



Ken Etheridge 1923-2020

Sadly we announced the passing of one of the clubs founder members, Ken Etheridge. Ken has been an integral part of the history and growth of the club since its inception and Springfield Cricket Club owe him, and his family, a massive debt of gratitude for all he has done.

Ken designed many trophies for the club from his garage, including our most recent Anniversary Awards that stand proudly in the clubhouse today.

Ken was a superb club member, one of the finest. He was also a truly brave man, being a D-Day veteran.



Hello Everyone out there, and first of all we hope you and your loved ones are keeping well and staying safe!

Welcome to a Special Lockdown Edition of the Clubs Magazine, Hardballs. Paul, our Chairman, (Minty) will, as usual, try and take credit.. When in reality..

President Macrae with a rallying cry!

Hi all, whilst the Clubhouse has been closed due to this Covid19 pandemic, our Management Team and Club Members continue to be highly active to ensure that Springfield Cricket Club is in absolute top form when “normal service is resumed”.

In a superb Springfield team effort, many of our members were involved in a major upgrade of our club toilets. Led and inspired by our Club Captain Jim Symonds (and his bacon butties), club members will now much appreciate the new facilities.

Keeping in touch is very important as there is a tight bond between us all, and a determination not only to continue as a club, but also to continually improve. Our finances are robust and as soon as we can re-start cricket we are determined to be first off the blocks, and as soon as we can re-open our clubhouse, it will again be one of the best in the county.

We are a community club and our members are a diverse bunch of terrific guys. We all have great friendships on and off the field and throughout the four seasons, whether on the golf course, a foreign hillside, or with bat and pad on an overseas tour. Our club camaraderie will bring us through.

Stay safe, enjoy the summer, and please do keep in touch with other club members. We have a fine heritage, great facilities and wonderful future. Keep with us, and I really do look forward to seeing you all safely back at sunny Springfield.

EP.



Message from Chairman Paul (about 4 pages)

Obviously there is no cricket on at the moment so this Hardballs edition is specifically to keep you all up to date with club news and stories from around the club including how we have been working hard to improve the clubhouse and more importantly just to remind you all of what a great club this is with stories of how some of our members have gone the extra mile to help others or how some are keeping their eyes in with back garden training! Some, like myself, have found the joys of gardening and baking (who knew!). I also wanted to remind people again of what a fabulous season the club had last year across all age groups (and don't forget our champions will hold their crowns for two years!)

It's safe to say that these times are unprecedented and the impact is far greater than just cricket, but that's what this club plays and it's a shame when we can't do that, especially as Mother Nature seems to have a sense of humour by giving us such glorious weather recently! But that aside the club is strong with a great sense of community and togetherness so I have no doubt that we will bounce back both on and off the field just as strong, if not stronger than before. The signs are getting more encouraging if still on a knife edge and we remain guided by the ECB. However when/if club cricket at junior or senior level is allowed to resume we will of course endeavour to get games on, albeit probably friendlies only we suspect.

It has also been a real pleasure to see many of them jump at the chance to get back in the nets coaching with Jimmy as soon as the rules allowed, with most of the week now covered by them and the occasional senior stretching what by the looks of it are larger girths than last year! Pot, kettle.

So let's begin by reminding ourselves of what a great cricket club this is! Below is "just" the silverware won by our Senior teams last season, add to that the colts winners and you have what turned out to be a record breaking season for the club.

A little reminder of what we won last year...





T Rippon Premier Division Champions 2019

Beating Rainham into second by 38 points (and Bentley by 82!) The veteran Jimmy leading the way with the batting scoring a fine 800 at 53.3 and a best of 175. Charlie in second with 639 at 49 having another fine season. Skipper Lee showed the way with the ball bagging 22 wickets at 7.6, ably assisted by Ben Marion with a massive 43 at 8.9 (arguably should be top of the bowling but averages don't lie Mazza).



T Rippon Division 7 Champions 2019

Fantastic effort from Widge and his team to take the championship in a close run race with our near neighbours Beaulieu Park, nicking it with just 9 points in it. The senior Southwell actually ending up top of the batting averages with 171 at an average of.....anyone?.....171!. Many of the team run scoring was from our younger brethren, which is very pleasing to see. Joe Freestone scoring 236 runs including his first senior 100 and averaging 78, Steve Turner getting 100 runs at 25. To keep the old boys happy best to mention Mr. Aldworth getting 190 runs at 95! Martin again stormed the bowling figures with a huge 45 wickets at 9.4 and as with the batting it is pleasing to see that the youngster back him up with some fine performances. Lorcan's 11 wickets at 10, Will Aldworth's 18 at 14 and Tommy's 9 at 5 runs a piece to name but a few.





