



## RAINHAM CRICKET CLUB

(Affiliated to the Essex County Cricket Board, the Club Cricket Conference, Essex Playing Fields Association)

Ground - Spring Farm Park, Lambs Lane, Rainham, Essex, RM13 9XF

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### **Newsletter: June 2017**

#### **Playing Update**

##### **1<sup>st</sup> XI**

#### **“The Tale Strikes Back” - Rainham 1<sup>st</sup> XI vs. Aythorpe Roding 1<sup>st</sup> XI – 03/06/17**

Game week 5 saw the 1<sup>st</sup> XI play host to top of the table, Aythorpe Roding. Captain Jas Hothi won the toss and elected to bat but was left disappointed after losing his wicket from the very first ball of the innings. Fellow opener, Garnet Shallow (31) remained resilient and began to build an impressive partnership with Jon O'Neill (65) before being dismissed. Unfortunately, the middle order failed to build and with 9 overs left, Rainham were down to the last wicket partnership of Bhavik Patel (15\*) and Tom Herbert (26) who, aided by some questionable bowling, managed to reach the total of 206 for 9 from 44.3 overs

With a chase-able total set, the bowlers wished to create some early pressure by grabbing some early wickets and they did so successfully as Aythorpe's first and second wicket fell with less than 30 runs on the board. The mesmerizingly good bowling of Bhavik Patel (4 for 17 off 10) and Biren Patel (3 for 7 off 6.3) rinsed through the middle and tale order of the opposition who fell short by more than 125 runs having been all out for 79 from 32.3 overs. A fantastic start to June for the 1<sup>st</sup> XI.

#### **“Attack of the Batsmen” - Rainham 1<sup>st</sup> XI vs Tillingham 1<sup>st</sup> XI - 10/06/17**

Another home game for the 1<sup>st</sup> XI had them play Tillingham on a hard spring farm deck. Once more, the skipper won the toss and decided to put the boys into bat. Openers Jas Hothi (27) and Garnet Shallow (35) began to build but couldn't convert their positive start into a half ton; it was only Jon O'Neill (50) who could manage this feat thanks to his powerful, unorthodox batting. Late bashing from Ronnie Jackson (21) and Charlie Puncher (35\*) helped Rainham, who amassed a total of 236 for 6, take maximum batting points.

More than 5 an over was needed by the opposition and the pressure of the required run rate showed early when Sid Patel took advantage of a mix up between the batsmen, running out their opener with a direct hit onto the stumps. Jon O'Neill (3 for 21 off 10) then lead the bowling attack alongside Bhavik Patel (2 for 37 from 7) bowling out the opposition for 182 after 40.5 overs.

#### **“Return of the B Pat” - Rainham 1<sup>st</sup> XI vs. Springfield 2<sup>nd</sup> XI– 17/06/17**

On a glorious Saturday, the 1<sup>st</sup> XI made the trip to Springfield and were immediately dismayed having been put into the field after losing the toss. However, in the second over began to feel

slightly more optimistic in the heat as the opener nicked off from the bowling of Jon O'Neill (3 for 36 from 9). The fearfully good bowling of Bhavik Patel (4 for 24 off 10) and Biren Patel (2 for 42 off 10) helped to dismiss the opposition for 167 after 40 overs.

In reply, Springfield started strongly as 2 quick wickets fell but Biren Patel's (73\*) confident batting dampened the noise produced by fielding team. Jono O'Neill (33) continued his fine form and when he was finally dismissed it was Ronnie Jackson (33\*) to silence the opposition and comfortably chase the total needed alongside Biren in the 30<sup>th</sup> over with 4 wickets down.

#### **"The Patels Awaken" - Rainham 1<sup>st</sup> XI vs. South Weald 1<sup>st</sup> XI – 24/06/17**

The last game of the month saw opposition South Weald travel to the Spring Farm fortress and were in luck as they won the toss and elected to bat. The decision to bat first was quickly deemed to be unwise as Dipal Patel's (2 for 19 off 10) banana shaped deliveries dismissed the 2 openers. On came Rushi Patel (4 for 25 from 6) who also used the swingy conditions to deliver a fantastic spell of bowling; Bhavik Patel (4 for 15 off 4.4) then continued his deadly form with the ball and ultimately dismissed South Weald for a measly 107 from 32.4 overs.

