

HARD *BALLS*!!

Springfield Cricket Club Newsletter

The sound of cricket bag thrown through the attic hatch. The smell of oils, liniments and Deep Heat. The noise of backs and knees cracking back into place and the shoulders being unwound. It must be the start of a new season of cricket! And to welcome SCC into the 2015 season the popular *Hard Balls* has returned.

Each edition will have updates, news, events and notices as well as some more light hearted views on the season so far. All are welcome and indeed encouraged to contribute! Just contact Paul or Jimmy for details.

Enjoy and we hope you like it!

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- Rallying call from the Club Captain!
- Seasons thoughts from the senior team captains
- Colts team section
- Crib, Striders, Spring Chicks, Tigers
- Kendo Quote of the Month
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- Mazza's Amazing Facts

President John

And his coats of many colours

Hi everyone, welcome to the new cricket season. I have had a wonderful first year as your President and I have revelled in your many successes. The cricketing "bar" is now raised very high and we have great hopes for this new season. In our great little clubhouse the bar remains unaltered but behind the scenes much work continues to maintain and improve our remarkable facilities.

Recently I have seen many young families coming to the club; something that has been sadly lacking for a while - this is great to see. Our clubhouse is open seven days a week - the more support we get, the more resources we can plough back into our cricket and our facilities.

Springfield's colts represent the future of the game and our continuing progress. Their swelling numbers within our league teams shows how successful, skilled and enthusiastic they all are.

"Hard Balls": this newsletter was first produced some years ago by John Hume, a great club friend. I am delighted to see it return. Please do give your thoughts and ideas to our editor.

I salute you all, and I hope we meet on both home turf and maybe in foreign climes; perhaps on tour in Romania, maybe on Russ's 6's tournament in Croatia, or even at the far-flung pre-season Yorkshire tour.

Skip Speaks!

The Club Captains

Rant:



Right, its that time of the year again,...., locate the kitbag (the smell emanating from the loft a clear giveaway), check the whites still fit (easy after a few of Clarky's fitness sessions), a couple of twirls of old faithful followed by a flowing cover drive in front of the mirror..yep still got it, and on to what we hope will be another glorious summer.

Firstly we welcome back the five captains who brought us unprecedented success in 2014. However, unlike the ECB, the hierarchy at SCC look dimly on poor results and back in November Patter's was marched into the boardroom and unceremoniously dispatched.

So after a prudent search (for a man with large enough mode of transport to fit 7 colts in) we welcome Tony Ashurst, who has taken up the 4th team reigns (meaning two translators will still be required at selection meetings) and is taking on the unenviable task of forming a winning team out of a few injury prone geriatrics and a flock of spotty, noisy and generally fairly annoying little herberts....good luck with that.

On to a couple of changes on a Saturday, the league in their infinite wisdom have decided that all games will start at 1pm, (please take note Cooky/Shahen!!) obviously to make it that wee bit harder for anybody working, or with plans in the morning. Secondly the maximum overs bowlers are allowed has fallen from 12 to 10. Speaking strictly as a batsman I think this is a great idea. Getting the chance to whack the 5th or 6th bowler everywhere sounds like enormous fun, on the other hand Dancey's comment was along the lines of 'utter rollox' and 'clucking batsman's game'..can't please everyone I suppose!!!

Sunday's see us entering the newly formed local Warsop League to add to our NECL commitments giving us two very full fixture lists. Both sides will be jammed packed full of the best and brightest (not sure about the latter) young talent we have but they will need guidance, and I urge all seniors to get behind our skippers and make themselves available as often as possible. On top of this we are also in the Warsop midweek T20 league and should have 6/7 games in the shorter format.

This year senior nets will be going back to a Friday night, it would be great to see a full turnout getting ready for battle the following day. Afterwards there will be grub and a few beers on offer and hopefully a couple of games of colts cricket to watch out on the field.

