

Training: Winter 2011

Under 11s: 6.30pm-8.00pm on Thursdays
Under 13s: 6.30pm-8.00pm on Thursdays (or by invitation to the under 15 session)
Under 15s: 6.30pm-8.30pm on Mondays

Indoor Cricket -Winter Leagues

U13s (Friday Evenings at Peter May Centre)-*Mark Campbell*

U15s (Friday Evenings at Bancrofts School)-*Mark Campbell*

U16s/U18s (Friday Evenings at Ilford venue)-*Frank Gordon*

Easy Like Sunday Morning…Summer Review:

SUMMER 2011 was another highly successful and enjoyable season for the Chingford colts. We continue to welcome to the club a huge number of local youngsters, many of whom attend our weekly training sessions and then progress to experience match-play through our various teams. We have a growing reputation in the local community for nurturing young talent and developing personal skills, and also for providing a suitable platform for `beginners' who just seek enjoyment and recreation from the great game of cricket.

Once again, those youngsters attending training and competing in matches have conducted themselves with distinction and have emerged with great credit in terms of their sportsmanship and attitude. Other clubs continue to speak highly of our colts' impeccable behaviour as both hosts and visitors, as highlighted by their eagerness to arrange fixtures with us.

Usually at this stage, we reflect upon a rain-affected summer period and offer the well worn euphemism of having achieved a `mixed bag of results' from our colts' fixtures. Nothing changes with the climate, of course, but it is most pleasing to report numerous outstanding team and individual successes on the field of play across all age groups.

The **Under 11s** played eleven matches in all over the summer, winning five, which was a creditable performance bearing in mind that three of their losses came in the last over and, with some luck, could have been converted into wins. Our younger boys are an emerging team with rich talent who are beginning to apply their skills to match-playing situations as they grow in confidence. We will reap the benefits of this, for sure, in future years.

There were a number of high points to reflect upon during the past season, not least a comprehensive win by 50 runs over a highly accomplished Roding Valley outfit. Douglas Leung dominated proceedings for Chingford, most memorably by taking a hat-trick within the third over of Roding's innings. Expensive for his dad in the bar afterwards, we hear!

There were further most encouraging efforts from our youngest players. Although a losing display, it bodes well for the future that we were able to hold our own against a strong and well-drilled Wanstead *under13* team, narrowly missing out by just three runs at `stumps'. Chasing 100 runs to win, we slumped to 20-6 at an early stage (cue a rather embarrassed Forest-siders' coach!), when in marched Eden Coleman to bat with a calm maturity to post an unbeaten 30 not out at the close, with valuable contributions made by the lower order batsmen. Joe Coghlan and James Bridge came into their own to show tremendous courage and confidence in playing timely supporting roles to the free-scoring Eden .

We can now make light of the year's funniest moment, although seriously there is a moral in here somewhere, when a certain left-arm spin-bowling wicket-keeper of ours was `hit in the box' (why was he not actually wearing one?-they make all sizes these days! Ahem!) at Wanstead. He was too proud to show his discomfort! When the young man batted later that morning, this umpiring author was not sure how to respond to a request for `two, please'! My eyes still water at the thought! Seen you before, young man!

The traditional combined **under 15/17** fixtures were enormously gratifying to our boys, serving as excellent forums for our younger players to interact with our older contingent whilst performing at a higher level of play in a thoroughly competitive environment. Three wins from four matches represents a productive return, and all of those participating made valuable contributions to the cause. Our combined strength in this form of the game makes us a match for any team.



The victorious under 15/17 team after their match against West Essex.

From left to right (back row): S.Hall, J.Bassett, E.Carroll, W.Evans, J.Rhodes, S.Burke.

From left to right (front row): M.Smith, B.Gordon, A.Gordon, N.Noori, H.Houldsworth.

50-Club:

Congratulations to those colts who have added their names to the membership of the much cherished `50-Club', strictly for those youngsters who have reached the half-century run-mark whilst batting for the adult teams. Sam Burke, William Evans, Harry Houldsworth and Jack Bassett all reached the landmark for the first time this season. Special mention also to Dan Lawrence who actually recorded a century in a club friendly match.

A word of caution to all our boys in this elite club, though: word reaches us that from next year, adult bowlers will be able to bowl *over-arm* against our youngsters next year! Only joking, boys! Keep up the good work!

Adult Cricket:

It is most encouraging for the club to witness so many of our young players go on to sample adult cricket and then to progress as main-stays of the respective senior teams. Boys as young as U13 (For example, Matt Smith and Eric Boisson) have been given the opportunity to sample men's cricket. Others will no doubt follow, such as ten year old James Bridge who has already played for Essex Juniors. The club offers a wonderful platform for its juniors to play a high standard of cricket in a competitive arena that is conducive to encouraging their own personal development. Our thanks go to Paul Hart, Dan Carver, Marc Fletcher et al for embracing our colts and making them so welcome each week.

