The Surrey Trust League

The Surrey Trust League exists to bridge the gap between junior and senior cricket encouraging young players over the traditional 'colts' ages to play in competitive matches with and against adults. The games are played in coloured kit with orange balls and stumps and the format has produced some very exciting cricket over the years.

- There are two entirely separate competitions as follows:

  Surrey Trust League - teams must contain six players under the age of 21 of whom four must be under 18; ages as at 1st September the year before.

  Development League - teams must contain seven players under the age of 18 of whom four must be under 16; ages as at 1st September the year before.

- The two competitions are entirely separate and there is no promotion or relegation.

- Clubs decide on an annual basis which competitions to enter based on their likely availability. They can enter one or other of the competitions or both. If they don't feel able to commit to either competition, they can miss a year or two and re-enter when they are ready.

- Clubs are normally required to declare which competitions they wish to enter by the end of October.

- There is an AGM and fixtures meeting held in mid-November at which a draw takes place to decide the groups followed by the club representatives getting together and working out their fixtures. The league representative and fixture secretary of each club is required to attend this meeting.

- The leagues run from Mid-April until August after which there are play-offs. The finals days are usually on the first (Trust) and second (Development) Sundays in September. The Trust League winners play the top team in the Kent competition in a play off on the 3rd Sunday in September.

- All members of the league must be affiliated to the Surrey Cricket Board. Consistent with the ECB's desire to use the Surrey model in other counties, a Sussex club joined the Surrey Trust League in 2012. The hope is that this will encourage other clubs from those counties to form their own league in a year or two.

- There are clubs from all over Surrey represented from Burgess Park in the North East to Horley in the South East and out to Cranleigh and Farncombe in the west. This occasionally means that long away trips are required.

- Matches are played in coloured kit with orange balls. A pack of equipment consisting of stumps, fielding markers and bowling markers is supplied free of charge to new clubs as part of the sponsorship deal with the Surrey Cricket Board. For all kit requirements including coloured kit, please contact the league supplier Richard Sels via e-mail richardsels@hotmail.com.

- The league produces a yearbook which is distributed to all clubs at the start of the season. Copies of the book in paper or pdf form can be provided to prospective entrants by contacting the league administrator (see below).

- You can get more information about this and previous seasons competitions from the website at www.ssdl.play-cricket.com. The league rules and playing conditions can also be downloaded from the homepage of this site.

For any further information or to receive a copy of the yearbook, please e-mail Eric Sands the league administrator at stl.bythebridge@tesco.net.

The Surrey Trust League Philosophy

1. Introduction

The philosophy of STL Cricket is to provide fun and exciting cricket, played competitively truly in the Spirit of Cricket whilst developing clubs for the future. Within this overall philosophy there are a number of separate streams targeted at separate sub groups within the wider cricketing fellowship, each targeted at developing club members to fulfil their potential or allowing them to put something back now that they have more time.

- **Academy** – this is the premium level where young cricketers and seniors from the 1st & 2nd XI join forces to play over limit cricket at the very highest level.
- **Development** – this is the bridging league where young cricketers start to play over limit cricket with seniors in a competitive atmosphere.
- **U18 Festival** – provides an opportunity for colts to gain their first exposure to the STL format during an old fashioned cricket week.

There are some common themes running through all of the competitions:

- All matches are supported by umpires and scorers. Although these maybe trainees learning their skills.
- Matches are played in coloured kit with coloured equipment.
- Teams are supported by a manager who deals with the administration of matches and a coach who educates the player and set good standards, especially in preparation and warm-up.

2. Academy League

The key features of the Academy League are:

1) This is most definitely NOT a COLTS league. It a place where excellence is prized and young cricketers are challenged to play with the best around. Far from it being wrong for 1st & 2nd XI players to be a part of these teams, this is positively encouraged especially if they are under the age of 21.
2) Team must include 6 players under the age of 21, four of whom must be under the age of 18, although the most successful side often are almost all under 21.
3) Matches are played on clubs main grounds, so that the players experience the highest quality wickets.
4) Umpires are normally experienced and able to officiate at a good standard.
5) Scorers may still be learning with the support of others.

3. Development League

The key features of the Development League are:

1) This is not a COLTS league, but is a place where colts and seniors play together in a competitive environment. It a place where excellence is prized and young cricketers are challenged to play to a high standard. 1st & 2nd XI players are encouraged to be a part of these teams, but it would be wrong for them to dominate games on a regular basis.
2) A well run and managed team will adapt based on the strength of its opposition. On some days it will rely more on its senior players to make a game of it or set a target to allow the bowlers something to bowl at, but on others it will give chances to the lesser players when the opposition are not so strong whilst still playing to win.
3) Teams must include 7 players under the age of 18, four of whom must be under the age of 16.
4) Matches are ideally played on clubs main grounds, so that the players experience the highest quality wickets.
5) Umpires are normally experienced, but this is an opportunity for newer umpires to gain experience.
6) Scorers may still be learning with the support of others.

4. U18 Festival

The key features of the U18 Festival are:

1) This IS a COLTS only competition. It is designed to provide midweek cricket, during the summer holiday for players at the younger end of the Surrey Trust spectrum
2) All players must be in the under 18 age group for the season. This is a good opportunity to gather together the better players from the U18, U17, U16, U15 & U14 age groups to make up a squad exposing younger players to 40 over cricket.
3) The competition particularly provides opportunities for two groups of players; young players who have not played STL cricket but also those who have already played Academy and Development cricket.
4) Matches are played on good quality clubs grounds, so that the players experience good quality wickets.