Talking of grub, Mrs Vince and Mrs Clark and Mrs Powell have done a great job with the tea's the last couple of years but there are still a few spare dates on the rota, as well as Sunday's. This is one of the things such as bar duty after game, where if everyone just helps out once a year everything runs smoothly.

Last year also saw people conjuring up their specialty dishes after a Saturday game, notable feeds included Mazza's pulled pork, Troy's chilli and a fantastic curry from Mr and Mrs Mani, it would be great if a few more people signed up to create a masterpiece so we can be well fed before whatever antic's the evening might hold...maybe Mr Durrant's '5 bean salad' could make another appearance!!! Farting heck...

Whilst mentioning Paul, he has now taken on the social calendar and we have plenty planned for this year, starting with a race night this Saturday(28/3). We have plenty of other social events planned, a new interactive fantasy league coming soon, packed Presidents week and all culminating with our 55th anniversary on Sat 10th October at the county ground.

Just finally, annual subscriptions are now due and will be a ridiculously cheap £30 up until the night of the pre season players meeting (and curry) on Saturday 4th April...after that they start climbing rapidly so I suggest if you can't pop down before wander down that night and get them paid.

That's about all from me for the time being, see you all soon and bring on a bountiful new summer.

Cheers Jim

First Team Review



By Springfield's Resident Yorkie

I do hope all members of the club have wintered well and are chomping at the bit for the upcoming season.

2014 was such a special year for the club and will take some matching although I am confident that with some hard work and dedication we can scale those heights once more, the younger players will come back stronger and hopefully have learnt a great deal and the older players well have got older but as they say class is permanent!! The first game is less than a couple of months away now and it was great to be around the lads once more at our first pre season training on Monday in the warmer climate of Boswell's School, (I think someone left the heating on) A good turn out for the first session and I hope to see more faces in the coming weeks.

Once again we will be making the trip up north mid April to play a couple of friendlies and enjoy a couple of team bonding drinking sessions hopefully "The Legend" aka Dancey can drag himself off the back seat and participate! On the Friday we play Anston in what promises to be a 20/20 thriller, a small ground where runs flow freely along with a warm welcome and plenty of ale promises to make it a great day/night. After a disappointing result last year we will be going ALL OUT to win!!! Earlier in the week I had a call from the gambling trading standards investigating a strange pattern of events on a betting market which happened to be Anston CC -vs- Springfield CCC, they reported substantial winning bets being placed ourselves to which I could not answer and if anything I explained we will be trying our best but last year we got beat fair and square, at this time I noticed a text from James Clark saying that he couldn't make it up until Saturday morning to which the board accepted this as an explanation to the large bets being placed!!!!

Saturday we visit my old club Kiveton Park, once again a warm welcome will await and it is always great personally to go home, Times have been tough recently at Kiveton and looking back this has been the case since relegation from the Notts Premier league but they survived relegation last season which will have brought confidence, best we don't forget that winning is a good habit which we demonstrated so brilliantly last season, I am unsure how strong a side we will face as a couple of key players have left for pastures new but we will be greeted by a young South African Pro whom I am told chucks it down at 80mph (if your unsure how quick that is I would think twice as quick as Mazza) so after a skinful on Friday it could get interesting!! I would be lying if I said that the results don't matter as we play each and every game to win but our aim will be to do the basics right and progress so we are primed and ready to go for the first game of the season against Little Baddow.

Springfield Fantasy Cricket is *BACK!*

New players, new rules and a great new host web site. All Senior players available for selection (including me!)

Please see the club website for more details. But HURRY! The season starts soon

Frostys Forum

Views from the Second Team

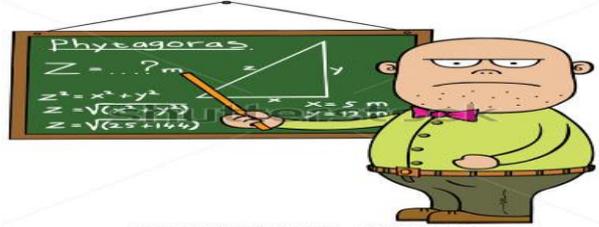
The second team had an outstanding season last year, comfortably winning division 3 thanks to outstanding individual performances week in week out from every single team member.