Cricket Week:

‘The Boys are Back in Town’:

The annual Colts’ Week was as eagerly anticipated as ever amongst our youngsters, who relish the longer format programme of matches at the start of their school holidays. In terms of results, we can point to our 100% win success as evidence that we have the blossoming talent at our disposal to compete with any of the local clubs in the area. Spectators witnessed a number of excellent individual displays, although it was the surfacing of the outstanding team ethic and camaraderie which paid dividends results-wise as the week progressed.

The week opened with a comfortable 55-run win over a resolute Buckhurst Hill under 15 team, exorcising the demons of the early season defeat at the hands of our local rivals, thanks to two dogged innings of 30 runs-plus from Sam Burke and Ben Gordon; not to mention a quick-fire and action-packed 47 from Jack `Boom Boom’ Bassett. Jack has added a powerful dimension to our batting, as has our under 13 rising star Matt `Baby Boom Boom’ Smith who, on occasion, stepped up an age-group like a duck to water to complement the swashbuckling talents of Sam Frost, Edward Carroll and Tom Hackett in the middle-order. Ian Fullbrook, who helped with umpiring duties for this match, and by doing so lifted the profile of this occasion, was most impressed by our players’ efforts.

The second match, saw an under 15/17 game 41-run win over a very competitive Frenford outfit, with confident, prolific batting from Nihal Noori, Sam Frost and Alex Gordon. Jack Rhodes began to establish himself as a most valuable slow bowler with two crucial wickets at key moments.

Next up was the promise of a stiff test from the Wanstead B under 15 side. Our total of 135, boosted by some extremely competent batting and stoic resistance from Will Evans, Sam Frost and Ben Gordon, always seemed to be out of our opponent’s reach. Their fate was sealed in the final overs by the *piece de resistance:* two miserly spells impressed of bowling from spin-twins Jack Rhodes and Will Evans to help complete a 36-run success.

The week’s final match saw the boys really stand up to be counted against a strong and well-drilled West Essex team who posted a challenging 157 runs from their 30 overs. A brace of wickets each, and some altogether very tight bowling, from Sam Burke, Alex Gordon and Will Evans, kept their total within our compass as long as we were able to bat with discipline and look to dictate from the off. This we did with authority, taking every opportunity to dispatch the odd stray delivery, and it is surely a club first to record here that four of our first five batsmen reached the 35-run retirement threshold. Hats off to impressive innings, which were full of verve and dynamism, from Harry Houldsworth (his finest hour for the colts), Nihal Noori (who batted with aggression) and Alex and Ben Gordon (both of whom took command to keep the scoreboard ticking over at a considerable pace), as we successfully negotiated the158 runs required to win with a full seven overs to spare. As somebody said in the dressing room afterwards: `Money cannot buy this sort of experience.’

The club’s traditional internal fixture on Tuesday was most enjoyable for boys of all age-groups. We are indebted, as ever, to club stalwart and good friend John Evans for his tireless support with the umpiring duties.

An `I Was There’ Moment:

There is no other way to proclaim this, but this author is duty-bound to report that in the annual Dads v Lads `grudge match’, the boys emerged victorious! Well done to the youngsters, who last won this fixture before club records were kept! One for club historian *Blakey* to research methinks!



THE `PIE' WHO `GLOVED' ME

-Meet the Chingford Under 15s



From `Rasher' with Love:

The club has continued to run a highly successful refreshments' facility during colts' home matches each week and this is warmly appreciated by both home players and our visitors, with clubs coming from afar to sample Chingford's unique bacon rolls and sausage `sarnies'. The distinctive aroma, which reaches the batting crease with a strong down wind, is considered to add an extra fifty runs or so to our total as our batsmen accelerate their scoring in anticipation of a quick retirement to the club kitchen!

We are grateful to our two January transfer window signings (fee undisclosed); the club having beaten off late interest for their services from *Café Delice* and, erm, *Ian Beale's Cafe*! Ladeez and gentz, I give you the redoubtable, the irresistible, the incomparable, the irrepressible (*Editor: enough of Leonard Sachs and his `Good Old Days' nostalgia-older readers only*) Mrs Geraldine Evans and Mrs Liz Houldsworth for their superb management of our `tuck shop'! Thanks also to our team of ever-willing `daughters' (Charlotte Evans, Charlotte Gordon, Beth Frost, Emily Rhodes and Sophie Rhodes) for their considerable support. Well done to you all!!

