising eyebrows and beating boy opposition. Training attendance and game availability dropped substantially later into the season causing concern.

Thursday night training combined with Ladies sessions work well with those keen to train with boys teams also attending Monday night sessions. Good to see a good number of the u15s stepping up to play in the full GMCC Ladies team and in the Saturday teams

Need to talk to girls and parents and find out how best to address this (play all matches before summer holidays / play on Sundays)

Meeting with Ladies coaches and managers to best way forward planned

#### U17/19 – Matt / Maxine

Very little coaching required as team encouraged to captain themselves, run their own warmups on match days and train with senior teams on a Tues. Coach and manager attended all matches to manage, umpire and score.

Looking for Martin and Jack to step up next season from U15s