



SHENFIELD CRICKET CLUB



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25th March 2018

Dear Members, Players, Colts and Parents,

Welcome to the 2018 cricket season!

This new season is almost upon us and the anticipation grows for another enjoyable and successful year for the Club.

Firstly, a brief reflection on 2017

I wanted to bring everyone up to speed as to what happened last year and say 2017 was largely defined by what happened off the field with our Council challenges but thankfully we have built a very good rapport with the Council Leader and her senior management team so matters are now being dealt with in a constructive and positive way.

What was wonderfully clear in coming through this serious dispute was how all the Club members and supporters rallied around and worked as a united force - the camaraderie, unity and spirit for our Club was remarkable. This is good news for our situation and our community, however there is still a way to go and I will keep you informed as matters progress but as a Club, we are now in a much better place. In the meantime, it is business as usual and back to what we do best on the cricket field.

A positive outlook

Our Colts have yet again set a very high bar for the rest of us to aspire to and I hope they continue their excellent form into this season. The fifth team continue to perform heroics having completed 2017 undefeated [I am sure this has been verified by their master tacticians, Captain Guy Rickenbach and Vice Captain Adam Munday] so another challenge beckons as they vigorously try and defend this amazing record. The third XI are on a rebuilding programme under the experienced stewardship of David Castell and look to fight their way back up to the Premier Division so this will give them an opportunity to enjoy their cricket and try new combinations as a springboard to play higher level cricket when the time is right.

Similarly, the fourth XI under the stewardship of Ali Naqvi [C] and Owen Southcott [VC] and the second XI under the guidance of Matt Simmons [C] and James Salisbury [VC] will aim to improve on their positions from last season. Jack Kliber [C] and Tom Austin [VC] are in charge of the first XI and will have a number of new faces [and many old ones!] this season, and hopefully begin as they did last year with excellent early season form without the injuries and occasionally victims of their own success with our "quicks" being called up for representative duties - this season we should have

greater depth and with some excellent youngsters "knocking on the door" to help manage these team fluctuations. All in all, a very positive outlook on the playing front for 2018.

Challenges this year

The Club have a difficult task of balancing specific areas of development and growth whilst targeting key cost areas to pay off e.g. Legal expenses, building works, practice nets, safety nets for the second field etc. it all costs so we need to assign specific budgets toward each area however it will be very rewarding to see these targets being "ticked off" via the fund raising efforts as we go through the year.

Fund raising - "every penny counts"

Given the costs (some unexpected) outlaid by the Club last year, we really now need to focus on rebuilding our financial position and can only do this with the support of our membership. There are some key initiatives listed below that would welcome your support.

50/50 Club

This is the cheapest method to raise money for the Club and also gives every ticket holder the opportunity to win a cash prize as half the money raised goes back as prizes. It is very affordable, *one number in the draw equates to £12 over the year i.e. a £1 a month* and with more people involved, the quicker we can achieve our goals - critical mass of participants is the answer.

Personally, I believe every member of Shenfield Cricket Club should aim to participate, it is easy, affordable and shows your great support for the Club - ***Ang Spicer has volunteered to co-ordinate the 50/50 Club so please support her efforts by signing up when she encourages you to participate.***

Sponsorships

We are looking for Club sponsors this season - there is a wide range of different sponsorships available from £50 upwards and can extend to the direct sponsoring of a team, alternatively, you may wish to sponsor one or more of the match day teas thereby allowing the players' tea money to come directly to the Club.

If you know of a local business that would be interested in some form of sponsorship [either financial or maybe offering their professional expertise on a reduced/no cost basis] or maybe you would like to sponsor some aspect of the Club activities please feel free to contact me directly and I will be happy to discuss the benefits for the sponsor and the Club.

World Cup game

For a little bit of light-hearted fun, Al and Rob Morton have organised a "World Cup" predictor game with prize money being split between the participants 1st = 30%; 2nd = 20%; 3rd = 10% and the Club = 40%. If you are interested the stake to join in is £10, these will be advertised shortly so keep a lookout.

Social Events

Roachy and his social events organising team have lined up a very interesting range of functions to cater for all tastes [published on the SCC website] so please book up early to attend two or three of these great evenings over the course of the season - they really make a difference to our bar revenues.

Finally, and most importantly, let's celebrate our successes

As I have said many times before, Shenfield Cricket Club is all about its members, their families and friends, all with the same desire for the Club to do well on the cricket field across all ages and abilities but most importantly, enjoy the effort and being part of this wonderful cricket Club community.

Have a great season!!

Best regards,
Andrew