

SAXTON CRICKET CLUB
JUNIORS DEVELOPMENT PLAN
August 2002

**“In preparing for battle, I have always found that
plans are useless, but planning indispensable.”**

- Gen. D. Eisenhower

VISION STATEMENT

**Saxton Cricket Club aims to develop and maintain
a responsible and well-run juniors section that provides
coaching, facilities, enjoyment and opportunities for all.**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY, JUNIORS DEVELOPMENT PLAN (JDP), August 2002

Introduction

The purpose of this JDP is to provide an outline of Saxton Cricket Club's current position with regard to both its juniors section and its intention to develop this section further.

Context

The Club's concern at the decline of cricket coaching in schools and a lack of recreational space in Saxton led to its commitment to develop juniors cricket in 1999. The Club formulated a 3-year JDP and undertook measures to develop a juniors league team by 2002 (e.g. establishing a formal link with the local village school; fund-raising for equipment; members undertaking ECB-approved coaching courses and gaining police clearance checks; facilitating nets, practices and friendlies).

In view of the responsible and pro-active way in which the Club set up and managed its juniors section, Taylors of Harrogate awarded it 2nd prize in its Community Cricket Club of the Year competition, and a local landowner gifted it part of its existing ground to own in August 2001.

Current Position

The Club now has 47 juniors and 7 qualified coaches. It has 2 teams in the Wetherby Juniors League (WJL), and operates an equal opportunities policy for the sake of selection. The U-13s were runners-up in the WJL Cup Final (June 2002), and the U-11s finished 2nd in the WJL (July 2002).

Nevertheless, the Club faces the following problems in developing its juniors section further:

- small size of ground necessitates staggered practice sessions (i.e. U-11s at 6.30pm; U-13s at 7.30pm)
- ground size and related arrangements therefore obviates development of more teams (e.g. U-15s/U-17s)
- small square with only 9 strips forces juniors to use 1 strip for matches and practices
- east-west facing wicket (i.e. a safety hazard when bowlers bowl out of the sun during practices/matches)
- no kit for possible U-15s/U-17s team; no hard strip at side of ground for use as nets.

Future Possibilities

In view of the foregoing, the Club would like to expand its ground and relocate/renovate/expand/re-orientate its square to provide north-south facing wicket (i.e. to avoid safety problems, increase strips from 9 to 13 (with 4 for juniors only) and increase capacity to accommodate joint U-11s/U-13s and U-15s/U-17s practices). It would also like to have permanent facilities for juniors (e.g. hard strip for nets).

Funding

The Club estimates that the proper development of the ground for its juniors will cost c. £35,000. Although the Club is involved in several fund-raising initiatives, it will also seek to involve adjoining landowners, cricket bodies, charitable and educational trusts, major grant sources and others.

Conclusion

The Club has made excellent progress in setting up a juniors section, but its ground constrains the further development of this section. The Club must therefore address and resolve this priority issue.

SAXTON CRICKET CLUB
JUNIORS DEVELOPMENT PLAN

August 2002

1. Introduction

Purpose

The purpose of this Juniors Development Plan (JDP) is to provide the basis for the development of juniors cricket in Saxton Cricket Club ("the Club") from 2002 onwards. It addresses:

- demand-side issues (i.e. ensuring sufficient numbers of juniors participate)
- supply-side issues (i.e. ensuring adequate facilities for juniors)
- income
- costs.

Background

The Club's concern at the demise of coaching in schools and lack of recreation in the village led to its AGM resolution in 1999 to develop juniors cricket. The coaches' aims were to:-

- establish demand in village (& engender extra demand if necessary)
- ensure supply of insured coaches/facilities/etc.
- provide good coaching, facilities, enjoyment and opportunities for all
- feed juniors into senior sides when juniors are ready and it is in their interests to do so
- raise enough funds for cash-in-hand surplus per financial year.

Progress and Results

The Club formulated a 3-year JDP and undertook measures to develop a juniors league team by 2002 (e.g. establishing a formal link with the local village school; fund-raising for equipment; members undertaking ECB-approved coaching courses and gaining police clearance checks; facilitating nets, practices and friendlies).

In view of the responsible and pro-active way in which the Club did this, Taylors of Harrogate awarded it 2nd prize in its Community Cricket Club of the Year competition, and a local landowner gifted it part of its existing ground to own in perpetuity (August 2001).

