

Hooper excited by young Griffins all-rounder

HAVING made his breakthrough to first-team cricket this season, young Dan Le Messurier has been tipped to become a senior Guernsey player of the future.

Still just 14, the teenager has cemented a spot in the Griffins team in the Evening League Division One, despite only making his bow earlier in the campaign.

He is also playing for Miton Optimal in the Premier Weekend League, while the talented all-rounder continues to work his way up through the Guernsey representative age groups.

Set to be a key part of the Guernsey team in next month's ICC European U15 Division One tournament, his coach for that team, Dave Hooper, is delighted with his progress.

Hooper is also Le Messurier's captain for Griffins.

'The fact that Dan has acclimatised so well to Division One cricket, especially considering his age, is brilliant to see,' said Hooper.

'His bowling is easy to set a field to as a captain because he doesn't give anything away, bowls stump-to-stump and makes it difficult for the batsmen to score off him.

'Dan is also a really good batter and he has always had talent, all the time from when I remember seeing him hit his first 50 on his Guernsey debut against Ipswich for the under-11s.

'I definitely see him as a batting all-rounder going forward and there is no question that he is a Guernsey player of the future, assuming he continues to work hard.

'Dan works hard on his game, listens to advice, loves his cricket and is a great team player, really good to have around the dressing room.

'He, like others his age, will probably play around 40 or 50 matches this season at various levels and that can only be beneficial to him.'

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Coach Dave Hooper

Another of Le Messurier's team-mates at Griffins is Rob Thomson, who is also the club's secretary, and he is also impressed with what he sees in the youngster.

The teenager has also impressed in Griffins' B team in Evening League Division Three.

'Dan is half-way through his third season with Goldridge Griffins,' said Thomson.

'He predominantly plays for the B team in Division Three but 2014 has also presented Dan the opportunity to play amongst our senior island cricketers in Division One with the A team.

'Despite the call-up to the A team being very well deserved, such a step up at such a young age could easily have daunted Dan.

'He has however taken it all in his stride and even more impressively already has a couple of Division One wickets to his name.

'His 2014 form has also earned Dan call-ups to the Miton Optimal first team and his performances in the longer format of the game have been typically excellent too.

'Dan's admirable temperament and clear love of the game will stand him in good stead as he progresses through the island representative squads in the years to come.

'I, as well as the rest of the Griffins family, look forward to playing a part in his continued development.'