

Stewart's Melville College Club

Annual General Meeting – October 2021

Report of Cricket Club – Season 2021

For the second Covid affected cricket season matches were played with similar restrictions applying to matches for most part, ie no spectators, no teas supplied (bring your own or go without), frequent breaks for disinfecting hands and equipment, no post match bar facilities on grounds. Restrictions applying to international travel meant that again the club were without an overseas professional or the assistance of gap year students. Everyone associated with the club hopes we might be seeing the end of such interventions.

Despite all of the above, on the field a near normal programme of matches was followed for our four teams playing Saturday league cricket, the 1st XI in the midweek T20 Masterton Trophy and our Trojans XI providing cricket out with the league on mostly Thursday evenings.



Above – Mens 1st XI August 2021

In competitive terms all teams did enough to retain their league status, the 1st XI finished 8th out of 10 clubs in the East Premier League, the strongest club cricket in Scotland, the 2nd XI were 5th in East Division 2, the 3rd XI were 4th in East Division 6 and the 4th XI were 8th in East Division 7. Additionally our Womens team held their own in the upper reaches of the Scottish Womens Premier league which we had won in the previous – two years.

A huge programme of junior cricket was provided throughout all age groups from 5 to 8 (All Stars Cricket) to under 10 (Dynamos Cricket), under 12, under 14 and under 16. David Gibson is to be congratulated in using his sources to recruit sufficient coaches to cover all of this without the normal help of an overseas contingent.

In mens youth cricket Joe Newman was included in the Scotland under 19 squad v Cumbria in July, James Gordon made the Scottish under 17 squad and Harry Armstrong the Scottish under 15 squad. Harry Armstrong, Jamie Cain, Dan Burgess, and James Gordon played for Eastern Knights' winning team in the Under 17 District Championship.



Above – Harry Armstrong, Jamie Cain, Dan Burgess and James Gordon with District Championship medals

Several women and younger members of the club received representative calls during the season. Lucy Forrester-Smith, Emma Walsingham and Pippa Kelly played for the Scotland under 15 team. Iona Lowry, Molly Paton, Katherine Fraser and Emma Walsingham were called up for the Scotland under 17 squad to Play Yorkshire at the end of July. Subsequently seven of our women's team were included in the Eastern Knights under 18 squad of 12 to face the Western Warriors U18s at the end of August - Catherine Holland, Emma Walsingham (captain), Pippa Kelly, Iona Lowry, Emma Phipps, Molly Paton and Rosie Speedy. Beyond that Katherine Fraser and Katie McGill won international honours with the senior Scotland women's team.



Above – Womens 1st XI June 2021

At the other end of the club's age spectrum President Greg Bissett became only the third player in the club's history to pass 4000 runs for the club – it has taken some time but is some achievement when club's mostly play only one weekend match.

The cricket club's website contains a wealth of information both current and historical and can be viewed as www.stewartsmelvillecricket.com while anyone wishing to communicate on any matter referred to above or otherwise can Email stewmelcricket@gmail.com .

Officers for the season

President – Greg Bissett

Secretary – Euan Campbell, Treasurer – James Crispin

Junior cricket – David Gibson

1st XI captain – Steven Parker, 2nd XI captain – Rohan Kapoor, 3rd XI – Simon Edgar, 4th XI – Fraser Laidlaw.

Communications – Mark Allan