Rainham went into bat full of confidence as a win loomed but, in traditional fashion, made the job harder than it needed to be. 2 early wickets fell but it was to be Jas Hothi (36) who provided some stability and with Garnet Shallow (25) put the 1<sup>st</sup> XI in touching distance to the win. The job of wrapping up the match was down to Jon O'Neill (14) and Tom Herbert (11\*) who reached the target in 22.3 overs having lost 4 wickets.

Batting	Bowling
B. Patel vs. Springfield – 73*	Bh. Patel vs. Aythorpe – 4/17/10
J. O'Neill vs. Aythorpe – 65	Bh. Patel vs. South Weald – 4/15/4.4
J. O'Neill vs. Tillingham – 50	R. Patel vs South Weald – 4/25/6

## **2<sup>nd</sup> XI**

#### **"Simply Not Enough" - Rainham 2<sup>nd</sup> XI vs. Navestock 1<sup>st</sup> XI – 03/06/17**

Captain Harry Light and his team travelled to Navestock and after losing the toss, were put into bat. The 2<sup>nd</sup> XI didn't start great as an early loss of wicket brought Daniel Skipper (23) to the crease alongside Tony Stouchberry (14). Unfortunately, there were no notable scores posted after the loss of the opener and first change batsmen which subsequently brought the 2<sup>nd</sup> XI to a score of 102 all out after 41 overs. The unthreatening total was breezed to in the 25<sup>th</sup> over for a loss of 5 wickets with Alex Sullivan (2 for 29 off 6) being the stand out bowler.

#### **"Reece Runs Riot at St Johns" - Rainham 2<sup>nd</sup> XI vs. St. Johns 1<sup>st</sup> XI – 10/06/17**

Once more, the 2<sup>nd</sup> XI were on the road, playing away to St Johns. Having lost the toss, Rainham were again put into bat by the opposition which seemed to be the correct decision as the 2 openers were dismissed with little over 20 runs on the board. In came Daniel Skipper (26) who failed to provide the big knock the 2<sup>nd</sup> XI needed however, as his wicket fell, Reece Powell (71\*) took the attack to the bowlers with some big hitting. Unfortunately, the tale began to crumble which saw Rainham all out in the 43<sup>rd</sup> over with a score of 154. The bowlers started strongly as Abdal Altaf (4 for 19 off 10) lead the way and assisted by Dipal Patel (3 for 29 off 6.3) dismissed the opposition in the 44<sup>th</sup> over for 130 runs.

## **Rainham 2<sup>nd</sup> XI vs. Little Waltham 2<sup>nd</sup> XI – 17/06/17**

### **“Sullivan Sinks 6 away from Ton” Rainham 2<sup>nd</sup> XI vs. Rayleigh 3<sup>rd</sup> XI – 24/06/17**

A tough match against Rayleigh lay ahead of the 2<sup>nd</sup> XI as they hit the road. On arrival, Harry lost the toss and were made to bowl. The opposition made a total of 212 for 7 with Sam Crotch (4 for 39 off 8) being the pick of the bowlers picking up 4 wickets. Rainham's reply didn't start as planned as they lost 2 early wickets which brought Daniel Skipper (27) and Alex O'Sullivan (94) to the crease who began to build until their precious wickets fell. The 2<sup>nd</sup> XI tale struggled however and finished all out in the 40<sup>th</sup> over with 170 runs on the board. A generous score considering only 2 of the batsmen had made double figures.

Batting	Bowling
A. Sullivan vs. Rayleigh - 94	A. Altaf vs. St Johns – 4/19/10
R. Powell vs. St Johns – 71*	S. Crotch vs. Rayleigh – 4/39/8
D. Skipper vs. Rayleigh - 27	D. Patel vs. St Johns – 3/29/6.3

## **3<sup>rd</sup> XI**

### **“Bowlers Blow Opposition Away” - Rainham 3<sup>rd</sup> XI vs. South Woodham Ferrers 2<sup>nd</sup> XI – 03/06/17**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> XI played host to South Woodham Ferrers on an improving deck down at Thames'. Skipper Thwaites lost the toss and his men were put into bat amassing a score of 136 for 6 in the 40 overs provided. The runs being shared between Hasham (31), Reiss (34\*), Bursey (21) and Nakul Patel (17). Over to the bowlers, it was Ben Little (3 for 11 off 8) who made the breakthrough in the early overs and from there, the opposition showed little fight being bowled all out for 85 in the 28<sup>th</sup> over with Hasham (3 for 24 off 9), Johnny Wratten (2 for 26 off 6) and Umer Khan (2 for 18 off 4.3) all sharing the wickets.