The Man with the Golden `Bun':

The Under 15 season did not get off to the best of starts when our batsmen were rolled over for 37 runs by a rampant Woodford Wells `A` team on the opening day of the season. It was not comforting to learn to that we had sold more bacon rolls, etc, (45) than we had managed runs that morning! Largely, this was due to a `rather peckish' resident groundsman who `carried his *bap*' to finish on an unbeaten 36 of this total, including a number of streaky singles, two double-cheeseburgers and a triple bacon sandwich topped with onions and mustard! We learn that he was heavily into the `runs' again the following morning!

Look out for our new signings next year: `Danish' Kaneria, `Pork' Ollingwood and `Rind' Sidebottom (and dad `Sarnie'-older readers only again!)…

Live and `Brett' Die:

There can be few more fearsome sights to a batsman than watching young speed merchant Harry Houldsworth charging to the wicket, with legs pumping, muscles bursting, nostrils flaring and eyes bulging, as he waits quaking in his crease for the famous after-ball `Brett Lee Stare'! Young `H' used this ploy to great effect during the under 15 game away to Buckhurst Hill on the 5th June and it certainly had our rivals on the back foot (to the amusement of our four slip fielders). We await with interest the verdict of the *England and Wales Cricket Board* as to whether `Brett' will be deducted his match fee for `intimidation of the batsman'! We did actually lose this fixture, but they were scared for a while, I am telling you they were…

. `Bold' Finger: Leg Before, Will:

`Most Improved Under 15 Performer' William Evans may be this year, but he will be remembered by his team manager/ umpire for the two LBWs duly given against him during May for shuffling across his stumps! Whilst walking out to bat for every innings since, a distant cry can be heard round the streets of Chingford of: *"Don't you give my boy out LBW this week!!"*

This umpire has no problem with the above, but being chased around the boundary by a rather 'concerned' Mrs E in tandem with her rolling pin is taking things too far! It was never like this for Dickie Bird!!

Congratulations on your presentation, Will. Your 304 runs this season, tripling your tally last year, makes you a richly deserved winner of this year's coveted award. We'll see you again!



That's got to be close, Will! Howizeeeee?

`Wonder' Ball: Srin's Spin Conjures up Win:

There can be few more impressive, stand-out colt debut achievements on record than the feat accomplished against Woodford Wells B by this year's new `big money' signing Srini Kamalanathan. With the Wells' batsmen looking set to leave our boys facing a daunting score to chase, the ball was tossed to the new unknown spinner, more in hope than expectation. Amazingly, we witnessed four deadly overs which produced four wickets for next to nothing! It is timely here to mention two other remarkable large wicket hauls this summer: Jack Rhodes (4-1-14-4) in the game against Wanstead on the 27th July and Ben Gordon (3-0-10-5) in the match against West Essex on the 3rd July.

Licence to 'Thrill':

Big hitting he may be, but there is never a hair out of place! Club `smoothie' and `dedicated follower of fashion' Sam Frost proved to be 'a bit hit' with the ladies during Cricket Week! His frequent `flicking' of his hair whilst fielding prompted good natured, humorous catcalling and whistling from the largely female crowd as he nonchalantly threw the ball into the bowler; so much so, it almost stopped the game! One of the batsmen was heard to ask: "How many `flicks' left this over, Umps?!" *(Editor: I have heard of a `leg glance' to mid-wicket, but a `hair flick' to square leg is something else!)*

For the record, Sam now sports a nice and tidy short back and sides, but we look forward to our dashing young man's latest hair-style next summer, and more good natured banter, when he will be looking to keep a `cut above' the rest!

The Name's Evans: James Evans:

The club would like to thank its reliable team of enthusiastic family members from amongst all colts' age-groups who regularly volunteer to provide support in running teams, umpiring, scoring and overseeing fixtures. These include James Evans, Mark Bridge, Kevin Coleman, Paul Richardson, Patricia Boisson, Mark Campbell, Alex and Frank Gordon. Our colts realise that without their considerable input, Sunday morning cricket would not be possible. Thanks to you all!

On Her Majesty's Secret (First) Service:

A word of recognition is overdue for those youngsters who choose not to represent the men's teams but, nevertheless, play key roles for the colts' elevens most weeks. In some cases (such as James Wilson, who combines his cricket with serving aces down at Whitehall Tennis Club), boys have other sporting commitments to juggle with their cricket.

As well as James (our `quiet man' who lets his cricket do the talking), valuable contributions have also been made by Sam Frost, Edward Carroll, Tom Hackett, Eliot Belafonte, Srini Kamalanathan, Kayne Shearing, Anthony Ewin and Ryan Richefond.