Next season in division 2 will prove more difficult, but given the players we have available to us I am confident that we can continue on from last season and even challenge for another league promotion! Also, the 2s & 3s have a friendly arranged against Chelmsford's 2s & 3s on Saturday April 25 at Chelmer park (exactly a week before the first league game), please let either myself or Vinnie know if you are interested in playing...

Lastly, I thought we generally conducted ourselves quite well on the field, however other clubs perhaps didn't see things the same way when awarding their sporting marks! I'm sure the rest of the club would agree, a poor showing from the second team in the sporting marks league table last season, so let's try and improve on our position of 117 out of 118 teams this coming season - at least we weren't last overall nor in our division; as Rayleigh 2s took that title. Maybe this was through great captaining that we avoided last position, or maybe it was because the Powell brothers missed a few games; helping to bring our average up! Just kidding. Frosty

Vinny, the Nearly Man

Counting was never his strong point...



“98, 99.....B*gger!”

3rd Team Views

An unbelievable season last year , I'm very much looking forward to finally getting that elusive 100 Ha ha!!

After winning Div 5 , playing in Div 4 will be much harder for us as a 3rd team but I'm hoping with the strong team of players we can at least be in the top half !! Think it will be a very successful season.

Once again Mrs Vince and Ellie will doing as many teas as possible , and Josh will always be around with a bat & ball , football or even losing a kite in the trees!!

Following what Brooksy and the 1st team did last year we will be having a man of the match after every game .

Cheers Vinny

Mazza's Amazing Facts!

Did you know? Because he didn't!



This editions subject is:

RAIN

It comes from the clouds

Thanks Mazza, more next time!

EVENTS and NOTICES

- **COLTS DAY July 12th.** All colts and family members welcome for a full day of colts activities
- **Presidents Week,** Starting with a Sunday 2's NECL league game (20/20) on Wednesday 15th July and more 20/20 on 16th and 17th before games over the weekend including a tri-series 20/20
- **SCC 55th Anniversary Dinner,** October 10th 2015 and the Essex County Ground Premier Suite
- All events and notices are available as usual from the club website and now also available on:
 - **FaceBook**
 - **Twitter**

Eh Up! Its t'Tony's View from Silly Point Springfield Sharks Bite



As the newly appointed Saturday 4th EI Capitan, I am proud to be associated with such a valiant squad. But, I am starting to understand the overwhelming pressures and torment that my predecessor had to endure and overcome week in week out!

I would therefore like to humbly thank "Patters" for all his help so far. He has graciously provided me with his own valuable insight from last season; I would never have believed that there is so much to be done by the local cricket club team captain, who managed to prop up the league. It's amazing the level of commitment to All the Pre-Season tactics, Team Evaluation, Who to Play & Where, the mind simply boggles, can you imagine the hours spent trawling over the statistics and averages of passed seasons? All of this whilst stood with a Rosie complexion from several pints of Adnams at the club bar.

Much can be made from the positive suggestions made by the Ex captain, especially the continuation of bribes from senior players to secure preferred fielding positions (Cookie) Just living the Dream

My own personal thoughts on the forthcoming season are particularly shallow and less calculated; being a typical Lancastrian the opposition will get a proper Dick-in at every opportunity, with major sledging and constant Northern advice, this constant approach should rub off on the rest of the team players to focus on a winning season..

Whilst reflecting on all of the previously mentioned, One single question keeps coming back to haunt me, Should I really let Gazza do the team Teas. I am open to suggestions, but confirm that the jury is still out on that one!!!! Up the Red Rose

Bryn's Babble

The Sunday Firsts Speak

2015 sees the Sunday 1st XI playing the top flight of the NECL, 20/20 competition (of which we are the self-proclaimed champions having been the only team to show up on a damp finals day) and also joining the Warsop Sunday league (which will also be using the 20/20 kit). We have Fixtures most weeks and with the introduction of a few youngsters from the ex-mobile matchplay and some more senior players, I am hopeful we can hold our own, on some stunning grounds with delightful teas.

