



## 2019—Dates for your Diary

04 May - First League Games

16 June - Charity T20 Day

21 July—Presidents Day

31 August—Players Supper

## Fantasy Cricket

The SCC Fantasy League is back up and running for the 2019 season. Entry costs £5 per team, you can enter as many teams as you wish, but only 1 per email address.

Lots of changes this year, Martin will now cost you £45 million (bargain), and you can buy our Chairman for the overpriced value of £500,000.

100 players to choose from, so plenty of variety of offer.

## TJ & Co Looking Sharp!



## President Macrae—State of the Union Address

I extend a big welcome to everyone as we commence our 2019 cricket season in which I wish ALL our teams every possible success.

In the summer last year, 'The Corra' held a wonderfully successful Farleigh Charity Day, resulting from which over £2000 was raised - a brilliant effort by so many.

President's Day - the name is a misnomer! I do nothing but turn-up in a loud suit and enjoy myself whilst everybody else works frantically - thank you all.

2018 was a great all-round year with outstanding SCC league-winning teams in the Premier and Division 8: It was a delight for me to be able to once again celebrate with the lads at the subsequent league dinner.

Whilst Springfield as a club did not tour overseas this year, many, including myself, travelled to Brno in the Czech Republic where Comrade Russ had arranged a cricket tournament. Our lads played with, and supported North Weald, whom I was delighted to see win the competition. This September, SCC returns to the International Circuit where it will once again be playing at the Balkan Bash - this year in Belgrade, Serbia. I will be there and I wish Springfield their third competition victory.

Two of our long-standing Management Committee members stood down this year - Trevor Johnson and Mark Pattison, both of whom I have known well for 40 years. Thanks guys, you have served the club valiantly and I know you will continue to support us for many years to come.

To ensure the club's notable Eastern European profile, I was delighted to join almost a dozen club ambassadors sojourned to Skopje in Macedonia this March. Being over twice the age of most, it was great to see such mixing and support throughout that trip.

So, the season is upon us. May all our club members, from the youngest to those even older than me (!) enjoy the year and enjoy success, but please remember that the club needs your help just as much off the field as it does on, so that we can maintain and improve on not only our cricket but our facilities, amenities and services.

**John Macrae**

President (EP)



## Brooks Keeps It Short

Another season beckons and after regaining the title last season confidence is high within the club.

It is key that we hit the ground running from ball one come May 4th, Our objective will be to set the standard for the other sides in the league to aim at, consistency will be key and I am sure if we perform to the levels we expect of each other we won't be far away come August 31st.

I am really looking forward to getting started; there really is nothing better than match day dressing room banter with your mates.

Good luck to all for the season, whether you represent the under 9's, 1st XI or Sunday XI, everyone is key and we are all very lucky to be part of this great club.

Play hard, party harder...

Brooky

## Club Captain Pre Season Message

It's that time again....the sound of dawn choruses, lawnmowers across the land choking into life and Cookie coming to retrieve his kit bag from the shed can only mean one thing, the cricket season is nearly here.

2018 was an exceptional year for the club with the Saturday 1s and 4s winning their leagues. The 2s and 3s continuing to establish themselves in such lofty divisions, and there was the emergence of a 5th team and Sunday 2s. Much fun was also had by the Sunday first team, weirding out opposition up and down the county with their eclectic brand of cricket and occasionally teas!

All our senior captains remain in place from last year with the added experience of General Trim who takes on the task of moulding juveniles and the 'seasoned' into a winning machine as the 5th team embark on their first league campaign having been voted into the league last November.

Our first league games this year are on the weekend of the 4th May. The task of getting 77 players out the first couple of weeks will be a challenge and I urge you all to make yourselves available (and have your phones on the preceding week!)

It's our aim to get everybody at least one game every weekend and with so many fantastic young cricketers knocking on the door selection should be very interesting.

We have 5/6 friendly games of varying standard in the coming weeks so if you fancy a warm up please make yourself available. On the same theme indoor nets have been good in the superb venue at KEGS but now we move outside. The first outdoor training session is on Thursday 11th April (6.15pm) and we also plan on netting Saturday mornings (10am).

There are a few changes to Junior practice night as well, the development boys and girls are staying on a Monday (5,30pm-6.30pm), the U13s joining the 15s/16s on a Wednesday night and the U9s/U11s training on a Friday evening. If anybody is interested in helping out we are always looking for volunteers, be it with coaching/managing teams or helping out with umpiring/scoring/making teas etc. We have an excellent junior set up but if it is to remain that way we need more helpers/volunteers.

