

## Chairman's report 2013 WDJCU AGM

It is a pleasure to produce my first report as chairman and not have to start with a complaint about the weather. This year was the best for a number of years and also coincided with fewer concessions albeit with fewer teams and combined teams in some of the leagues particularly the 15s. The combination of teams has in my opinion been a positive aspect as it has arguably produced stronger teams and better games, cut down on concessions and allowed more boys to play league cricket.

Keith Young's and Colin Dawson's reports adequately highlight the winners and runners-up in the various age-group leagues/B leagues, as well as the new Under 13 League Cup and my congratulations are added to the winning clubs and teams. However, special mention to West of Scotland Under 13s who achieved the unique distinction of a hat-trick of trophies with wins in the ECB, inaugural League Cup and Under 13 league.

Turning to cup competitions, the Frank Smith Trophy held over from 2012 was completed along with the 2013 competition. Congratulations to the 2012 winners Poloc who beat a strong Ferguslie team in the last over of the final and to the 2013 winners Clydesdale who beat Prestwick again in the last over. Thanks to Poloc CC the host club on both occasions. The national trophies saw an extra competition at Under 13 and Under 15 levels with the Scottish Cup being added to the present ECB competitions at those age groups. The ECB competitions saw Ayr and West representing the West district in these competitions with Ayr losing to Grange in the semi-finals of the Under 15s and West of Scotland doing the district proud by winning the Under 13 ECB competition by beating firstly Grange in the semi final followed by Largo in the final to become Scotland's representatives in the competition where they narrowly lost out to Wigton. The new Scottish Cup competitions again saw success achieved by a West district club in the Under 13s this time a young Clydesdale team doing the West proud with wins against Grange in the semi-final and Arbroath in the final both times with four overs to spare. Clydesdale were also the West District Under 15s and 18s representatives in the Scottish Cup but unfortunately lost in the semi-final of both competitions losing to Grange narrowly in the Under 15 competition and Carlton in the Under 18 competition. Congratulations to all semi-finalists and finalists but in particular congratulations to West and Clydesdale Under 13s.

Turning back to December 2012 and the Indoor Super 8s tournament was successfully held between Christmas and New Year the winners were Clydesdale at Under 12s and 15s and Ferguslie the Under 19s winners. Thanks to Tim Hart for again organising this, sponsors the Sports Council of Glasgow, Hutcheson's Grammar School, Colin Dawson for umpiring and Under 19s final scorer Gregor Preston-Jones. Beyond the club scene there were a number of Area, District and Western Warriors games and Tim Hart's and Keith Young's reports will cover those areas. However, congratulations to South Glasgow on winning the Under 14 Inter-Area competition and North Glasgow on winning the Under 12 competition. The Under 12 competition

was disappointing from the point of view of lack of games being completed. Congratulations to the South Glasgow area on organising a short tour of the Lancashire for their Under 14 team winning both games and taking in a Lancashire v Yorkshire 20/20 game.

There were a number of players who represented Scotland at various age groups. Congratulations are due to the successful Scotland Under 19 squad who won the one available slot for the Under 19 World Cup in the UAE and in particular to the West junior players involved Niall Alexander (Dumfries), Michael English (Ferguslie), Lyle Hill (Clydesdale), Gavin Main (Uddingston), Abdul Sabri (Drumpellier) and Andrew Umeed (West of Scotland).

At Under 17 level Andrew Umeed captained the team and other West representatives included Niall Alexander, Mitchell Rao (Prestwick), Niall Flack (Greenock) and Hamza Tahir (Ferguslie).

At Under 15 level Shujaa Khan (Ayr) captained the National team in the European Championship with the other West representative being Adil Ghaffar from Clydesdale with the team losing their last game to Ireland to deny them top spot.

A number of West juniors also represented Scotland Women's Under 17s and/or Scotland women, including Lynne Dickson (West of Scotland), Nadia Wheeler (Ferguslie) and Abtaha Maqsood (Poloc).

Congratulations to all West representatives in the National Teams.

Regarding off-field matters, a big thanks to our main sponsor, The Trophy Centre, and to Lords International for their continued support of the Cricket Scotland Academy here in the West, as well as the Western Warriors.

Regarding discipline there have been few discipline issues to deal with this year, but it would be worthwhile for Junior Convenors to remind junior players on a regular basis that with the increase of social media websites comes more responsibility and players must be aware of the consequences of inappropriate posts on these websites.

The one disappointing aspect for me was the withdrawal of certain clubs from leagues during the early season and the inability of clubs to fulfil fixtures at certain age groups particularly in one of the Under 11 sections and one team in particular struggling to fulfil away fixtures at Under 18 level. However, on a positive note the number of concessions is down drastically and this is a big plus which has come about with teams combining sensibly, being more sensible with entering leagues and an improved summer in terms of weather. Can I encourage Junior Convenors again to think sensibly about which competitions to enter (bearing in mind travel requirements) and if cancellation is unavoidable please have the courtesy to advise the opposing team as early as possible.

In closing a word of thanks to all Junior Convenors and team managers for their efforts throughout the year ensuring that junior cricket in the West thrives and to the WJDCU committee members for their various contributions to the smooth running of the WJDCU in the last 12 months. In particular a huge thanks to Keith for all his efforts in terms of organising the leagues, running of the website and in his role as Director of the ACademy, Colin for his work as Treasurer and organisation of the B leagues, Tim for his organisation of the RDC, district and Area cricket and finally Richard Rutnagur who is stepping down after six years of serving on the WJDCU Committee as vice-chairman.

Thank you.

Dougie Johnstone