T Rippon Division 10 Champions 2019

I think this win is perhaps the best and most encouraging of all the winners. In their first season in league cricket, ably led by Richard The Fifth, backed up by, shall we say, some more of our “experienced” players the team was made up of colts and very young senior players. It’s almost wrong to mention any specific names because all the boys deserve credit to win a senior cricket league at the first attempt (and I can vouch that some of the games and opponents would have been quite intimidating for some of them) They showed great courage and attitude I know that all the seniors that played with them thoroughly enjoyed every minute. So well done all of you. Here are some of the numbers. Bala and his mad batting smashing 348 runs (how he hits even one with his swing I will never know!) Admirals is definitely too small for him! Josh Vince with a huge 387 at 35 including his maiden 100 (Alison don’t move from that seat!) Liam Morritt 207 at 34. Too many of the bowlers to mention who got their first senior wickets but Harry Lloyd took the most wickets bagging 16 at 11.4. I feel I have also to mention skipper Richard’s first senior 5-fer, what a sight that was!



NECL Division 2 Champions 2019

Sundays saw our fifth league crowned of champions NECL Division 2 winning in the last game away to Kelvedon. This was my last season captaining this bunch of lovable misfits and what a way to go out. Massive performances from players across the team, to name a few – Charlie obviously 622 runs at an average of 155 with a top score of 218 and taking the league batting awards (not bad!) As good as that is it also takes others to step up. Matty Trim marking his first senior 100 with a fine season scoring just shy of 500 runs at an average of 58! Matty also contributed 18 wickets backed up by a great season again from our youngest opening bowler Teddy Ashurst 16 wickets, Shan 23 and of course from Martin Southwell with another outstanding year 45 wickets at an average of 8.8! He made it a clean sweep as he also picked up the League bowling award! Finally just a huge thanks to all that have played for me over the years, especially my seniors Andy, Alan, Shan Tony, Martin, James, Kendo and to all those that started as annoying nippers and are now bigger but still annoying, Matty, Jamie, Noah, Owen and Teddy and all the others. And big thanks to our Sunday Supporters, Debs and Josh, Emma, Libby and Kim and of course, Biscuit.



Pitches: Obviously out of our hands, and to a large extent out of the groundman's hands too! However as some of you may have seen just before the lockdown the weather had been dreadful and our rugby neighbours had reduced our outfields to resemble The Somme. We then had a long heat wave with little or no rain so Russell the groundman has been out every day moving his little water sprayers to try and regenerate the grass. It's certainly better than it was but we do need that rain to really bed it in. Perhaps the layoff will do it good and will be resplendent for our return!



Before



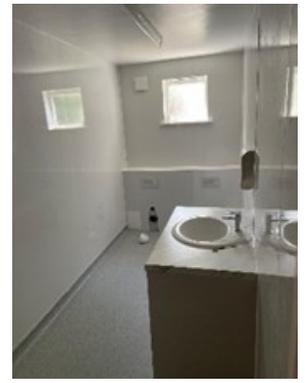
After

(Pretty sure the second image is the square, Paul...)

