



The 2015 Development XI campaign was a highly successful and fun experience for all involved. In a competition where the team had to comprise of at least four U16s and three U18s, the youth of the club were able to step up and showcase their talents.

The group stages went very well with the Ruts topping their group. This was a notable achievement in itself considering the strength of the group containing the likes of Spencer CC, Old Whigiftians CC, Sutton CC, and Addiscombe CC.

It was pleasing to see progress in the young players with consistent performances from Maya Sadiq, Callum Holden and Owen Patel amongst others. All the players played positively and in the true traditions of the Old Rutlishians - hard but fair and with no mean amount of skill and humour!

We marched into the Semi Final which saw us win a tight, low scoring fixture against Epsom CC. Once again, the team displayed a spirit and never say die attitude that typified our season and this was evident none more so through a fine all round performance from Alex Fox that ensured our progression through to the Development League Final.

Ultimately, the final was one step too far as we came up short against a Normandy side boosted by a fine batting and bowling performance from Batchelor who helped marshall the Normandy troops and proved the difference between the two sides. Prior to this, Matt Vandeeper struck a fine fifty, Kamran Khan bowled and batted with aggression and captain Simon Piper-Masha provided a stubborn, measured rearguard action. Nevertheless Normandy deservedly won the cup.

There are plenty of positives to take from the 2015 campaign. Future Ruts stars playing and learning alongside senior players can only augur well for the future. Competing against some very fine players throughout the competition will only harden the youngsters resolve and make them fully aware of the high standards required to continue to achieve.

In short an excellent campaign with a lot of lessons learned for all. Hopefully next year the team can go one step further.

Well done all.

Simon Piper-Masher