Finally, enjoy the season...it's over in a blink. Play as much as you can and enjoy the bounty the summer brings.

For all updates and news please apply to join our Facebook page or sign up on our website.

Cheers all, Jim



## Frosty's Forum

The 2s had an indifferent season in 2018; at one point it looked as though relegation may have been a real possibility before we then dug ourselves out of trouble to finish comfortably mid table. However, despite this, the main positive, for not only ourselves but also the club as a whole, was that we managed to stay in division 1 and at the highest standard we can compete in within the t-rippon league.

We've tended to struggle over the last few years with the bat (!!!) but, with the names we have in the side, the potential they each have and how young the side is, I've got no doubt that we can fix this and move ourselves back up towards those top few places in the division - especially as we have really shown ourselves as a great fielding and bowling side. Need this year to be the one where we get rid of the myth that is the Springfield 2s weekly batting collapse.....

2019 will be my 6th full season as captain of the 2s, and our 4th in division 1, I've absolutely loved it but, it is rubbish only winning 8 games in a season so let's try and double that this year and get ourselves back amongst it!!!

Frosty

## Onwards and Upwards! The Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> Team Review

### By: Captain Courageous

Last year this great team of young prospects to pasteurised elders outperformed expectations again, including the NECL preseason report which had us looking over our shoulder all season. Well we proved that wrong!

We ended the season in 3<sup>rd</sup> place having been in the top three pretty much all season up to the world cup interruptions (lessons learnt reT20 games!) after which we suffered the same issues as Pep at City has now (no not a squad full of world class players) – fixture congestion! Even though we still had a good chance of finishing second as we entered our last game away to Witham. Despite heroic performances from Martin and especially Noah's smash and grab knock we missed 3<sup>rd</sup> by 3 runs in the end.

So this season sees us in the NECL Div 2 again, although unfortunately much reduced due to clubs leaving the league across the divisions, leaving us in a division of just 6 teams. Those being Kelvedon, Witham, Cavaliers, Real Oddies (always a great fixture home and away) and Stebbing. Some nice away grounds for us to visit and I think a very real chance for us to win the league this year

It is music to my ears that so many of my regulars are still available this season and some have even been spotted in Winter Nets (Alan was hard to miss in his colourful troose!).

Every cloud, as they say. With less league games we have more opportunity to pick up good friendly games, and with some good work preseason (esp. Jimmy) we have found some great ones to fill the league void. These include Gidea Park, Hockerall, Willow Herbs, Rettendon, Gt Waltham and Coopersale.

We do have some early issues with our younger players who have important exams to study and take (Ted get back to your studies!) and challenges with availability due to colt's games but I am confident that my box of frogs team will prevail. I might even have a bat this year (cheap in the clubs Fantasy League too!)

Looking forward to playing again very soon starting with our annual preseason "warm up" (see picture below of last season's warm game!) against Eastons, all are welcome as always. Good Luck to all at SCC!

Thanks All,

CC



## Vinny plans for 2019

My main aim for the 2019 is to win more tosses, and bat somewhere that isn't 4 (at least once).

2018 was another very good year for the 3rd team, continually finishing mid table is a fantastic achievement. It's easy to forget we're 2 divisions higher than the next 3rd team and predominantly playing against 1st teams.

2018 was always going to be a harder year for us with Martin moving down to the 4s and Senior Hartley retiring. Matt Trim and Aldworth Jnr rose to the challenge and led the attack superbly. Powell, Arain and England performing with the new ball.

Batting was a struggle at times, despite most pitches being flatter than Day 1 at Adelaide and we need to put this right in 2019.

Performance of the season though has to be Jasani at Little Baddow. A one man show of 169\*!

The target for 2019 should be more of the same, a top half finish being a good target.

Play well, drink beer.

Vinny

## Springfield Sunday Babysitting service opens for business

Deep into his winter cricketing slumber, with what must have been his 5th Lighthouse top of the evening in hand, Vince Sr decided to take on the mantle of opening a club babysitting service for the 2018 season. When the first 4 fixtures involved trekking to places that can barely be described as 'Essex', he must have been considering the club's earliest captaincy resignation in living memory.

At our first game at Great Bromley, the youngsters more than held their own. A positive start. Off to Tillingham we went. Springfield all out for 91. The realisation that not many teams would be as young as us was slowly dawning. Next, a journey to Copford. Swann completing his first senior 50, Mean quickly following suit. Finally, a win, with young Navi and Jonny, and a not so young Gary (not a typo!) picking up the wickets. The next week we turned up at Wickford, who included many of their first team and their overseas. Despite this, the youngsters embraced the chance to play against high-quality opposition, a level that they will certainly all be at very soon.

