

## **Final Report for the Mason Trust Report - Jacob Rhodes**

After a very successful winter of indoor training followed by a brilliant outdoor cricket season, I would like to thank the Mason Trust for the funds they awarded to me. I have been able to access the best coaches and facilities in Norfolk to help me significantly improve my game as a cricketer. I attended the Red Mist Cricket Academy over the winter and practiced and progressed via the help of cricket coaches Chris Brown (Level IV Coach and ex-Lancashire, Derbyshire, Glamorgan, Essex and Somerset, and Norfolk 3-day Captain in 17/18), Steve Goldsmith (Level III Coach and ex-Kent, Derbyshire and Norfolk), and Jason Reynolds (Level II Coach and Norfolk CCC player).

I am very pleased to say that I was able to retain my County place in the Norfolk U17 squad (which covered the age range of 15 - 18 this season) and had a good season in the team. Also, I played regularly for Topcroft's 1<sup>st</sup> XI in Division 1 of the Norfolk Cricket Alliance and thoroughly enjoyed captaining Topcroft's new U17 team in the South Norfolk Cricket League to second place (missing out on the title by only 3 points). I also played in all of Topcroft's U19 games to take the runner's up medal in the Norfolk Junior Cup this season.

Over the past 12 months, my batting has really improved as over the winter I worked very hard at the Red Mist Cricket Academy increasing my range of shots, fine tuning my 'better' shots and developing a wider knowledge of batting in different situations. I felt more confident as a batsman and was able to use shots to achieve different aims with patience and style over the summer. This improvement is evident as I scored 759 runs (including six half centuries and my highest score of 92no) in only 25 innings for my Club. My timing of the ball and shot selection has benefited from using the equipment at the Academy, such as the bowling machines and sidearm. Throughout the cricket season, I performed better under pressure and was able to make instant decisions when batting, while maintaining control.

My bowling has significantly improved also. At the start of this year's winter training I had very limited spin bowling ability as I had no previous experience of bowling spin. Over the winter at the Academy, I was able to slowly progress my action and ball delivery. Now, I am able to bowl with much more accuracy and experience. I have developed my ability to bowl spin in the right areas to different left- and right-handed batsmen. My bowling is a work in progress as I am always aiming to improve, both in the future during the outdoor cricket season and now over the upcoming winter. Nevertheless, I have really improved my spin bowling skill and the ability to take wickets under pressure. I took 13 wickets for my Club this season and am very excited to take more next year.

My fielding improved over the winter also, as I was able to use equipment and undergo drills at the Academy to help practice and perfect my catching, stopping and throwing. I felt more confident in the field during the summer when playing for my Club and County as I was sure

about my ability and knew I could perform well in the field for the team. I was the leading catch taker at my Club, taking 13 catches.

I would like to say another massive thank you to the Mason Trust; your funding has allowed me to become a better player and help pursue my aim to play the highest level of cricket possible in the future.

## Photographs

Topcroft Cricket Club's first team line up after the last match of the 2017/18 season on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> August 2018 confirming the teams' third place in Division 1 of the Norfolk Cricket Alliance.



**Jacob Rhodes** - second from the right on the back row. I contributed 46 runs to this game as one of Topcroft CC's opening batsmen.

**Jacob Rhodes** - presented at Topcroft Cricket Club's Awards Ceremony for the 2017/18 Season with a trophy for 'Young Player of the Year', and the David Reeder Cup for 'U15 Player of the Year'.



Jacob G. Rhodes  
28<sup>th</sup> September 2018