

# SHENLEY VILLAGE CRICKET CLUB

## Pre-season Newsletter – February 2009

[shenleycc.hitscricket.com](http://shenleycc.hitscricket.com)



### LOOKING FORWARD TO THE SEASON AND BEYOND - A LETTER FROM YOUR CO-CHAIRMAN

The evenings are getting a fraction longer, the bulbs are coming up, and the stretching can begin.

Indoor nets for the seniors are fully underway, every Wednesday at the Sports Village, from 7-9 pm. For our Colts, the nets have been running all winter, and will continue every Saturday from 2-4pm until the end of March as with the seniors.

After that, weather permitting, the colts will have their first outdoor net between 10-12am on Sunday, April 5th, again on Tues 5.30-7.30. Adult nets start on Thurs 9th April. This will be combined with our registration evening, please make the effort to be there.

There has been quite a bit happening in and around the club over the winter, including hearing that the 4<sup>th</sup> XI were promoted to Div. 12.

We have secured a second ground for the season, for the 3's and 4's, at Old Camdenians, and the Cricket Ground at Napsbury looks like it will finally become available for some Junior cricket this summer, although no details are available at the time of writing. At least one other club also wants to play there.

SVCC have entered colts teams in seven Herts age group leagues for 2009, and we are aiming to get five of them to the finals day following three of our teams getting that far last year. Only the under 10's won their final, finishing the season unbeaten, and a credit to the boys involved and their manager Paul Copping.

Please use the club website to record your availability, and check your averages from past seasons. This is a great time to start setting your individual goals for 2009.

As many of the members noticed, our landlord put the Shenley cricket centre up for sale in September for the highly optimistic figure of £3 Million. We know he didn't get his asking price, but your executive committee are currently exploring ways in which our club could raise sufficient funds, make strategic partnerships, and arrive at a position by which an offer of sufficient strength could be made to take over the long term lease, and establish the long term stability of the Shenley Village Cricket Club, for its members. Initial conversations with ECB representatives have been encouraging, and as one of just 1200 ECB focus clubs in the UK, we are in a good position to receive some assistance in securing a long term home ground whether at the cricket centre or nearby. We would like to take this opportunity to invite all club members, parents and friends to let us know of any potential funding the club may access in formulating a strategy.

Million pound donations are highly unlikely, but generally I have established that capital grants are possible from 2-3 public sources. The club will no doubt have to raise a significant amount in addition to any grants, gifts, or loans the club may have access too. These are interesting times, and absolutely nothing has been put in place at this time, but let's see what the club as a whole can put on the table, on the assumption that strategic partners can be found.

See you at the nets, or on the 9th April

Ray McLennan  
Co-Chairman

### CLUB OFFICERS



The club AGM was held in November and officers were duly elected. A number of people have said they don't know who the captains are for the senior sides next year, so here you go:

First XI – Jemile Al-Darraj, Second XI – Steve Scott, Third XI – Danny Manzi, Fourth XI – Warren Seeley & Sunday side – Richard Evans.

There is a full list of all club officials as well as a host of other info on the club web-site which can be found at [shenleycc.hitscricket.com](http://shenleycc.hitscricket.com).

### REGISTRATION EVENING

We will be holding a pre-season registration event at the cricket centre on **Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> April** during and after the outdoor net session that evening.

The reason for this is two-fold. This year we need to collect annual donations and memberships as early as possible in order for us to be able to make payments to the cricket centre and other suppliers. Players will not be able to play any form of league or competition cricket in 2009 until they have paid their subscription.

Secondly it is an opportunity to meet with team mates you may not have seen through the close-season, share a drink and reminisce about all those runs, wickets and catches you took last year.

Everyone is welcome so bring your wives, girlfriends or both.

Members of the committee will be on hand to answer any questions you might have about the running of the club and our search for a permanent home.

## DINNER DANCE

Following the success of the end of season presentation evening at Porters Park Golf Club last October we are pleased to announce that we will be repeating the event this year.



Propping up the bar at the 2008 dinner

The dinner will be held at the same venue on Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup> October. Tickets are priced at £35. Contact Matt Woodward to secure your place. Again full details will be on the club web-site throughout the season.

## RISING STAR

As everyone knows, the colts' section of the club continues to grow and go from strength-to-strength. The standard of cricket that they are involved in improves every year so it is especially gratifying when one of our "home-grown" talents is singled out for wider recognition as happened with Charlie Thurston recently. Charlie was recognised by the HCCA and was presented with the U13s



Charlie Thurston

Batting Award due to his "superior technique combined with his unflappable temperament and maturity beyond his years." Over this winter Charlie has been invited to Middlesex colts nets, and has been selected as one of just 3 junior players in the new Herts elite development scheme.

## SVCC LOOK TO DIV TWO

After our 7<sup>th</sup> place finish in division three, thanks to a late season surge in performance and results we are eyeing promotion for 2009. In division two neutral umpires are supplied and it will whet our appetite for playing at the highest level.

We are very fortunate to have several very experienced club cricketers playing for our first team for the next 3-4 years, but coming up from our colts between now and then are many young talented players who hopefully will then propel Shenley into the Home Counties Premier league.

The current Shenley U13 team will this June have to win just 2 games, to qualify for the national U13 club competition and, if successful, will carry the club name to most prominent exposure yet in the county champions play offs in July. We hope the younger players and the age groups following them can then go on to top level club cricket and beyond with our clubs support and well wishes.

We will soon announce our overseas player, who will be a strike bowler, colts bowling coach, and will represent the club in local schools

## SECOND GROUND

After the Rowley Lane sports association decided that they would not be making their ground

available to us for 2009

a lot of effort has gone into securing a second ground.

This has now been resolved and we will be using the second pitch

at Old Camdenians'

Burton Hole Lane

ground in Mill Hill. The committee evaluated a number of options and this was the one that offered the best blend of location and availability given the limited choices available. This has now also been approved by the Saracens' league. Directions will be posted on the web site. If anyone has any bright ideas for 2010 please let us have them.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> April	Colt nets start at Shenley Cricket Centre (SCC)
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> April	Adult Nets start at SCC
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> April	Registration evening at SCC
Saturday 18 <sup>th</sup> April	Inter-club match at SCC
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> April	Colts' league season begins
Saturday 2 <sup>nd</sup> May	Saracens league season begins
Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May	Sunday matches begin First match at SCC
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> June	Second Shenley Village Twenty/20 at SCC
Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup> July	County Junior Finals day for all age-groups
Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Annual end-of-season 6- a-side family day at SCC
Saturday 10 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Dinner Dance at Porters Park Golf Club

## WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

The club is run largely on goodwill in many different forms. From the annual

donation that all our players make through to the time put in by volunteers who fill vital committee posts that

keep the club running.

If you would like to help there are lots of ways that you can do so. If you don't

have much time on your hands enter our "Give'n'Win" scheme which helps keep the club finances buoyant. If you have time on your hands then come and see someone from the committee to offer your help, there are always some jobs that need doing. We'd love to hear from anyone who'd like to help the club continue to go from strength-to-strength.

**VAIN?**

...of course you are, so do yourself a favour and check out the historical stats that Dave Stubbs has just put on the web. Re-live those past glories