Another week, another first 50, with Freddie Williams reaching the milestone against Ardleigh Green, appropriately with dad Richard at the other end, and a capacity crowd at the Corra. The next week, it was Steven Turner's first senior 50 at Hanningfield. Close games against Waltham and Woodham followed, with even the club captain feeling the urge to dust off his whites for an outing.

A long summer break followed, with a couple of Sunday opposition hearing rumours of the ability of the squad and running away to the comfort of their clubhouse bars. The only appearance was a return thrashing of Wickford (thanks to the Sunday 1s). After its summer break, the day-care reopened, and completed a positive win over Tillingham, in which Freddie 'feathers' Williams notched his 2<sup>nd</sup> 50 with a classy 82\*. Mean matched the youngster the following week against Leyton Orient – who knew a football club had a cricket team?! A moody ton from the Ben Marrion winner (ed. See above), and a pair of 50s for eldest and youngest Trim saw us to victory in our final two games.

With many positive showings there are too many names to mention, but there was a core of Vinces, Lloyds, Williams, Trims throughout. Harry Lloyd and Navi Khela finishing top of the wickets, and the old guard of Vince and Mean (ed. Really?) topping the run scoring – proving that senior cricket is a lot easier if you can hit the ball off the square. With 8 wins and 5 losses, the youngsters were all thoroughly impressive throughout the season, and a lot that should be progressing towards the first team over the coming years. Onto 2019, hopefully more of the same.

**The future is bright. The future is Springfield.**

**Report by Tom Mean**



## Widge targets Division 6

After a season missed while living in Glasgow I took over the 4th team from James not knowing how the season would go.

Roll on the first game and with a mixture of old and young uns, on a wet day things didn't quite go to plan, plenty of positives taken though.

First few games went well and we found ourselves near the top of the table.

What can I say, the old uns performed well all season, with Cooky scoring over 500 runs, the most runs in and single season so far (may it continue this season). Martin as always being Martin getting numerous wickets and runs. There were also notable performances from Scott Ellis with 100 and Mark Hudson scoring his first century for the club.

The thing above all I took from the season was watching the youngster's progress with great performances in every game. It was a pleasure to captain them and watch them develop.

So down to the last game needing a win to win the title. That in the bag, onto the celebrations and another trophy for the club.

I would personally like to thank all the players that played for me, for making it a memorable season and roll on division 7, let's do it again.

Widge

## Richard pleads the Fifth

It gives me great pleasure to start penning the commentary of the first season of the mighty 5ths! It's an amazing success story for our club that we can enter five competitive teams on Saturday. This ensures that we have a structure for young players to enter the senior ranks, develop their skills and most importantly to enjoy the game, making new friends for life. With a little over a month to go, I'm already planning for the season ahead. I'm actively stockpiling cod liver oil, tiger balm, ibuprofen and oxyclean. So, in a post-apocalyptic Brexit world, my muscles will be supple, joints pain free and my whites will be whiter than white; even if the only continental meals in the Trim household is a Homemade Coq au Vin.....bon appetite!

The League draw has been kind to us. Local trips to Great Waltham, Danbury, South Woodham and Rayleigh; couple of longer away days to Hornchurch and Tillingham; and a "Baedeker" tour to some of Essex's cultural gems, Basildon and Rainham!

But we have a ground that we can call our own, Admirals Park. For those that have not played here before, it is opposite the Black Bull pub in Rainsford Road. There is a free car park 50 yards past the ground....and here is the fun part. Admirals Park has an amazing short boundary to cow corner....in the direction of the car park. So, try and park your cars close to the fence on the ground side, or as far away as possible, or....souk up your cars like the vehicles from the Mad Max films. Chairman Durrant and myself have been honing our mows across the line for a bit of pinball cricket. Forewarned.

The other "slight" issue with the ground is the far side falls away down the hill....so there will be a requirement that anyone fielding at deep fine leg or third man must be at least 5' 10" tall...otherwise they will disappear from sight, and we could be calling Essex police for a search and rescue action. Good news is that the park keeper has agreed to store some additional chairs, pop up gazebos and equipment; so the ground will be a little more comfortable than in the past. We will be providing teas; but any contributions (thinly veiled plea for cakes) will be gratefully received.