Fair and `Square':

A big `thank you' from our colts to the club's resident groundsman, affectionally known as *Logsy* (I have never asked why either), for continuing to produce such excellent wickets. This is something that has not gone unnoticed by our opponents this year, who always keenly accept our invitations to play us at our home venue. Mind you, our most naïve under 15 team manager spent the first three months of the season apologising to our opponents' coaches for not having a `good enough pitch' to play on. He had not realised that *Logsy's* description of it being `a road' is a complimentary term, and not a derogatory description, in the cricketing world!



World authority on cricket pitches, Frank Gordon, baffles the Buckhurst Hill coach: "Apologies for the state of the pitch. It is a 'road' this week..."

A Message from the Club President:

Once Again, I am pleased to be given the opportunity to express my sincere thanks to the club's coaches (including Mark, Sammy, Billy and Chris) for their all-year-round commitment and expertise in developing the skills of our colts. I am also thoroughly grateful for the efforts of a number of parent volunteers who have once again come forward to support colts' matches in running teams, umpiring, scoring, overseeing fixtures and providing refreshments. There are too many for me to mention here personally but, like their cricket playing children, they are all a pleasure to work and socialise with at our club, which continues to go from strength to strength.

We look forward to a long association with all our young players, both boys and girls, and we continue to extend our welcome at the club to their parents.

-Mr Bill Birch (Club President)

Jack Petchey Achievement Awards:

The club receives a generous financial donation through the Jack Petchey Awards process for the cricketing achievements of our young players. Our congratulations go to this year's winners: **Douglas Lueng** (aged 11) for his leadership of the under 11 team and his support in promoting a real sense of identity and togetherness; **Matt Smith (13)** for his superb bowling and batting throughout last winter and for becoming a regular in the men's fourth team; **Jack Bassett** (16) for smoothly fitting into men's cricket with a number of outstanding all-round performances; **Jay Edmonds** (19) for his excellent displays in the men's second team and for his positive contribution to the club over many years.

Mark My Words:

Despite the intervention of some unhelpful weather this cricketing summer, the club has enjoyed another successful season. We have continued to expand the coaching facilities for our colts and we regularly see in excess of fifty aspiring young boys and girls attending the club for the Thursday night sessions. Youngsters have enjoyed the thrill of competition within a child-friendly environment where the emphasis is always on learning new skills and having fun.

There have been colts' matches most weeks for all age-groups and it has been pleasing to see our players transfer the skills they have developed during club coaching sessions into the match-playing arena. As always, I am grateful to a number of parents who have given up their time to support the Sunday morning fixtures and I trust that our players appreciate the efforts of their mums and dads in transporting them to the various venues to make matches possible.

We look forward to all that next season brings…with a bit of help from the weather!

Training will continue for our colts on Mondays and Thursdays throughout the winter period (please see details on the front of this newsletter).

-Dr Mark Campbell (Under 11s and 13s Team Manager and Coach)

Matt Finish:

The summer marked a big `break-through' year for under 13 all-rounder Matt Smith. As well as playing an integral role for the men's 4th XI and making his debut for the colts' under 15-17 team, Matt is a deserved winner of the under 13 `Performance of the Season' award for his Match-winning display and astute captaincy in the win over West Essex. Our popular young man clearly has a bright future in the game!



Top Ten Countdown of Colts' Sayings:

1. New entry, straight into the top spot: Will Evans with ***He's seen you before.***

2. Down one place: Sam Frost with ***Big swing, no ding.***

3. Non-mover: Jack Rhodes with ***Not on your arm.***

4. New Entry: Sam Burke with ***No doubles, just singles to you, James.***

5. Non-mover: Anthony Ewin with ***Well bowled, Kayne. You're bowling `steam' this week.***

6. New Entry*:* Harry Houldsworth with ***Join the dots.***

7. New Entry: Ben Gordon with ***See if you can join the party.***

8. Up three places: Andrew MacGregor with ***Here's the barbecue bowler.***

9. Non-mover: Edward Carroll with ***Dot balls are good balls.***

10. Down two places: Dan Lawrence with ***Just me and you, buddy.***

Cricket Quiz Night:

The next Cricket Quiz Night has been provisionally booked for 'Saturday 19th November (evening). Please put this date in your diary.