Clubhouse

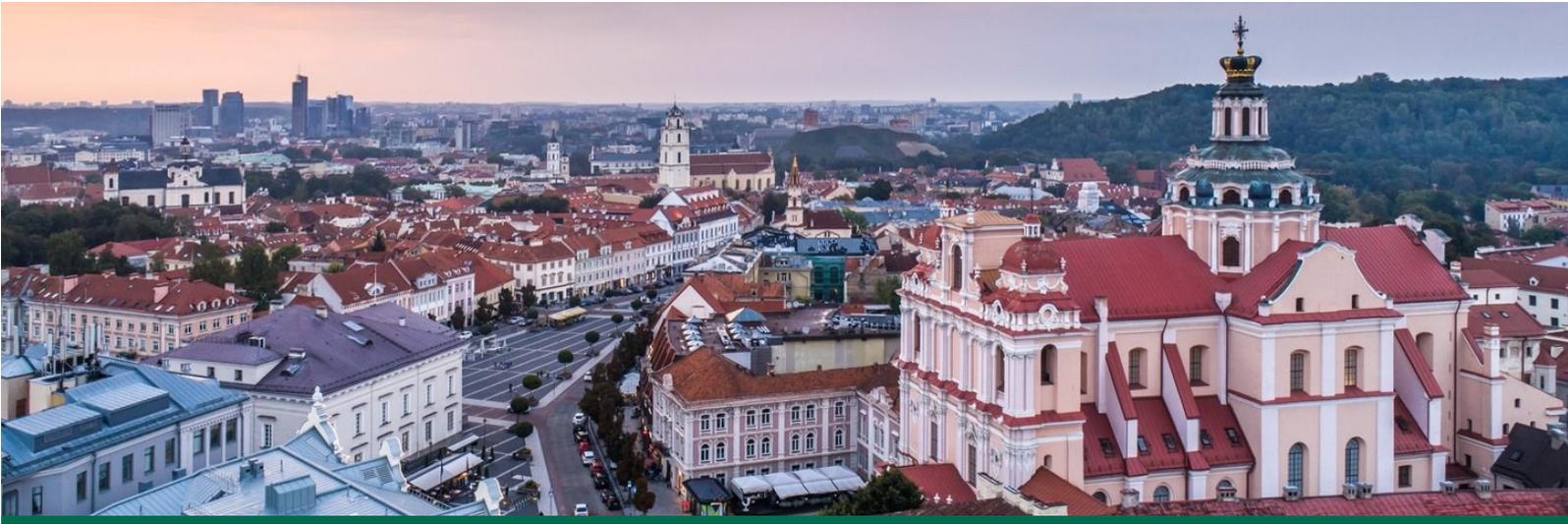
While we have had the club closed it doesn't mean that nothing has been going on, far from it. The Committee have pressed ahead with as much improvement work as has been possible under the restrictions and it's with a massive thanks to Tom and his little army of able workers (Simon Dance, Vinny, Bassy and Jimmy) that we can announce the following improvements. To have got all the below done under the lockdown rules has been a fantastic effort from all and certainly smartens up the clubhouse ready for its reopening. Well done chaps!

Gents Facilities: These have been completely stripped and rebuilt with modern, bright and clean materials and it looks great as you can see from the pictures below. We are still (clearly!) waiting for the divider panels but it's a massive improvement on the previous.



Ladies Facilities: Again completely stripped and updated with the same materials as the gents and also still waiting for the final bits to be added. But again I am sure our lady members will be very happy with the new loos! And don't fret girls, a mirror is coming!

Clubhouse Windows: Again while the club was quiet Tom has instigated a complete refit of the clubhouse front windows which although look similar (it's a window after all!) are far more sturdy and secure than the previous ones, which had become a security risk. I feel a challenge coming on! First one to hit the new windows on the full – during a match that is, not standing 3 yards away smashing balls at it!



Seven of us met-up in Istanbul, the bustling Turkish city where East really does meet West, and not a cricket bat in sight! We had glorious weather and we all did our own things at our own pace, but always met-up a couple of times each day and for our evening meals. There was so much to see - the Blue Mosque, the Hagia Sophia Museum, the Grand Bazaar, boat trips on the beautiful Bosphorus and much, much more.



December saw another Springfield group head off together to Lithuania; a few days in Vilnius then several more in Kaunas. Always great company, interesting sights to see, and inevitably a bar or two; one in Vilnius was actually called Who Hit John!



The Social Side of Cricket - Springfield Wanderers El Presidente' Reports

Since its founding in 1960, the club had been a place where strangers meet and become friends for life. We have cricket, Springfield Striders, crib and darts teams, the Spring Chicks rounders team, and pool and dominoes are played. Whatever ones background, there are only friends here.

Since the end of last year's brilliant cricket season, many of us, players and non-players continue to meet, often in far-away places (sadly not during this lockdown). So I'll put the clock back to last September and tell you of some of my SCC wanderings.

September means the international Balkan Bash competition which last year was held in Belgrade. Our Club Captain Jim with his usual eclectic squad of players and supporters descended on the Serbian Capital and took in many of the city sights before the tournament began. Our international touring side included Dickie from Croatia, some North Weald lads, the evergreen Max (and for the final game, a Serbian refugee who substituted for our crooked wicket-keeper Neil). Sadly no silverware but the sun shone as can be seen by our Chairman's nose in this team photo.





Charity Easter Eggs!

We have also seen the Springfield spirit building up to Easter when James Clark organised an Easter Egg collection for the NHS/Ambulance services. This was not easy to arrange given this was at the start of the strict lockdown but via Social Media and no small effort on his part James managed to deliver 116 eggs to the local Ambulance Service, which as you can see went down very well. Excellent work James, and all those that contributed!