The Club now has 47 juniors and 7 qualified coaches. It has 2 teams in the Wetherby Juniors League (WJL), and operates an equal opportunities for selection policy. The U-13s "came 2nd", in the WJL Cup Final (June 2002), and the U-11s finished 2nd in the WJL (July 2002).

These achievement of the above have led to the following benefits:

- opportunity for local children to enjoy/experience cricket
- increased sense of community and well-being within the village
- boosting of existing sides (e.g. juniors playing for Thursday evening side)
- resource savings (e.g. juniors section pays fees for training course & police clearance checks)
- increased club's revenue base and eligibility for some grants
- long term future of Club secured via renewed sense of purpose and direction.

2. Demand-side Issues

Market Research and Demography

Saxton School has 56 children and provides the focus for the Club's catchment area. Efforts to ensure sufficient demand have started here, radiating outward as necessary. The village has several children who go to school elsewhere, and who are welcome to attend.

Marketing Strategy

2 members taught 1 village school lesson every Friday in May 2000 at the ground (to engender familiarity & enthusiasm for club/cricket); others took Wednesday evening coaching sessions thereafter and engendered involvement from Towton, Barkston and Aberford.

Marketing Campaign

The Club has engendered further demand via various initiatives (e.g. Juniors Open Evening, distributing door-drops, providing free T-shirts and subsidised caps), and sustained it too (e.g. Juniors Fun Day, trips to day/night games).

Although the Club focused its efforts on marketing in 1999/2000 (i.e. to ensure it had some juniors to coach!), the Club now has 47 juniors, and therefore considers that marketing is no longer a priority area. [Besides, the best form of advertising/marketing is by word of mouth in playgrounds etc – and certainly this is how most new juniors now join.]

Demand management

The juniors section enjoys a high level of demand, in part because parents in the area trust and respect the coaches. This is because each must be both qualified and have undergone a full police-clearance check (for the avoidance of doubt), and because the coaches plan and run the section in a responsible way.

There is a need to ensure the Club does not over-stretch itself, however. In 2003, the Club's U-11s will have become its U-13s, and its U-13s its U-15s. If the Club is to have another U-11s side as well, the small size of the ground (and the fact that the Club will develop its land in 2004) will make it difficult to do so. This will require careful management.

Demand priorities

In general terms, juniors are ready for cricket by the age of 10. By the age of 12/13, other interests may have already taken over and obviated the desire to play cricket. Having an U-11s side is the key to having a juniors section, and indeed to ensuring interest and the long term survival of the game itself.

3. Supply-side issues

Generic roles within coaching staff/sub-committee

Coaches, parents and others have the following duties:

- School link (WK, RN)
- Door drops (WK, DH, SHa, DB)
- Fund-raising (WK, DB, DH)
- Coaching session planning (DB, WK, GD, GO, TB, PW)
- Fixtures (DB, WK, AG, PW)

- Coaching (DB, WK, GD, PW, TB, GO, DH/PH)
- Coaching assistance (DH, SHa, SHi, DC, RN, CS, CB)
- Umpiring/scoring (GW, JH, JH)
- Team management (RP, M/JD)

School Link

The Club has a formal link with the village school. The School gained specialist cricket tuition from members in May 2000, whilst the Club gained access to funding and parents. The Club seeks to accommodate the use of the ground by the school by way of a formal agreement.

Insurance

Club insurance covers juniors (if registered members) and third party liability. All coaches have ACC membership @ £15 per year (and therefore also have personal liability cover).

Registration

- Need to acknowledge juniors/parents' interest via introductory letter to parents (see App. A)
- Need to register all juniors and establish if any have serious medical conditions (see App. B)
- Need to provide parents with guidelines on the management of the juniors section (see App. C)
- Need for juniors to read ground rules (see App. D)

Communications

- Need to inform parents of match selection by way of slip to be handed to juniors (see App. E)
- The Club has a web-site so juniors/parents can follow developments, write match reports etc

Provision of qualified and police-cleared coaches

All coaches must undertake police clearance checks, ECB qualification courses and first aid courses. Section pays half of all related fees *provided that the aspiring coach:*

- pays remaining half himself/herself
- agrees to undertake police clearance check
- agrees to take/attend at least ten sessions the next year
- provides evidence of passing ECB coaching qualification course (e.g. certificate)

[NB: ECB course available on Friday evenings in October/November @ B. Spa or Headingley]

First Aid

The Club has a first aid poster and box in pavilion. It needs more first-aiders.

