



THE WICCIE

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

this is the first of our newsletters ...



Welcome to the first ever newsletter of the Watsonian's Colts. The youth training is becoming very popular and the coaches would like to ensure both parents and cricketers know what is going on. The newsletter will give you updates and links to full information on the Watsonian website, plus should give the cricketers some tips and cricket fun.

Feedback gratefully received! See the contacts box for ways in which you can keep in touch with the coaches and admin team.

LET'S HEAR IT FOR THE GIRLS!

There is a very strong culture of girls' cricket in both the club and the school. The P3 coaching we do is for both boys and girls, with separate girls' coaching for P4-7 – as we find many girls enjoy their own sessions. From P5 upwards there is also the opportunity for girls to join coaching within the school, feeding into membership of the Girls' 1st XI – a team that has all ages from the senior school (and sometimes the junior!) in it.

We actively encourage girls' cricket and you can ask the coaches (including one who is in Watson's girl's 1st II) about what opportunities there are.



CONTACTS

The Watsonian website has details of training times, locations and membership and is a good way to find out about matches and tournaments:

www.watsoniancricket.co.uk

The colts have a **Twitter** account, which is a great way to keep in touch with what is going on and to receive instant details on cancellations and last minute changes. Feel free to join the chat!

www.twitter.com/@wcc_colts

Emails are issued by Sally Counsell who is in charge of admin and you can use that email to ask questions of Sally or Simon Counsell, who is Head of Youth Cricket:

thecounsellsh@hotmail.com

We will soon issue a Cricket Line where you can call for cancellations or to leave messages. Details tbc

PLAYING IN MATCHES

When we have the opportunity to play a match – either a friendly or in a tournament – you will be asked by email if your child can play. We try to give everyone the opportunity to play. Coaches should be informed of call-offs as soon as you can so that we can find a substitute and ensure everyone gets the chance to play.

Match kit will include club shirts (see kit section) and either whites or blue tracksuits/shorts.



CRICKET KIT



We produce branded and named shirts and hoodies each year. These come as part of the membership, if you opt for the Watsonian membership that covers both winter and summer training (see website for more details on these www.watsoniancricket.co.uk)

However, if you prefer to pay for winter training only, the shirts and hoodies can be bought on an individual basis. Details of these will be posted in the next newsletter. In the past this kit has proved

very popular and it is good for our teams to play matches in matching kit, which they all enjoy. The hoodies were very popular last year.

CRICKET CONUNDRUM

In a local village match, a cow suddenly steps through a damaged hedge onto the field of play. At the same moment the batsman strikes the ball: it bounces off the cow and is caught by a fielder.

Is the batsman out?

Tweet your answer to @wcc_colts or email.

The answer will be revealed soon

some bat maker....so if anyone wants a good bat, come see me! ;-)

What are your personal ambitions for your time with the Watsonians?

To grow the junior section into the best in Scotland. (certainly in Edinburgh). I'd like to help junior cricketers have fun, but also learn a lot about the game and themselves.

Which professional cricketer inspires you the most and why?

Shaun Pollock! Without a doubt, one of the best all round cricketers and people I have ever met.

He has always been a hero of mine and I was stumped for words when I met and played against him in the 2007 World Cup. Great guy!

What is your best cricket fitness tip?



Being fit doesn't just mean you can bowl a ball or hit sixes. Part of a cricketer's fitness are the unseen hours of stretching, running and gym work. Anyone wanting to make a career out of cricket has to have a good fitness base. There is nothing worse than standing at the top of your run up with 4 wickets against your name, or as a batter at the crease on 99, and getting out or not being able to bowl well to get you to that 5th wicket. Trust me!

FROM THE CREASE



The Club is really pleased to have professional cricketer, **Dewald Nel** as our Head Youth Coach this year. The Wiccie caught up with him at the beginning of our first training sessions...

Welcome to Watsonian's Dewald! What attracted you to spending your year here?

Watsonians is a great club and has some extremely energetic and driven individuals driving it forward. Over the last few years, the club has progressed well, both on and off the field, so I'm very excited to be back..

What is your advice to young people starting out on their cricket careers?

My advice would be simple... Enjoy playing the GAME! I know it sounds cliché, but it's true.

What inspired you to first take up cricket as a sport?

When I was young, playing cricket in South Africa, all I ever wanted was to be a cricketer. I never lost sight of that dream and I made sure I trained hard, listened well, stayed focused and enjoyed it! It's a great feeling when you experience that moment of achieving your dreams. So go for it!

What do you enjoy most about the game?

To be honest, there is a lot I enjoy from playing the game as well as the competitiveness: Meeting new mates, playing against some of the worlds best cricketers - the likes of Flintoff, Kallis, Clarke, Dravid, Hussey and many more. Traveling the world to places such as Australia, Bermuda, Canada and even Namibia.

What bat do you play with?

My bat of choice is the, H4L (Aka Hell 4 Leather) Monster! H4L is a new brand of bats making it's way into the market. I met the owner, during my time at Kent, and he is an awe-