With the advent of the 5<sup>th</sup> team, we will also be looking to introduce some new awards....here are a few ideas:

Most yards covered by a youngster.....this will be sponsored by anyone playing over the age of 50.

The crappiest boy band award....for the oldest slip cordon we field.

Best banter with the opposition....the "mind the windows Tino" award.

Best new sledger award....for up and coming youngsters who enter into the spirit of the game. Don't worry kids, we won't tell your parents about the liberal language.

Most sixes into the car park award....this trophy will be fashioned from any damaged car panels discarded by the opposition players.

So, here's to the new season; let's make this light hearted and enjoyable for all.

All the best, Richard



## T20 Team aiming for better

We had a good season reaching the semi finals for the first time, where the whole team decided we were unable to catch a ball that went in the air or stop a ball on the ground, so we didn't make the final.

Hopefully we can go further this year.

I'll be over it by June..

Charlie

## Farleigh Presentation

The Farleigh Charity Day was only a slice of what Springfield Cricket Club achieved last season in terms of rais-



ing money.

We had a quiz night, curry and poker night, as well as buckets around the club for peoples loose change!

In short, in 2018, we raised over £2000 for this brilliant charity. Let us all try and go even better in 2019!

## Farleigh Charity Day 2018

Sunday 8 July saw Springfield Cricket Club host their inaugural Charity T20 Cricket Day, raising money for Farleigh Hospice, who we officially partnered up with at the beginning of the 2018 season.

Seven teams were selected to take part in the 6-a-side slog fest including 2 SCC teams, pre tournament favourites Farleigh, Little Waltham, 2 Lloyds Bank teams and the Springfield Striders. A round robin across 2 groups followed with the top 4 placed teams advancing through to the semi-finals.

The day began in earnest, with the coordinators desperately trying to 'coordinate' after a late no show whilst scrambling around for 4 umpires and 2 scorers for each game, as let's face it, the spectators just wanted to get drunk on cider.

Some excellent cricket was played throughout the afternoon and by early evening we knew our 4 semi-finalists. Pre tournament favourites Farleigh advanced, despite not having reached top form yet, they were joined by Little Waltham, Lloyds Bank and surprise package - SCC Nippers.

The first semi-final saw Little Waltham defeated as Lloyds Bank advanced through to the final. The second semi-final saw Farleigh (basically SCC First XI) against the future first team - SCC Nippers. The tone was set as Lorcan removed Mani's off stump first ball of the game. The youngsters never looked back and advanced through to the final after a comfortable chase. Their blatant cheating, orchestrated by coach Symonds, going unpunished.

The final was a raucous affair as a partisan home crowd and some inconspicuous umpiring tried to sway the game the way of the Nippers. In truth, it wasn't needed. Bowling first, the Nippers restricted Lloyds bank to a more than gettable total. Pothen and Tuner set the platform for the chase, Turner looking so comfortable even the home fans were shouting 'bowl faster'. There was only ever one winner and the Nippers defied the odds to land the maiden trophy. Superbly led by Noah Pothen throughout the day, we'll assume he landed the 'Man of the Tournament' trophy.

This years Charity Day falls on Sunday 16 June. We hope to see you all there.



## SCC Tour to Jersey for 2 games against Springfield, Jersey CC

Thanks to my sister living on the island I met (and shared a few drams with) the fixture secretary of Springfield CC, Jersey. We discussed, at length, the chances of a preseason tour to Jersey to start our 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary year celebrations. As the evening went on (it must be something to do with the club name that we both shared the same interests in gin) the plan evolved and is now in place.

For those of you that have not been to Jersey it is a stunningly beautiful small island, very easy to get to (45 min flights) and with some cracking facilities, both sporting and socially!

The plan is to go the last weekend of April next year with a 40 over game Saturday and a T20 Sunday with a much later start time to cover for me having to sweep the island Sunday morning to rustle up our team!

I will advertise this with more detail soon but please let me know if you would be interested, so far the feedback has been very positive so let's make it a great way to begin our big 60<sup>th</sup> year!!!!

Cheers,  
Captain Chairman

## Pool and Darts Evening

The evening saw a good number of people entering this year's Pool and Darts competition. The standard of both events was variable as usual but we did see some epic battles both with the arrows and the cues (I even got through two rounds of pool!) (ed. Really?)

The eventual winners were:

Gary 'MVG' Nightingale in the Darts:

Andy 'Sure it wasn't Symo?' Ovel in the Pool:



The true winner of the night goes to the Chairman, for the worst photography I have ever seen!