Grounds

The Club faces the following grounds problems in developing its juniors section further:

- small size of ground leads to staggered practice sessions (U-11s at 6.30pm; U-11s at 7.30pm)
- ground size and related arrangements obviates development of more teams (e.g. U-17s)
- small wicket with only 9 strips forces juniors to use 1 strip for matches and practices
- east-west facing wicket presents a safety hazard for batters facing setting sun
- no hard strip at side of ground for use as nets
- low bounce.

The Club therefore needs the following:-

- north-south facing wicket

- expansion/re-orientation of square to increase strips from 9 to 14 (with 4 for juniors only)
- capacity to accommodate joint U-11s/U-13s and U-15s/U-17s practices simultaneously
- permanent facilities for juniors (e.g. hard nets strip) with low maintenance costs.
- nets storage capacity
- non-permanent facilities (e.g. slip cradle)
- spring-rolling.

Finance

All juniors pay members' annual registration fee (£5) plus subscriptions for season (£5). Juniors section has its own account with NatWest (WK & DB & VR signatories; cheques made payable to Saxton CC Juniors).

Equipment and kit

Section has helmets, KWIK cricket kit and Lords Taverners bag for Under-11s. Need for U-15s kit (Lords Taverners bag?) and helmets. The Club has nets but lacks sufficient storage space for these at the ground.

Coaching sessions

Practices are split into U-11s (mainly KWIK cricket) and U-13s (mainly hard ball) Practices have staggered start times for U-11s (6.30-7.30pm) and U-13s (7.30-8.30pm), Weds. Coaches devise session formats (safety, composition, duration) every week There is always at least 1 coach per session, usually 2 or 3. Winter nets take place at the Lordswood Cricket Centre in March. Unsupervised practice can take place at ground (but cricket only)

Fixtures

Coaches stage sufficient games in line with "aims" (see section 1) Coaches stage fixtures with Club element and BBQ (e.g. Juniors Fun Day) Certain parents act as team "managers" to handle off-the-field matters (e.g. results, cancellations) The section is in the Wetherby & District Cricket Juniors League (WJL) Coaches select teams on basis of equal opportunities for all

Programme

Coaches devise programme of sessions, nets and matches prior to start of season Club Secretary encourages all members (inc. juniors) to "do their bit" for the Club Designated coaches provide cover for coaches unable to attend Club provides a Juniors Open Evening so juniors can see for themselves what cricket is like

Safety

Parents are responsible for the safe conduct of juniors to and from all sessions and events. Rain may cause the cancellation of some sessions/events, even if only a little wet. Only juniors deemed to have reached a proficient standard will graduate on to the hard ball. Coaches do not allow juniors to play on an injury.

Helping out

Need to engender the help of parents for key tasks (e.g. fixtures, door drops, events etc) Need to ask some parents to manage off-the-field match day matters (to let coaches to coach!) Need to guide juniors in helping out off-the-field (e.g. painting fence/pavilion) if coach present Need to enlist parents for coaching (NB: Ability and experience not essential, enthusiasm is).

Database and Networking (i.e. information, advice, support)

[NB: *There are about 70 junior sides in Wetherby Juniors League*]

Coaches receive ECB Information and copies of "Wetherby Coach"

Need to glean information on other clubs' coaching formats etc

Coaches attend meetings of WJL (e.g. AGM, annual dinner, pre-season briefing).

4. **Income**

Annual subscriptions @ £10 per junior p.a.

[NB: This covers indoor nets hire, match fees, coaches insurance cover etc.]

Grants (e.g. Selby DC, private trusts, Awards for All)

Grand Draw proceeds (Lords Taverners, Cricket Foundation etc)

Other (e.g. BBQ, Curry Morning as needed)

5. **Costs**

Police clearance checks @ £10 per coach

ECB coaching qualification course @ £45 per coach

Coach insurance @ £15 p.a. per coach

Kit @ £60 per KWIK cricket bag, £500 per Lords Taverners bag & £30 per helmet

Equipment @ £500 per Flicx cricket pitch & £400 per self-storage nets

Printing and postage costs (variable)

Indoor nets hire @ £15 per net (i.e. block-booking = £180 in total)

Ground renovation costs @ c.£9,500 (legal fees, planning permission for change of use from agricultural to recreational, enabling works, arboricultural management, leveling, fencing costs, access improvements, purchase of grass seed, hire of plant and machinery, balancing pond, specialist advice for square renovation, specialist labour as appropriate).

