

## Russell Todd



I am 17 years old and am currently studying A Levels in Biology, Business Studies, Psychology and Physical Education at Bartholomew School, in the view of going to University to study Sport Science or Physiotherapy.

I have been playing both Cricket and Rugby from a young age and am deeply passionate towards both of the games, representing the School's First Teams in both sports as well as playing Rugby for Witney RFC (Under 17's) and Cricket (Under 17's and for the Men's First XI) at my local side Freeland.

I had never followed much interest in Umpiring until early May last season when a nasty slip on unplayable conditions left me with a torn groin and unable to play for the rest of the season. From here I began umpiring to help out Freeland and here was where I met Mick Warren. He shares a great enthusiasm towards umpiring which rubbed off on me and I thoroughly enjoyed standing at the middle for the rest of the season.

It was through Mick I found out about the IICUS Umpires Course, and which he helped run. I took up this course which is the equivalent of a B-TEC (on top of my A Levels) and have greatly enjoyed it. We have finished the classroom/theory side of the course and now I just can't wait to get outside and put it all in practice and to gain the experience needed to pass the undergoing assessments as well as putting me in good stead to umpire for the rest of my life.

The Freeland Under 13 Girls side won both the Oxfordshire County round and the South & West Regional round to reach the Girls National Final's Day at Bath which was played on the 19<sup>th</sup> April. I went down as an official umpire, representing Freeland Cricket Club at the tournament. I stood in for 7 rounds of matches and got to appreciate a high standard of Girl's Cricket, whilst umpiring for teams from Middlesex, Northants, Wales, Yorkshire and Essex.

Match 1= Wanstead (Essex) vs Bath

Match 2 = Loddington and Morsley (Northants) vs Whitland (Wales)

Match 3 = Headstone Manor (Middlesex) vs Wanstead

Match 4 = Whitland vs Loddington and Morsley

Match 5 = Wanstead vs Whitland

Match 6 = Loddington and Morsley vs Bath

Match 7 = Wanstead vs Beverley Town (Yorkshire)

A great day was had by all and more importantly I gained some good great experience whilst enjoying the weather, and the high levels of skill and team spirit were very admirable.