



FESTIVE GREETINGS TO ALL COLTS AND THEIR FAMILIES

With the dark evenings upon us the cricket season may seem months away, but your committee has been working hard over the past few weeks organising next season's fixtures, training regimes and of course winter training which starts on the 11th January 2014. I thought that it would be a good idea to update you all about what is going on behind the scenes at your Club and tell you about our plans for the next season.

CHAIRMAN AND VOLUNTEERS

Firstly you will all be aware that last year we achieved Club Mark Status which means that we have been recognised by the ECB (The English and Wales Cricket Board) as being a centre for cricketing excellence that provides children with a safe and secure environment in which to learn how to play cricket. We are one of very few Clubs in the area that has this status and we should all be proud of this achievement.

The Clubmark Status was secured through the hard work and dedication of **Neil Cheetham** who has been the Chairman of the Colts for the past four years as well as being an age group manager and **David Barter** who is our club welfare officer and an age group manager. They were ably assisted by all of the age group managers, many of whom have achieved Level 2 Coaching Status (which is the highest level of coaching recognised by the ECB within the amateur game). They were in turn assisted by a large number of Level 1 coaches, young leaders and of course the parents without whom we would have no Club.

Neil has decided to stand down as Chairman and on behalf of you all we would like to thank Neil for all the hard work, dedication, time and patience that he has put into that role over the past 4 years. He will, of course, be staying on as age group manager. We wish Neil and his family the very best in the future.

As Neil has decided to stand down I have volunteered to take on the role of Chair from him. I am a level 2 coach and have played the game all my life since early days with my family on beaches in Cornwall to last season where I finished up with a better bowling average than batting. It has taken me 47 years to achieve that! I live in Woking and am married to Louise and have 2 children, Catherine, and Alex who plays for the U12 next season.

FREE WINTER TRAINING

You will all appreciate that the outdoor cricket season can be relatively short when compared with the football season, which seems to take over the entire sporting calendar. Winter training therefore gives you the opportunity of extending the cricket season, whilst allowing the coaches time to work with the boys and girls indoors. All of the age group coaches have asked me to stress the importance of this pre season training, as it gives them a chance to work on some of the basic skills of batting, bowling, fielding and wicket keeping before the big move outdoors when the spring arrives. It gives everyone a head start.

Winter training is free of charge and open to all children who are going to be playing in the U8s (school year 3) and above next season. Training takes place at two venues depending on the age group that the colt plays in. This year we are using Winston Churchill School and Woking College for the older colts. Details of these are:-

Winston Churchill School (Sports Centre is round the back of the school but within the school grounds) : Hermitage Road, St. Johns, Woking GU21 8TL. Plenty of parking on Site.

Woking College: Rydens Way, Woking GU22 9DL. Plenty of parking on site.

You are reminded that, as the sessions are indoors in the sports hall, trainers only must be worn. Also U10s and above age-groups must bring an abdominal guard (box) for protection. Each age-group will have a kit bag so that equipment can be borrowed, but children can also bring along their own (named) kit.

The timing of sessions is found in the table below. If you have any doubt about which session you should attend please contact your age group manager.

	Winston Churchill School Session 1 1pm - 2pm	Session 2 2pm-3pm	Woking College Session 3 5pm-6pm
11-Jan	U10	u12	
18-Jan	U9	U11	U16/U17
25-Jan	U10	U12	u14/u15
01-Feb	U9	U13	U16/U17
08-Feb	U10	U12	u14/u15
15-Feb	u13	U11	U16/U17
22-Feb	U9	U8	u14/u15
01-Mar	u13	U11	U16/U17
08-Mar	U9	U11	u14/u15
15-Mar	u13	U12	U16/U17
22-Mar	u10	U12	u14/u15
29-Mar	u9	U8	U16/U17
05-Apr	u13	U11	u14/u15
12-Apr	U10	U12	U16/U17
19-Apr	u13	U11	u14/u15

VOLUNTEERS

The Club would not exist but for the dedicated army of volunteers that help run the Club. We have age group reps in each year, helpers at matches throughout the season, social reps that run the bar and BBQ through the cricket season and a number of behind the scenes role that I would like to tell you about. At the moment we are looking to recruit people for the following roles:-

Colts Social Secretary

This role is one that would require you to help set up the rotas for the bar and BBQ and help organise the family fun days and other social events. It is not a demanding role but would perhaps suit 2 parent reps

who could get to the Brewery Road Ground every other week and attend the odd committee meeting.

Colts Club Secretary.

For the past 4 years Carolyn Cheetham has taken responsibility for email communications with the membership, writing newsletters and taking minutes at committee meetings, which are held 4 times a year. Carolyn has agreed to carry on in this role during the forthcoming cricket season, but we would like someone to take over this important role from July 2014. Ideally, the new person would overlap whilst Carolyn was still in position so that she can 'train' them for the role.

Under 13s Age-group Representative

All age-groups should have a representative who can help the Social Secretary when it comes to organising volunteers for the Bar and BBQ rota, helping with the cricket day and acting as the parents representative. At the moment we have age group reps in place for all years apart from the U13's group, so if you are one of the parents in that year please consider if you would like to take on this important role for us.

Parent Helpers

Some age groups have very little parental help either on a Friday evening or at matches and we at the Club are very keen to try and increase the numbers which can help out. This makes it easier for those that do help out as the onus is not always on them to get things done and, perhaps more importantly, it is actually very rewarding.

We would particularly like extra support for the U9s (year 4 this year) and U11s (year 6). Training is available and if you think this is one way in which you can support your club then please contact me at michaeltiplady@me.com.

The Club is more than happy to pay for parents to take courses in first aid, scoring, umpiring, coaching and running the BBQ!

MEMBERSHIP AND FEES

As last year, membership forms will be e-mailed out to you in early February from the membership secretaries Kathryn and Elaine. Please look out for these and get your forms/fees sent in promptly. We will also be holding an evening down at WHCC for those who would prefer to pay their fees by cash or in person. More details regarding membership will be sent in the New Year.

Membership fees will be increased by £5 per colt this year. This is in line with increased fees for the senior members of the Club agreed at the AGM in October last year.

CRICKETING KIT AND BATS.

With Christmas just around the corner now might be a good time to get some kit ready for next year. Sweaters, shirts and Club Kit can be ordered through the Club Web Site or through

www.kit-matters.co.uk

Many of you may be considering buying cricket bats for your child's Christmas or birthday present. If you are going to do this then great, but please make sure that you choose the right size bat. To do this select a bat and hold it towards the top of the handle in your right hand, place the bat by your right leg and touch the ground. The bottom of the bat should just touch the ground whilst your son or daughter's shoulders should be level. If you have any doubt about which size bat to buy please speak to one of the coaches before you do so. I have seen children trying to play with bats that Kevin Pietersen would struggle to lift. The wrong bat could put them off playing, and don't forget that we have loads of different sized bats at the Club which are free to use.

TRAINING OPTIONS

There are a number of other coaching choices available over the winter. The 20-20 Cricket Company run winter courses, as do Surrey Cricket Club and Howard Grice at Hoebridge School. Their contact details are:- www.twenty20cricketcompany.com, www.kiaoval.com/nets/, www.hgcricketdevelopment.com

A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL

We would like to thank everyone at the Club for their hard work in helping us run the Colts Section. Lets hope that next season proves to be as rewarding and enjoyable as last year when I think you will agree we had some splendid weather for cricket.

Thank you for taking time to read this newsletter and best wishes to you all.

**MICHAEL TIPLADY
WOKING AND HORSELL CRICKET CLUB
COLTS SECTION CHAIR**