6. **Conclusion**

Although the Club has made considerable progress in setting up and running its juniors section, the small size and configuration of its current land holding is leading to problems and could even prevent the accommodation of the high level of demand for juniors cricket in Saxton.

The renovation of the ground (starting c. September 2003) provides an opportunity to put things right in respect of the foregoing for the long term.

APPENDIX A

Acknowledgement of Interest Form

SAXTON CRICKET CLUB

D Buck
17 Saxton Lane
Saxton
Tadcaster
LS24 9QD

Dear Parent

Thank you for your recent expression of interest in the juniors section of Saxton Cricket Club.

If you would like your child to play, please could you do the following:-

- Complete the attached registration form
- Return form to me with a cheque for £10 made payable to Saxton CC Juniors
- Read the attached Guidelines for Parents
- Give the attached Ground Rules for Juniors to your junior (and ensure he/she reads it!)

If you have any problems, please give me a call on 01937 557 800.

I look forward to seeing you at the ground

Yours sincerely

Dave Buck
Juniors Coach, Saxton Cricket Club

APPENDIX B

Juniors Registration Form

SAXTON CRICKET CLUB

JUNIORS REGISTRATION FORM

Name of Junior	
Date of Birth	
Age	
School	
Name of Parent/Guardian	
Home Address	
Post Code	
Tel number	
Medical/Special needs if any	

Regularly accessed e-mail address	
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Annual Subs (£10 cheque to Saxton CC Juniors) enclosed?	
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Signature of Parent/Guardian	
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Confidential

APPENDIX C

Guidelines for Parents of Juniors

SAXTON CRICKET CLUB

GUIDELINES FOR PARENTS OF JUNIORS

Background

Saxton CC's concern at the demise of coaching in schools etc. led to a resolution at its AGM in 1999 to help develop cricket at a grassroots level. Several club members ("the coaches") therefore undertook police clearance checks, ECB coaching courses, fund-raising events etc. This has led to the formation and development of Saxton CC Juniors ("the juniors section"). This section now has 7 ECB-qualified (and police clearance-checked) coaches, 47 juniors and 2 regular league sides (U-11s and U-13s).

Aims

The Club's juniors development plan (JDP) aims to provide coaching, facilities enjoyment and equal opportunities for all, and to develop juniors cricket in very gradual stages. In time therefore, the coaches aim to introduce juniors to the hard ball, stage more juniors matches and "feed" juniors in to senior sides (but only when juniors are ready to do so).

Registration

ALL JUNIORS MUST BE REGISTERED WITH THE CLUB. The Club holds a Juniors Open Evening early in the season for potential juniors to experience the juniors section first-hand. Thereafter, coaching is available to registered juniors only. Registration comprises completion of a standard form covering name, age, address etc. It also provides for any medical condition or special needs for coaches to be aware of. **Please** check/complete/return form (and attach subscription cheque) to Club Secretary Pete Western, 12 Nursery Way, Boston Spa, Tadcaster LS23 6PS.

Annual Subscriptions

The Club charges all juniors a standard £10 each year to cover subscriptions and essential costs (e.g. membership, indoor nets hire, junior match balls, coaches' insurance, coaching courses, ground maintenance etc). Parents must pay these by 1st February. This allows the coaches to book winter nets for the right number of juniors in April/March, and to plan for the season ahead. [NB: Due to the success and increasing popularity of the juniors section in recent years, the Club can no longer guarantee a place for any junior that approaches it after 1 February.] **Please** therefore send a cheque for £10 made payable to Saxton CC to our Club Secretary PW as outlined above. Any further donations welcome!

Coaching sessions

Coaching sessions occur at the ground at 6.30pm on Wednesdays from April to September, unless stated otherwise. The Club seeks to coach the U-11s at 6.30 to 7.30pm and the U-13s at 7.30 to 8.30pm. **Please** check "Fixtures List" for more details, and encourage catching practice at home.

