

Avorians Cricket Club

Academy report for 2004

2004 was always going to be a difficult year for the Academy starting with a membership of none! However I did not envisage ending the year with only 11 members.

On the positive side, the quality of those 11 was high and it does provide us with a base to build on in 2005.

I spent a large amount of time in 2004 in discussions with Sharon Eyers at Surrey CCC about the ClubMark scheme and to see what they could do to help us attract members. As a consequence, and following her attendance at a committee meeting late last year, Surrey CCC have agreed to support us over the next two years in increasing our junior section, subject to the club working towards ClubMark.

For 2005, as part of ClubMark, we are required to have a qualified coach for every 15 or so children. As things stand we have no qualified coaches and we are going to have to act quickly to get the necessary qualifications in time for the start of the season. Without them we cannot achieve ClubMark and we may lose Surrey CCC support which at this stage of the Academy's development is not something we cannot really afford. I am currently awaiting 2005 course details and would like to hear from any member interested in attending.

If we are successful in attracting more Academy members in 2005, and I believe this can happen, playing member support is crucial. Whilst our overseas player and I managed to cope between us in 2004, we do need more support on a Sunday morning.

My aim for 2005 is to achieve ClubMark, get Academy membership up to 50 and to be in a position to run at least an under 13 team in 2006.

Darren Talbot – Academy Director

17th January 2005