## SCC Spring Golf Challenge

A fabulous day (Thanks Widge) and a very tight battle with the winning team (Ed. Bandits) managing a 1 over par round to win. Who is that good looking chap in the middle?)



Stop reading here if you don't care about Macedonia..



## **'7' Marauding Macedonians, 1 constantly resigning Chairman and a battered Lambo**



My alarm was set for 04.30.. What a ridiculous time to get up for someone who didn't go to sleep until 01.00... The rendezvous at the club was set for 05.00, when we arrived, to our amazement, Lambo was only drinking a half... of water..

The tone of the trip was established midway down the A12 when a rogue stone flew into Danceys window... and with a few EP anecdotes in the bank we arrived at the airport, all checked in, overpriced breakfast and we were away.

After a quick beer, currency exchange, coach journey and another beer we tried to locate our hotel... How hard could it be? Turns out very hard... About 90 minutes later, we had covered the whole of Macedonia 3 times, Kosovo once, paid off 4 foreign diplomats and prayed to every known deity and we were still none the wiser. Turns out we had basically walked by the apartments after the first 30 seconds.. Cheers Symonds. Quick 15 minute turn around and back to the bar.



The first night was aimed at being a classic 'bar crawl' and that is how it was, nice and calm, and then it went off a cliff, well for me anyway, someone (probably Widge) instigated this local Nightclub and off we went. A few more Gins, a dozen B52s and we were 'merry'. After we all took turns chatting to the attractive local (polite) outside... Mainly Widge, we were done. In true James style I abused everyone in sight and fell over on the walk home.

I missed the early morning Snooker wake up call as I unplugged the Wi-Fi to charge my phone, even though there was a socket next to my bed.. The already resigned Chairman and I surfaced around 11.30 and slowly made our way down for breakfast, joined by the Snooker lot around an hour later. They all proceeded to start drinking Mojitos and I started thinking a day at the office may have been more enjoyable..



As afternoon turned to dusk, we began one of many walks to locate a local winery. A 40 minute journey (3 hours for Lambo) and we arrived at a very modest looking setting. Thankfully the inside was full of a lot of wine, we were all happy. Although they were not expecting us, we were soon in the midst of food platters and bottles of wine. I believe the word was contented. A few hours later and the wine tasting was effectively now a booze up. We bought a further 6 bottles.



Saturday was my favourite day of the trip, a 4 hour trek across Mount Vodno, through the wilderness and down through the neighbouring towns. It began with a cable car to the top, which people tried to wobble (again, probably Symonds) as they could sense my unease. Anyway, a quick look and the stunning scenery and we were away. We were soon off the main roads and trying to amble down the side of a very large hill. Once we made it to the bottom we stopped for one of our customary wine breaks and analysed. Lost I believe was the consensus. We decided to stick with it and we continued our journey. We continued to make a few small errors in direction, which added up, meant we were a bit off track, the views remained stunning so we didn't mind too much. Eventually we hailed a local, who with the help of his all purpose truck, we found the trail again. We began the descent, and could soon spot our beloved Chairman (resigned) and Treasurer. We were amazed they didn't fancy it, as we fell into our chairs...



Sunday was meant to be filled with sport, sport and more sport. Alas, the day did not turn into what we expected. Our first mission was to find the go-karting.. Google Maps Symonds suggesting it would take around 30 minutes. I believe the full journey took nearer 90 minutes with a quick refreshment break. By the time we got there we were horrified to find out that the go-karting element has passed away. We were left twiddling our thumbs and had another quick drink. Beers for some, water for others.



One of the local Macedonian football teams is called FK Rabotnički, they play in a 37,000 capacity stadium and attract an average crowd of about 150. Considering a ticket cost around £1.30 we thought we would check out the standard, or indeed the lack of standard. 28 minutes and 1000 misplaced passes later and we had seen enough, the highlights being the goalie being subbed in the 4th minute and Goran Pandev's brother (supposedly) screaming from the opposition bench. Not to mention Paul befriending a local (adult) film star, again supposedly. We went back to the bar and had a terrific dinner at a local restaurant.

I finally made it snooker on Monday, Jim and Paul were inconspicuous in their absences, could have been a number of things. 4 hours cost us about £6.50.. Yep very cheap! The rest of the day being spent relaxing and preparing for our 03.30 wake up call.

Lambo didn't get the memo as he was still in a state of total inebriation as we went through airport security, proceeding to then jump the entire boarding queue (we all did) and then had a row with a woman who accused him of cutting... Ahh Lambo..

Report by James