

# Development Plan 2017



*Affiliated to the Club Cricket Conference, the Hertfordshire County Cricket Association and the Middlesex Cricket Association  
Member of the Saracens Hertfordshire Cricket League  
Hadley Field, Chalk Lane, Cockfosters, EN4 9JG*

This development plan summarises the 2016 season and sets out the Committee's plans for the 2017 season. It is based on a Committee meeting brainstorm and feedback from members.

## **Mission Statement:**

Southgate Compton CC aims to be an inclusive, social, friendly cricket club, giving players of all abilities the opportunity to play and practice cricket, whilst driving up our standards to make our league sides more competitive, and providing entertainment to our social and playing members. Most of all, to play the game in the right spirit.

## **2016 Season Review:**

The major success of the 2016 season was the addition of an overseas player, both on the pitch and off the pitch, in bringing the club together. This, together with a greater team spirit and availability saw the Ones become unbeaten Champions of Division 4a. The Twos were in promotion contention at the halfway stage of the season, but availability dipped in the second half of the season and any chance to go up petered away as the Ones side was reinforced.

Sunday friendlies generally went well, with a number of young players developing, though we occasionally struggled for numbers.

The Colts front was less successful. We struggled for numbers, particularly beyond U11s, largely because we have been placed in too harder league for several years. This resulted in several games having to be conceded, although some were played as friendlies with over-aged players. We have good numbers of coaches and our U11s side (where we had enough players) was reasonably successful, but we will need an influx of colts next year if we are to maintain our sides.

Membership fees were better enforced with circa 90 members signing up to the 2016 season; 30 colts, 40 players and 20 social members. The club has made a small profit this year, though this is partly due to not needing to service the ground machines, which will need servicing next year. We will need to work hard to break even next year.

The ground continues to play well, and the addition of covers and a squeegee, courtesy of a 'get the game on' grant meant a few more games were completed this year.

As always, the club has been dependent on those who volunteer to make the club run, from teas to colts managers, the committee and all the other roles – a big thanks to all. After many years service Gary and Peter are stepping down from the committee and other volunteers are overworked. We need to bring more volunteers into the club to ensure we can drive it forward.

## **2017 Development Plan:**

Following a Committee meeting and the feedback from the Members survey, issues across the following themes have been identified:

Volunteers    Players    Socials/Finance    Training    Ground

### **Volunteers**

The club needs all members to pull their weight to help the club to prosper. Those that volunteer feel overburdened, whilst others can barely do a match day job. From teas, to ground volunteers to colts managers, to just doing match day jobs promptly, we need more volunteers.

#### **Actions**

- A summary of the volunteer roles will be circulated ahead of the AGM.
- Colts managers will be included as a role to encourage these to be filled early, instead of leaving it until right before the colts season starts.
- Match day jobs will be re-introduced to the team sheets, and a reminder of responsibilities sent at the start of the season.

### **Players**

We struggled for players in some teams, particularly the U13s and U15s, though availability also impacted the Sunday side.

#### **Actions**

- To advertise our colts section to increase membership with flyers and signpost the club better,
- To work harder at retaining new and existing adult players and getting them enough games early in the season,
- To not rely solely on the website for communicating the Sunday teams.

### **Socials/Finances**

The club raised over £1,000 from good socials events last year, however they were often poorly supported. These need to be better advertised and members reminded that if these do not raise money then annual/match fees will have to increase. Expenses need to be kept to a minimum too. We should also search for financing through sources other than our members such as grants and sponsorship.

#### **Actions**

- Decide dates for socials at start of the season, and advertise,
- To approach local businesses for sponsorship and monitor grants available.

### **Training / Net Facilities**

The club's training facilities are average. The outfield is bumpy for colts practice, and whilst the net is sufficient for colts it is not ideal for adult practice. A new facility is extremely costly and not realistic without a grant which we previously tried and were unsuccessful.

#### **Actions**

- Repair net frame with replacement parts,
- Cut pitches in the outfield for soft ball colts practice,
- Have an advertised adult practice night (though this may need to vary around the colts games) netting on the square.

### **Ground**

The hedges around the ground are overgrown and the council only cut them back at the end of the season. This results in many lost balls. As an initial step, we should take action ourselves to cut back the lower portions of the hedge, to see the extent to which this rectifies the issue.

#### **Actions**

- To include hedge work in the pre-season working party with additional volunteers helping.