Summer 2011 Presentations

U11s:

Batting Awards– Eden Coleman, Douglas Leung, Joe Cullen and Joe Coghlan

Bowling Awards– Douglas Leung, James Bridge, Dylan Weekes and Amaan Khilij

Most Committed Player– Glen Pearce (has not missed a match or training session)

Most Improved Player– Eden Coleman (top run-scorer and promising batting talent)

Performance of the Season- Douglas Leung (hat-trick v Roding Valley)

U13s:

Batting Awards– Matt Smith, Eric Boisson and Albie Drew

Bowling Awards– Matt Smith, Pragash Athithan, Nathan Frost and Lewis Dixon

Most Committed Player– Luke Eves (enthusiastic, positive and keen to learn)

Most Improved Player– Harry Richardson (considerable improvement as a stylish all-rounder)

Performance of the Season– Matt Smith (all-round match winning performance as captain with bat and ball v West Essex)

U15s:

Batting Awards– Sam Burke (227 runs), Harry Houldsworth (233), William Evans (304) and Ben Gordon (444)

Bowling Awards– Jack Rhodes (10 wkts), Harry Houldsworth (10), William Evans (11), Ben Gordon (14) and Sam Burke (19)

Most Committed Player– Edward Carroll (always available for matches and a willing team player)

Most Improved Player– William Evans (tripled his run-score from last year)

Performance of the Season– Ben Gordon (30* and 5 wkts for 10 runs, including hat-trick, v West Essex on 3rd July)

The **Under 13s** played nine games in total, winning four in all, but some of their scheduled matches fell victim to the wet weather. This age-group is bursting with enthusiasm and it is already evident that one or two boys in particular will go on to be exceptionally high achievers in the game. The older members of the team, Matt Smith, Eric Boisson, Albie Drew and Nathan Frost, have all previously shown their capabilities on the bigger stage during internal matches against our under 15/17 boys, not being afraid to step up to the plate in match situations against other clubs when called upon.

Our effervescent young team certainly hit the ground running this summer, obviously having `wintered well', as demonstrated by their excellent early season form in defeating a highly competitive Walthamstow side by 50 runs. Pleasingly, the watching crowd of supporting parents were treated to a dynamic all-round team performance, showing no mercy to their rivals in all three disciplines of the game: batting, bowling and fielding.

We should also reflect upon a comfortable win by 20 runs over Wanstead when our team was indebted to a hostile opening spell from determined paceman Matt Smith. Although Wanstead had reversed their batting order for reasons best known to their coach, let us take nothing away from Matt's five overs for four wickets and one run! Ian Botham from 1981 all over again! (he's now that pot-bellied tv cricket commentator, but he was half-decent and very popular with us middle-aged dads at one point!). Let us also remember some superb back-up bowling from Nathan Frost and Prakash to see this win through for us. Magnificent!

The **Under 15s** achieved an unprecedented sequence of wins during the summer to record a 75% success rate, representing a high watermark in recent years for Chingford teams competing within this age group. This was also a significant improvement on the achievements of our then largely under 14 contingent playing at this level last year; indicative of the growing maturity of the same players progressing through the ranks in summer 2011. It is encouraging to record that we batted and bowled with aplomb throughout this past campaign and to note that our fielding has improved most demonstrably.

Amongst other successes, we achieved notable victories against South Woodford, Beehive, West Essex, Barking, Wanstead B, Woodford Wells B, Buckhurst Hill, Frenford and Theydon respectively, which will live long in the memory of the boys' watching parents who will have taken great pride in all that they witnessed.

Largely, our defeats were in cup fixtures by clubs with very deep and hugely experienced squads. On reflection, though, it was somewhat disappointing not to convert our undoubted superiority into wins in two very close last-ball losses away at Buckhurst Hill and Frenford, where we were somewhat profligate with our bowling at crucial periods. On the positive side, we managed to establish excellent club links with Frenford, West Essex, Buckhurst Hill and Barking, all of whom were keen to agree to a supplementary series of fixtures this year and will do likewise next season.

Most meaningful to our successes this term was the team contribution made by all our youngsters during a season when our personnel resources were stretched to their very limits, having operated with a basic squad of only twelve players. The team was most grateful to additional support from our over-seas, er, over-age, players Jack Basset, Matt Fairley, Kane Shearing and Anthony Ewin, and also to those youngsters stepping up from under 13 level, Matt Smith and Eric Boisson.

It is most satisfying to recall the numerous personal contributions made by our boys this year, marking their development as `senior players' at this level. On the batting front, the 400-run plus mark was achieved for the season by Ben Gordon, the 300-run plus mark was reached by Will Evans and there were 200-run mark successes for Harry Houldsworth and Sam Burke. In terms of bowling, our attack was boosted by ten-wicket-and-above returns for the season by leading wicket taker Sam Burke, Harry Houldsworth, Will Evans, Ben Gordon and Jack Rhodes.