

Benwell Hill Under 9s Season Review – Mark Wright

This year was a very interesting year for our u9s. On paper we had less numbers than we have had since COVID, however the ones we had were quality!! I think we suffered massively from football not really ending anymore in the summer meaning a lot of kids (including one of my own 😊) had to pick football or cricket.

We had 6 tournament days booked in for this summer, one clashed with a Newcastle United game so got cancelled, 4 got rained off and the one we finally played in September we smashed! Not losing a game. It was quite sad in some respects as I think this year's 8 aside team could of shown us that they were one of the best groups we have had at this age.

Tuesday training was also largely affected by rain, seemed to only rain on a Tuesday at Denton Bank, however the sessions we did have were done with great energy and determination. And it was great to see them all get better every week.

It was fantastic to see Vihaan and James K both get a chance to play some u11 cricket late on in the season which was a brilliant experience for them both.

Next year we also send Josh and Mussa to the u11s and fully expect them to hit the ground running!

Thanks again to our fantastic coaches Andrew and Ellie who helped me throughout the season and are both fantastic with the kids.

Hopefully next year we will see a lot more sign ups transferring from our All Stars programme to u9s and the sunshine more so we get the chance to show just how good our young kids are!

The **Under 9s Player of the Season** winner is **Vihaan**, from a kid who started in our All Stars programme aged 6 he has developed into a quality cricketer. He bowls it beautifully, bats very sensible and wise above his years, he is quality in the field and always backs his teammates, he is a phenomenal talent who didn't look out of place in u11 cricket! well done Vihaan!

