B Team Captain's Report

What a season the B Team have had this year! It's been a fantastic summer of cricket for everyone involved. With 18 matches played, 17 wins and just one narrow defeat, we won the league comfortably and secured promotion. Not a bad way to start off as captain!

In all seriousness, it's been an excellent summer of cricket, both on and off the pitch. Obviously, winning almost every game is bound to feel good, but I believe what we've achieved socially off the pitch this year is just as important, if not more so, for the future of the team.

We've fostered a proper group mentality, and I believe that has helped us welcome new members to the club and give them the environment to thrive. Prime examples of this are Muhammad Hussnain Shabbir and Alex Clark, both of whom marked their debut seasons with centuries. Another great thing to take from this season is the progression of our juniors within the team. Olly Marshal has put in some excellent performances with both bat and ball, while Jack Joice has regularly made meaningful contributions with the ball. It's been brilliant to watch the team support them throughout the season, and their development has been incredibly promising for the club's future.

In terms of the cricket itself, I believe we maintained a high standard throughout the season. We also regularly had great availability and a deep pool of players to call upon, which made us incredibly competitive in every match we played. If we can keep the core of this team together going into next season, I'm confident we'll continue to compete in the league above.

There have been plenty of notable performances throughout the season. Firstly Martyn Cooks club record breaking innings of 217* was a real highlight to watch in what was a crucial game in terms of getting the win over the line. Of course, I have to mention Matt Rushton, who performed week in, week out with both bat and ball and stepped up brilliantly when needed to captain the side, alongside his partner in crime, Andrew Walker, who always seemed to deliver that crucial wicket just when we needed it. Others who were vital to the side throughout the season include Nathan Sutton, who has been an all-round asset to the team, and Jamie Baker, who had a great season with the ball, along with many others. Ultimately, I feel that everyone who played for the side contributed in a meaningful way, and I hope we carry that collective attitude into next season.

I also want to talk about our success off the pitch, as I believe this is where we've come on leaps and bounds compared with previous years. We had a very well attended mid season curry night, as well as good turnouts at all the wider club socials. However, where I believe we've really improved is in our post-match routine, with all 11 players regularly making it to the pub for fines. This has helped create a great atmosphere and has made the social side of the team more inclusive, including for our juniors. I feel this has been a big step forward for the team.

Overall, it's been a fantastic summer, and I'm incredibly optimistic about what next season will bring. This year has laid an excellent foundation, both on and off the pitch, and hopefully we can use that momentum to push on again next year. I would like to Finnish this report by saying thank you to every person and

volunteer who helped the team out this year from Matt and Shafty stepping in and taking on the captaincy when I couldn't be there, all the behind the scenes work from the club committee and other volunteers and lastly everyone who gave up their Saturdays to come and play and made this season what it was. Massive appreciations all round and hopefully it continues into next season.