Kendo's Quote of the Month!



"Nets? I don't need nets!"



Doctor Warleys Injury Report

- No new reports as yet, given the season hasn't started
- But preparations are under way for hamstrings, knees, back and ankle injuries by ball one



Captain Courageous Comments

Pre Season view of the Sunday 2s

Well! Here we are again, another season another chance to gaze in awe at the skill and fitness levels of the Sunday 2s! I am very please and honoured to be leading my motley crew of reprobates, codgers, lippy kids and mad dads into another season in the NECL. And what a season it promises to be after gaining "promotion" (well, we did go up a league so that counts in my book!) to division 4 with new opponents and challenges ahead of us, not to mention some extended travel to some of the more salubrious places this fine county has to offer (sadly still not a patch on the Garden of England where all the best cricketers come from!)

Many of the team have wintered well, some hibernating and stocking up on nuts and berries, others sticking to the Adnams Diet recommended by the best doctors and sports psychologists. We have also had excellent turn out for the Winter nets and I feel we are fit (errr.....) and ready for the new season!

We have retained the majority of last years team which means another chance to watch Sir Garfield Nightingale (aka The Gazzelle) in action in the field, taking those worldie catches that he is so famous for. Also back are the Southwell clan who this year are after world domination, not just NECL! Kendo retains the gloves for another season of wisdom, advise and cheerful banter, Lucky Alan and his multitude injuries, Shan who can now converse with you all perfectly (if you are Sri Lakan). And least I forget, I am again backed by my every present, dependable and sane vice captain Andy who I hear has grown a few more inches on his Barnet. We have also captured what could be a great new Sri Lakan, Raj, who in the nets has been smashing everything into the next century – could be a good shout for Fantasy League! (and works in the Offie next to my house, so he is in!)

We should also see a few more of the younger players coming through and playing a bigger part in the season, particularly Jamie who looks a yard faster, Mat who looks a few mils taller, Jacob who is likely to be playing for the 1s and Will and his dad Paul will feature much more this year I hope

As well as the normal league games we keep our usual friendlies, including a 20/20 tournament for Presidents Day and our "test" match against Easton on August Bank Holiday (Gazza bring your calculator!). Not forgetting the big Eastern Europe tour in September.

All in all I am excited about the season ahead and hope we maintain the winning ways but more importantly we go out with the right Sunday 2s attitude of smiling, enjoying and drinking!

Roll on 2015!!

CC

Kiddies corner

A guide to SCC young cricketers.

Colts (u16's)....these are very small people who regularly play senior cricket when our injury prone colleagues (known locally as the unreliable b*****) decide to stay in bed. They inspire great jealousy in their team mates as they don't pay full subs and aren't required to do bar duty!!

(u13's).... these are even smaller than the average colt, they do nearly the same job, but don't whinge as much if you ask them to get the boundary flags in.

Babies...These are tiresome little things that stop some chaps from playing cricket!!

We have just completed our indoor pre season at Boswells School on a Friday night. We have seen upwards of 80 sprogs between the ages of 5 and 16 practicing over a 3 hour period. Once we move outside after Easter holiday's this figure can sometimes double!!

This year our development (starters and whippersnappers) and U9's squads will be practicing on a Monday evening. (5-6pm the former and 6-7.30pm the latter).

Tuesday evening will be U11's 6-8pm, Weds U13's 6-8pm and Thursdays U16's 6-8pm.

Annual colt subscriptions are £20 and due now.

We have many promising kids at the club some of whom have been selected to represent their age groups in district and county squads for the upcoming season, but looking at the numbers that will soon be descending on us we need help in providing the best practice possible. With this in mind it would be tremendous if every senior player in the club could start giving a little bit back. There will be a practice rota going up soon and we would like everybody to get involved. If all our senior players could help out at just a couple of sessions throughout the season we would be in a fantastic shape to improve the standard of coaching, you might really enjoy it and will find that some of them are easily bribed as to not give you out LBW on a Saturday...On the other hand you might find you can't stand the little blighters, this is also good knowledge to have as you move forward with your lives!!