8 Days (nearly 3 months) in Cyprus

In March this year was another Springfield outing: this was to sunny Cyprus. We'd booked the fares and accommodation back in September but the ever increasing reports of Coronavirus incidents were noticeable. Anyway, come the day, there were no restrictions and no Foreign Office recommendations so six of us set off and based ourselves in Paphos. On our first full day first day we were driven to and from a brew-pub that also produced real cider, so with five of us on the ale and Bassy on the alcoholic apple pressings, all were contented (say no more!). We then hired a people carrier and for the next three glorious days we travelled, we wined and dined, we did some magnificent walks, and we enjoyed vineyard tastings ~ as cricketers do. We even drove up to Mount Olympus where it gently snowed upon us in a local outside bar - yup, it was cold at that elevation! We'd planned to walk to the top of the mountain but there was just too much snow on the peak.

But on our fourth day, everything was starting to close. Thanks to Jim's culinary skills and the local supermarket staying open, we all survived in our self-catering apartments. On day eight, our departure day, when we arrived at the airport, ours was the only GB flight not cancelled, and the airport was closing indefinitely that evening. That was a close call, but still, Team Springfield had a great time.



Hopefully very soon we will all be able to travel again AND PLAY CRICKET, but the cricket may sadly be minimal this year. Your Springfield Cricket Club is a great community and a great social hub. Please support your club, and the club members will surely support you. Hopefully your friends here are friends for life.

LOCKDOWN STORIES

Meany's Stat Corner

Another decade gone for SCC, quite possibly the most successful ever in the club's history, with a total of 10 Saturday league titles, 4 Sunday league titles and countless colts successes.

Here are some brief records for the decade:

Charlie Prudence managed to play 303 senior games, closely pipping Martin Southwell (who probably played double that across all forms and for all clubs!)

Jim Symonds closely pipped Charlie Prudence to most runs in the decade, with 9227 against 8313.

They also hogged the batting, mustering 36 centuries between them.

Martin Southwell picked up 592 wickets, with the next highest being Simon Dance with 305.

The same two led the 5for tallies, with 22 and 11 respectively.



Day 293048 of the lockdown..

Since I am retired life has largely gone on as normal during the lockdown thanks to the sterling effort of those that were still working and helping the country to keep ticking over.

The only downside was that my bike has stayed in the garage apart from a spell at the end of April when I joined the "Volunteer Riders UK" face book group that arranged for the supply and delivery of PPE to local areas, all free of charge. A whole cottage industry had sprung up to meet this demand. That was the week of the wet weather during the course of my involvement I averaged 140 miles per run. One was a solo ride while the others were 3 bike relay events. The following week the sun came out and the group increased from 1300 to 3300 members offering to help transport this equipment across the country and a limit of 30 miles from home to pick up point was introduced. Essex has its own long term group in the form of the "Essex Blood bikers".

Following the government advice, I have undertaken longer walks with the last one being 5.3 miles, of which the last 2 miles was a hobble after my left calf muscle decided to tighten up. Jim caught up with me as I approached Springfield Green and stayed for a chat.



This lockdown has upset my travel plans as on the 15th May I was due to join a group of bikers for a long weekend away in York for a ride out of that area followed by a 14 day tour of Scotland. On the up side I am still in good health unlike the more unfortunate people who have suffered greatly from this virus.

Tony Seaman

NOTICES

Meany's Stat Corner Part 2

And now for some individual highlights:

James Latimir-Jones 244* vs High Easter (Club Record)

Charlie Prudence 218 vs Cavaliers

Jim Symonds 201*, James Latimir-Jones 182, Charlie Prudence 1, in 1s 500-3 vs Little Baddow (Club & Premier Division record).

Dan Northfield 8-21 vs Writtle

Andrew Blundell 8-21 vs Willingale

Jacob Bell 8-40 vs Hatfield Peveral

Ben Marrion 8-45 vs Stock

5s won Division 10 at the first attempt, with a squad of mainly U18s (alongside some over 50s!) + Meany (25)

Josh Vince first senior 100, while Ryan Harvey, Freddie Williams, Steve Turner, Liam Morrirt & Max Williams all notched first senior 50s.

Teddy Ashurst and Aarav Salil picked up their first senior 5fors.



Some quick Parish Notices to close

As you may be aware ECB have ruled no professional cricket until August, our nets are open with restrictions on numbers and only via booking with Jimmy so we can control numbers and keep people at a safe distance.

We are expecting an update from our leagues in the coming days.

The Bar remains closed for now but this may change in July when/if the government announces further lifting of restrictions so please keep an eye out for announcements from us in due course.

Sadly it does mean that Presidents Day is off, we will not be in a position to host over a hundred people, and we have also decided that safety first, is best to postpone the 60th Anniversary Dinner due in October. We will of course look to set this back up as quickly as it's safe to do so.

So please all stay safe and reach out to us if you need help. Stay safe and stay strong Springfield.

Paul Durrant

