



SHENFIELD CRICKET CLUB



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Welcome to new and existing parents to the Colts section of Shenfield Cricket Club.

The 2017 season was one of the most successful for the Colts of Shenfield Cricket Club, resulting in a total of eight trophies and titles.

- 2 x U9 League Titles
- U9 League Cup Title
- U11 League Title
- U13 League Cup Title
- U13 T20 League Title
- U11 Indoor League title
- John Burrows Cup – with our U11 gaining victory over their counterparts at Hutton CC.



SCC U9 Team with Managers
Garry Sapsford and
James Dowlen



SCC U13 Team with the League
Cup and T20 League winners'
trophies



SCC U11 Team with the League
Cup trophy

It is fully appreciated that none of this success would be possible without the work done by the volunteers of the club, especially the respective age group managers who give up their time for the colts in helping coaching and organising all the matches.

SEASON PREPERATION & REGISTRATION

Behind the scenes, the club is preparing for the season ahead. This year we have teams entered in competitive leagues and cup competitions as well as preparing for securing our Clubmark reaccreditation.

Thank you to both parents and our two coaches, Tom Ballington and Jack Newton who have supported the **Winter Nets** in recent weeks. Attendance was fair, ensuring that those who attended got a good head start and some top coaching for the start of the forthcoming season.

The registration process is underway and you should have received details on how to register for your child's respective age group.

Final chance for registration will be the first two training sessions W/C 23rd and 30th April. Full details of dates and times for Training Evenings are published on the Club website. A completed registration form and the appropriate fees (£80.00 per child; £60.00 per sibling, £40.00 for those sitting their GCSE Examinations) must be paid prior to or on one of these training nights at the very latest.

Details regarding the Clubs policy on parental responsibility can be found on the club's website, please note that up to and including U13s, a parent or guardian will be expected to be on site at all times during training.

VOLUNTEERING

I make no excuse for again repeating this plea from last season, but many of you will already be involved in other children's sports clubs, and you will therefore be acutely aware that the ongoing success of the Club is completely dependent on the commitment of parent volunteers. Cricket perhaps more so than other sports – as games are longer, early evening starts, umpires, scorer, drinks etc.

We are very fortunate to have so many who have already stepped forward to assist the age group managers, but we will always welcome more. It is a rewarding experience to help so many youngsters develop their love of the game.

Please therefore do step forward and help your age group manager in whatever way you can – all skills can be learned!

We are looking for age group managers for the U9 groups. The good news is that there will be plenty of help with the running and managing of these teams. Please contact me to volunteer.

SCORING & UMPIRING

We always need more help from parents on match days with scoring and umpiring. We can't host a game without a home umpire. If you have a good knowledge of the game, you are probably competent enough to umpire a colt's game.

Scoring is very easy, and a great way to get involved in how the game is played. We plan to run a very simple 30-minute workshop for parents who want to learn this important cricket task, further details will be on the website.

KIT & EQUIPMENT

With the loss of TF Cricket, the club is looking into a new distributor for clothing and equipment, further details will follow once agreed.

Club policy this season is that every child representing the club must have as a minimum a branded shirt and cap, which must be worn when representing the club at matches.

PLAYER RECRUITMENT

Last year we had over 200 children in the Colts section, but as players grow older retainment in some age groups has proved difficult.

Word of mouth is always the strongest recommendation so please encourage friends and neighbours.

COLTS TO SENIOR PROGRESSION

One of the challenges we have as a club is retaining keen young cricketers, therefore I am delighted to report that thanks to our Coaching Co-Ordinator, Dave Castell, several U15s regularly played for the Men's Senior teams last summer. Selected on merit, men's cricket is great for the boys' cricketing development and we are lucky to have a very welcoming environment created by the Seniors. This "pathway" is very important to ensure the talented boys and girls we have, continue to develop, are challenged, and hopefully adopt Shenfield Cricket Club as "their" Club.

FUNDRAISING

As many of you will be aware, the Club is actively raising money for a new equipment and improvements to our facilities.

Various grants (local and national) have been applied for, but there is a significant gap to bridge by the Club and its members. **How can you help?...**

The easiest way is join the 50/50 club, see www.shenfield.cc/50_50Club.html for details.

In addition, the club holds a variety of functions and fund-raising events across the season and it would be great to see some new faces, especially from the Colts section attend.

If you have an idea for a fund-raising event or social function, please do not hesitate to contact me – all ideas are greatly appreciated.

OUTLOOK FOR 2018

The Colts section is a major part of Shenfield Cricket Club and we are lucky to have such a great ground and club at The Courage Playing Fields.

On the pitch, I look forward to building on last years' successes. We continue to be represented at district level and we hope many of them go on to represent the county this summer.

Off the pitch, I hope we can continue to encourage an active social environment on training nights and match nights and make progress with the Fundraising.

ECB ALLSTARS CRICKET AT SHENFIELD CRICKET CLUB

Shenfield Cricket Club will this season be participating in the ECB All Stars national programme.

<https://www.ecb.co.uk/play/all-stars>

Aimed at new colts aged 5 years and under, the 8 week All Stars Coaching program will be held at the club on a Friday evening, commencing on the 11th May 2018, so if you have younger siblings please sign up!

GIRLS SECTION - 2018

The Club has committed to getting a girls' section up and running in 2018.

Keep an eye on the website for further developments, as we plan to run Girls only sessions over the summer.

If you have friends or family in the area, who have daughters who may be interested, please spread the word.

Contact me directly if you wish to register interest.

CLOSING THOUGHTS

When I took on this role last season, it is fair to say I had no idea what I was letting myself in for, or in fact doing! The season has therefore been one of education and observation for me. Reflecting on where we are, we should be very proud to have one of the largest and most successful Colts sections in Essex,

However, I believe we need to move forward and set challenges in the following areas:

- Talent – we should be leveraging our current successes to attract further talent from around the local area at all age group.
- Girls – we are behind on Girls Cricket and have been slow to react to the demand in the area.
- The club needs to encourage more of you – our parents – to become involved in the club, from supporting age related coaching and matches through to attending social functions – the club belongs to us all.
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I would like to thank everyone at the Club for their hard work in helping run the Colts Section. Let's hope that this season proves to be as rewarding and enjoyable as last year!

It has now started raining again, so the season is perhaps closer than I realised!