Most of you came through our colts section and it is the envy of many, long may it continue. (more help will guarantee that)

Cheers, **Jim and Paddy**

Round The Bend

With The Spring Chicks!

2014 was Spring Chicks Rounders team's best season so far. We finished joint 3rd in our division, having won 5 out of 10 matches, an excellent result! Yo Yo's won our division, having won 9 out of 10 games, but to our credit the only game they lost was against us.

Also worth mentioning, Bottle Hall (in the 1st division) won the league over all. They were also the team that knocked us out of the cup/plate competition, BUT in that cup/plate match, although they beat us by loads of Rounders, we did manage to get them all out in both innings which I think was a real achievement! Well done to everybody that took part last season and may the fun continue in 2015.

Spring Chicks will always welcome new members, so if any WAGs or mums (like me!) would like to get fitter by joining our 'just for fun' practice sessions on Thursday evenings from 6.30pm (starting after Easter) and maybe join the team for league games, then please get in touch.

Jennie Prudence 07505111771

Kings Of Cribbage with Ken Eddy

Manuel Pellegrini, Colin Short. Not two names you would normally have in the same sentence, but they have a lot in common this year. Both need a miracle to deliver the league title in the last few weeks of the season. So what went wrong?

Colin had the same squad available to him this year, but is his heart really still in the job?

For the second season he spent over a month in Australia and his results week to week have been poor for some years.

There have been other problems with a LARGELY overweight, ageing group of players.

Dave Watson has started bringing his own crib board with him to matches, leaving team mates wondering if his eyesight is failing!

John Weatherley went down with cramp in one game (could he get up ed.), Mark Pattison went on a West Indian cruise, missing several important games and Dave Howell after moving house didn't have the commitment to travel just 100 miles a night to attend matches...

There is still the cup to play for...but maybe the squad need freshening up and as for the man at the top, is it time for Colin to fall on his sword?

Yours cheerfully (really? Ed) **Kendo**

Strolling On With The Springfield Striders



Springfield Striders have now been at the Cricket Club for two years and we have been made most welcome. We have tried to integrate ourselves into the cricket club's activities and this has been reciprocated by the club at our quiz nights etc.

We were formed 30 years ago and bumbled along for a few years with 30 – 50 members, which then rose to 100 for a few years and now we boast an adult membership of over 300. We are probably the top road running club in the county and currently have 20 county champions at various distances.

Many of our runners have represented Essex in both road, cross country and fell running over the years. We've had a couple of internationals as well.

We are however not an elitist club and strive hard to be inclusive encouraging all our members to improve and enjoy themselves.

We run a beginners course every year starting in April at which the main aim is to get people to run 5km comfortably. Further details are available on our website www.springfieldstriders.org.uk

With all the success of the cricket club last season and our continuing good form there is a great buzz at the clubhouse. Long may it continue.

Kevin Wright

Springfield Tigers.



Springfield CC is one of the leading clubs in Essex when it comes to promoting cricket for children with disabilities.

We have been supporting all our wonderful local special needs schools, Columbus School , Columbus College , Thriftwood School and their new College with level 2 coaches promoting cricket.

This then leads into a chance to play competitive cricket via our Springfield Tigers Disability Team. The age range last year was from 6 to 22 years old.

The kids have been coached throughout the winter at the Melbourne sports hall and beginning on Friday 17th April will start outside at Coronation Park , 5pm-6.30pm.

Last year we competed in the Essex disability league where we finished runners up.

The Tigers are once again RARIN to go this season and in the first competition of the year were outright winners.

The SCC Tigers welcome all potential new cricketers to come and play competitive cricket, boys and girls, totally free of charge.

Come and join our cricketing Tigers.

Anybody who's interested please contact Ken Godridge on 01245 257594.