

Stewart's Melville FP Club – Annual General Meeting Tuesday 15th October 2019

Cricket Club Report



The 1st XI side that defeated Heriots in the Eastern Premier League on 1st June 2019. Back row – Hayden Sweet, Shaylen Pillay, Callum Steel, Greg Bissett, Greg Ruthven, Ben Wilkinson, Alan Veitch (scorer). Front row – Kris Steel, Andrew Wallace, Patrick Ritchie, Steven Parker (captain), Sam Tait.

The club fielded four Saturday elevens throughout the season with the 1st XI playing in Cricket Scotland's 50 overs a side East Premier League ("EPL") which is recognised by most observers as the strongest league in the country with the 2nd, 3rd and 4th XIs playing in the East of Scotland's Divisions One, Six and Seven respectively.

The 1st XI suffered a rather disappointing second half of the league season but after earlier wins against Stoneywood-Dyce and Heriots a win in the first of the return matches against Aberdeenshire at the end of June virtually secured their place in the EPL for season 2020 and so it proved even though a combination of opponents and rain prevented them securing a further league win. League record - Played 12 Won 3 Lost 9 (Placing - 9th out 10). Six league fixtures fell victim of the weather in the wettest summer in recent memory.

In the 20 overs a side Masterton Trophy played midweek the 1st XI performed pretty well and beyond the expectations of some in reaching the semi-final securing wins against Watsonians, Grange and Carlton as well as two lower league teams Edinburgh CC and Edinburgh Accies. The semi final against Corstorphine was lost in a rain affected match. Several excellent individual performances were achieved throughout the season in both forms of cricket which hopefully can be built upon next season.

Like the 1st XI the 2nd XI started quite well but underachieved in the second half of the season ultimately losing a show down match to Watsonians at Myreside and consequently their place in East Division One. Record – Played 10 Won 2 Lost 8. (10th place out of 10).

The 3rd XI usually suffer most from call offs in the higher teams and so finished just above mid table in Division Six. At full strength they would be challenging for promotion. Record - Played 13 Won 8 Lost 5. (4th out of 10)

The 4th XI play in Division Seven, the lowest of the East Leagues and their variable record pretty much reflected the strength of their side on any given day. Record - Played 13 Won 7 Lost 6 (6th out of 14).

Outside of the Saturday leagues, the Trojans XI played friendly T20 matches most weeks from mid May through to mid September although a good number of games were lost to the weather.

On Sundays the club participated in a development league playing 30 overs a side with a mixture of experienced “old heads” and junior members in the side.

The junior cricket played and coaching offered by the club covered all ages from 5 years old to 16 years old running outdoors from April to August with indoor coaching on Sundays January to March for under 10s to 16 years old. There were 90 registrations for All Stars Cricket on Friday evenings throughout the summer for 5 to 8 year olds where the whole cycle of junior cricket begins. While like other sports some drift off to do other things it is encouraging that the first “graduates” of the system are now hitting the club’s 1st XI in which five past captains of the school 1st XI played at some point during the season. The club is indebted to all our coaches led by David Gibson and professional Shaylen Pillay - back for a third consecutive season.

This year’s Annual Dinner and Awards evening has been set for Friday 8th November in the clubhouse when the principal guest will be Cricket Scotland’s recently appointed national coach Shane Burger who captained the Gauteng team when Shaylen Pillay made his debut in South African first class cricket.

Bert Barclay

Secretary, Stewart’s Melville CC