Transportation

Parents are responsible for the safe conduct of juniors to and from all sessions and events. As a general rule, **please** ensure arrival of U-11s by 6.30pm and collection by 7.30pm, and U-13s by 7.30pm and 8.30pm respectively.

Rain

Rain may cause the cancellation of some sessions/events. As a general rule, if it is raining or wet underfoot, there will be no practice due to the increased risk of injury/discomfort. If rain occurs *during* practice however, the juniors will participate in quizzes etc in the pavilion. **Please** use your discretion.

Kit

Juniors should wear trainers, tracksuits and/or sweaters for practice sessions and matches (i.e. whites and boots desirable, but not essential). The colts bag donated by the Lords Taverners contains pads, boxes, gloves etc. **Please** provide your own kit if you see fit, especially jock straps and helmets. The Club recommends E&R Sports (opposite the swimming pool, Tadcaster) for this purpose.

Liquids

Cricket can be thirsty work. **Please** ensure your junior has a water bottle and knows how to use it!

Safety

The Club takes reasonable steps to ensure a basic level of safety (e.g. separate practice sessions for U-11s and U-13s; only juniors deemed to have reached a proficient standard to graduate on to the hard ball etc.)

Web site

The Club's website features fixtures, juniors match reports, juniors match cancellations and a (juniors) rogues gallery. It can be found at: www.saxton.play-cricket.com/home/home.asp **Please** contact the Club Secretary PW for further information and/or with juniors' contributions (e.g. match reports).

Helmets

The English Cricket Board (ECB) has a policy that all wicket-keepers and batsmen under 18 years must wear a helmet when a hard ball is in use. The Club does not accept any disclaimers to the contrary. The Club has bought 8 juniors helmets for compulsory use as appropriate (see earlier point entitled "Safety"). **Please** reinforce this message, and /or ensure other arrangements as you see fit.

Helping out

Setting up the juniors section and running the programme of events is a big undertaking for the coaches in their own time. The club appreciates the help and support of parents (e.g. coaching, door-drops, match refreshments), especially at events (e.g. BBQs) to raise funds and integrate juniors with seniors. **Please** ensure attendance, volunteer to help (e.g. scoring and umpiring) and "do your bit".

Team Managers

RP (558120) and JD (557178) will handle off-the-field matters (e.g. ground directions, cancellations, phoning in results) for the U-11s and U-13s respectively. **Please** contact them with match day queries.

Match Selection

The Club wants all its juniors to experience matches, and does not seek to select teams (or batting orders) on merit. Most matches will involve use of the hard ball, thereby limiting selection (e.g. 8 year olds will not normally play in such matches). In all matters of selection, the coach's decision is final. There will be no practice sessions when matches take place.

Injuries

Juniors must not play on an injury. This is because: a.) the injury will get worse; b) the junior will blame him/herself if the side lose; c) coaches would have to take responsibility for any subsequent harm.

Indoor nets

Winter nets will take place at the Lordswood Cricket Centre (Leeds Rd, Tadcaster). The annual subscription charge covers indoor nets. **Please** transport juniors accordingly.

Seniors matches

In addition to 2 (possibly 3 next year) juniors teams, the Club also runs 5 seniors sides - 1st XI, 2nd XI, Thursday Evening XI, Club XI (for friendlies) and an indoor 6-a-side team. The Club aims to feed

proficient juniors into these sides as/when appropriate. **Please** encourage juniors to watch these matches (and even bring some kit in case they are short or need a spare fielder!)

Grounds

Ground maintenance usually takes place on Wednesdays. Juniors may want to help out with odd jobs (e.g. painting the fence) and are welcome to do so, provided that they are over 11 years old and that one of the coaches is present to supervise. **Please** contact the Club Secretary/Juniors Coach for more details.

Unsupervised practice

Juniors are welcome to practice at the ground in their own time. However, they **must not** play on the square and they must not play other sports (e.g. football). **Please** re-enforce this message.

Coaching (and playing)

The Club has several qualified coaches, and would welcome more. Ability and experience are not essential, but enthusiasm is. The Club subsidises coaching courses and insurance cover for coaches. The Club is sometimes short of players, especially at harvest time. **Please** contact DB for more details.

