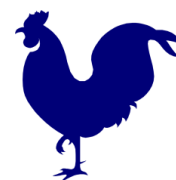


# Review of the 2016 Season

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As one of the smaller clubs in terms of adult playing members we can take great pride from having all four sides in their Premier divisions for 2017.

## 1st XI



### Back Row:

Michael Wright (Scorer) Ryan Plom, Matt Salisbury, Tom Austin, Suhaib Sarwar, Arshad Ali, Jack Potticary, Jack Plom

### Front Row:

Jamie Walton, Mike Hindley, Haris Mahmood, Jack Kliber (Capt), Tom Ballington, Harsh Kumar

Optimism was high for the 1<sup>st</sup> XI's return to the Premier League, a brace of Ploms and a Potticary strengthened the squad, but uniquely we would be without an overseas player, making it a good challenge for the youth to contribute.

After coming second to Wanstead, despite an excellent 70 from Jack Potticary, last year's champions Chelmsford had us in early tatters at 20-4, but hundreds from Mahmood and skipper Kliber turned the game around and set the visitors 320. Chelmsford kept up the chase despite wickets falling and eventually Arshad Ali's 5-93 sealed an excellent win.

Perhaps the best match of the season came at home to Buckhurst Hill. 120-7 chasing 256 would see most sides fold. However young Tom Ballington (50), Tom Austin (50) and Shabby Sarwar (30\*)

steered us home narrowly. Austin again proved the hero at Chingford, all but seeing us to a target of 210 from a similarly precarious 110-6, he managed the game superbly and scrambled 2 off the last ball to secure the valuable 15 point tie. Disappointment followed at South Woodford, Austin and the returning James Kliber reduced the home side to 150 all out. Collapsing to 67-8, the game was all but however Jack Plom and Jack Kliber put on 60, leaving us just 38 needed. Sadly the rain came quickly, but the covers took their time and we were left a few runs short on D/L.

A run of 4 losses left us looking over our shoulder with 7 games remaining. Hornchurch arrived at the SCG with hopes of winning the league, and another cracker unfolded. We were indebted to a blistering 89 from Potticary to set 268. Hornchurch coasted to 180-4, however Ballington took the key wickets and a run out from Ryan Plom turned the game. Tom Moore threatened with a quick-fire 70, but an excellent spell from Matt Salisbury finished the job.

The win galvanized us for the run in and there were two further tight run chase victories against Buckhurst Hill and Chingford winning by 1 and 2 wickets. Another member of our Matchplay finalists, Harsh Kumar, announced himself with a superb ton against South Woodford and with him and Ballington, plus U17 Jack Plom and two U19s regularly involved, the future looks promising.

## **2nd XI**

The 2nd XI under James Burgess bounced back to the Premier League as deserved Division One Champions. After 3 years ruined by injury it was great to see James Salisbury back for a full season and his 583 runs, along with ageing left hander John Walter's 516 (including a 169\* at Hornchurch) led the way. With the ball there were contributions from many in an often youthful attack and twelve wins had the league wrapped up with a week to spare. Under new skipper Richard Abson-Bennett the 2s will look to compete at the top level in 2017.

## **3rd XI & 4th XI**

The 3rd and 4th teams stuck around in their respective Premier Divisions with the usual mix of promising youth from our superbly run colts section, veterans, the retired and the infirm being cajoled by Dave Castell, Ali Naqvi and Owen Southcott into some excellent results and also staying competitive when the usual round of absences, both expected and unexpected arose.

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