

All of these excellent individual performances ensured we finished as runners-up to an excellent Chelmsford side in a very competitive league. A tremendous achievement for a club knocking about in Division 2, four years ago.

After 4 happy years in charge of the stiffs, skipper Garry Sapsford is passing on responsibilities and would like to thank everyone at the club who have helped make it a memorable era.



Fourth Eleven

With the depth of talent now available for selection making picking a team difficult, it was not an easy year to keep everyone happy. Hopefully this will be resolved for the 2010 season as the 4th XI will be entering the league for the first time, so the young talent at the club can be exposed early on to Saturday league cricket.

Under Luke Neal this year, the team went unbeaten in 7 friendlies. Highlights of the season were Jake Kavanagh's two centuries. Thanks to Shenfield School for the continuing use of their facilities and to the Neal family for organising everything from tea and transport, to a gazebo, to keep the sun off the regular poker school of Ives, Edwards and Cunnew.



Colts

The Colts section continues to go from strength to strength, with frequent recommendations actually leading to the need for a waiting list for some of the younger age groups as the club chose not to compromise coaching ratios for the sake of a few more subscriptions! However, this policy was vindicated as the boys progressed rapidly under new Head Coach Gareth Fisher, ably assisted by a swathe of level 2 coaches as well as level 1 coaching assistants available throughout each week. One of the biggest headaches in youth cricket continues to be the actions of some clubs, who commit to the district league age groups, who then singularly fail to fulfil their obligations for a variety of insignificant reasons. Our hope is that the authorities can encourage everyone to be more committed in 2010.

The numerous teams competed well in competitions at a range of age groups. The U16 side made it to the Matchplay Quarter finals for the second year running, but will feel they let themselves own with a half hearted showing in the knockout stage. The U15As competed well, as well as often providing players for senior sides and the U15Bs built themselves something of a reputation by not only playing their full allocation of league fixtures, but by also playing as many friendlies as possible involving all the boys in the age group, playing in exactly the right spirit. The U13As finished mid-table in the Peter Coe Cup and gave plenty of sides a run for their money in cup and league, whilst the U13Bs won their league with a 100% winning record. All the other sides gave a good account of themselves, with the U9s winning a triangular tournament involving local rivals. Pitch availability remains a pressing issue and the club hope that the local authority will feel able to support their request to help relieve this burden next season. The social support from everyone involved with the Colts remains a massive plus for the club, on match days, training nights and at functions. Long may it continue.



[SNEL team and player statistics](#) are available on the Play-Cricket website.