AGM

The Club's constitution (as amended in 2001) allows all members (inc. juniors) to vote at the Club AGM (by proxy if necessary). A parent (1 only) may vote on behalf of the junior concerned. **Please** contact the Club Secretary for further details.

Meetings

The coaches hold regular meetings to discuss safety/selection issues, and the Juniors Coach is a member of the Club's Committee, to which he reports on juniors matters every month).

TV

Channel 4 does excellent coverage of major cricket matches, giving tips and advice to youngsters, and even provides a "jargon-buster" to explain some of the more obscure terms used in cricket (e.g. the flipper, the dipper, the ripper and the skipper!). **Please** encourage your junior to watch it.

Specialist Coaching

From time to time, and when resources allow, the Club will provide specialist coaching (on a one-to-one basis) for some - but not all - juniors that have special cricketing needs (e.g. wicket-keeping, leg spin). **Please** ensure that you are present during these sessions.

Lawnswood Cricket School

The Lawnswood Cricket School has indoor cricket nets, bowling machines and a professional coach, Steve Lawrence. The Club recommends all players book an individual coaching session with Steve. Prices are negotiable, but typically range from £10 for half an hour against the bowling machine with coaching (£7 without). **Please** call Steve directly on 01937 833 117 to book sessions accordingly.

Ground rules for juniors

Please give juniors this basic rules checklist and ensure they learn it off by heart!

Further information

For further information, contact DB (01937 557 714) or PW (01937 842 556).

APPENDIX D

Ground Rules for Juniors

SAXTON CRICKET CLUB

GROUND RULES FOR JUNIORS

REGISTRATION

You must be registered with the Club. This helps us to send information to your parents. It also helps us to be aware of any medical condition or special needs that you might have.

HARD BALL

You may only use a hard ball if a coach thinks you have reached a “proficient” standard.

KIT

You must wear a helmet if keeping or batting when a hard ball is in use.

You should bring a sweater and trainers to all matches and practice sessions.

PRACTICE SESSIONS

You should arrive at practice sessions by 6.30pm prompt (or 7.30pm if over-11s).

If it is wet or very rainy, there will be no match or practice session.

NETS (INDOORS AND OUTDOORS)

When in a net, you must always face the batter if returning to your mark to bowl.

You must never pop your head in to a net when it is in use.

MATCHES

You must arrive at matches by 6.15pm at the very latest (whether home or away).

Your parent(s) should contact team managers for directions to grounds and cancellations on match days.

UNSUPERVISED PRACTICE

You may use the ground in your spare time - but only for cricket.

You must not use the square if no coach is present.

You should practice catching a ball (at home) as much as possible.

HELPING OUT

You may help out with grounds and other duties if a coach is present.

INJURIES

You must report cricket-related injuries to coaches immediately. You must not play on an injury.

CONDUCT

You must act with good grace and dignity at all times.

You must accept the word of a coach or umpire as final.

If you swear or hit another junior, a coach will eject you from the ground and may not ask you back.

APPENDIX E

Juniors Selection Slip

SAXTON CRICKET CLUB

Dear Parent

.....has been selected to play for the Saxton CC Juniors' U-9s side against
..... on.....

Please ensure he/she is at the ground at..... by 6.15pm.

If there is doubt about the start of the match due to weather, please contact U-9s Manager Jackie Underwood (01937 557 146). If he/she is unable to play, please contact me ASAP.

Dave Buck
Juniors Coach
(01937 557 714)

.....

SAXTON CRICKET CLUB

Dear Parent

.....has been selected to play for the Saxton CC Juniors' U-9s side against
..... on.....

Please ensure he/she is at the ground at..... by 6.15pm.

If there is doubt about the start of the match due to weather, please contact U-11s Manager Ruth Peel (01937 558120). If he/she is unable to play, please contact me ASAP.

Dave Buck
Juniors Coach
(01937 557 714)

.....

SAXTON CRICKET CLUB

Dear Parent

.....has been selected to play for the Saxton CC Juniors' U-9s side against
..... on.....

Please ensure he/she is at the ground at..... by 6.15pm.

If there is doubt about the start of the match due to weather, please contact U-13s Manager Jane Dennison (01937 557 178). If he/she is unable to play, please contact me ASAP.

Dave Buck
Juniors Coach
(01937 557 714)