### **“Last Ball Misery” - Rainham 3<sup>rd</sup> XI vs. Rayleigh 5<sup>th</sup> XI – 10/06/17**

Thwaites's men made the trip to Rayleigh for their 2<sup>nd</sup> match of June and having won the toss elected to bowl first. As wickets tumbled, the captain's decision seemed to have been the right one as Ben Little (2 for 39 off 9), Hasham (2 for 21 off 9) and Umer Khan (4 for 31 off 9) all picked up wickets: Rayleigh finishing with 163 for 8. The chase didn't start great as the openers were dismissed in quick succession which brought slow and steady Dave Adkins (27) to the crease and assisted by Bursey (33) brought the 3<sup>rd</sup> XI within touching distance to a victory. Agonisingly close, Rainham finished 2 short of a victory with a score of 162 for 8.

### **“Thames Strikes Again” - Rainham 3<sup>rd</sup> XI vs. Navestock 2<sup>nd</sup> XI – 17/06/17**

After a painfully close loss the previous game a reply was needed by the 3<sup>rd</sup> XI as they hosted Navestock. The opposition won the toss and elected to bat. Forever growing, the outfield made run scoring for the opposition difficult as Ben Little (3 for 31 off 9) continued his good form with the ball; aided by Bradley Manning (2 for 10 off 3), Ben helped restrict the opposition to a score of 153 for 9. Despite 6 of Rainham's batsmen making double figures, they fell short in the 39<sup>th</sup> over with a score of 130. With the notable batsmen being Mick Clifford (34), Ian Little (16) and Bursey (15).

### **“Will Finds Form Despite Loss” - Rainham 3<sup>rd</sup> XI vs. Springfield 4<sup>th</sup> XI – 23/06/17**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> XI travelled to Springfield in their final game of the month. Brearley lost the toss and the team were made to bowl first. The opposition made over 200 (final score can't be located) despite Ben Little's (3 for 37 off 9) fiery spell of bowling. It was Will Knowlden (54) who lead the chase and began to build a healthy partnership with Bursey (49) until being dismissed. From there, only Thwaites (21) and Raj Hothi (22) managed to score which brought Rainham to a total of 200 all out. Short of what was needed.

Batting	Bowling
W. Knowlden vs. Springfield – 54	U. Khan vs. Rayleigh – 4/31/9
Bursey vs. Springfield – 49	B. Little vs. S. W. Ferrers – 3/11/8
Reiss vs. S. W. Ferrers – 34*	Hasham vs. S.W. Ferrers – 3/24/9

## **Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> XI**

### **“Shock for Sunday Side” Rainham Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> XI vs. 1<sup>st</sup> XI Scintilla – 04/06/17**

A familiar journey to Forest Road was made by the Sunday XI for their first game of the month. The skipper for the day, Jon O'Neill, lost the toss and were subsequently made to bowl. The opposition's openers seemed comfortable at the crease until the first change bowler, Jas Hothi (2 for 13 off 5), managed to find the edge. The runs then quickly dried up thanks to some superb spin bowling from Charlie Puncher (2 for 12 from 6) and Bhavik Patel (3 for 21 from 5). Scintilla finishing on a total of 164 all out after 39 overs.

Rainham's run chase didn't start as they hoped as 4 wickets were lost in quick succession until Charlie Puncher's (43) infamous see ball, hit ball mentality offered Rainham a chance of a counter attack. Unfortunately, the youngster was not aided by any of the tale order and so Rainham found themselves all out for 116 after 32 overs. A disappointing game for the Sunday side who had high expectations of a season without loss.

### **“Tony's Touch of Class” - Rainham Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> XI vs. Rayleigh Fairview 1<sup>st</sup> XI – 11/06/17**

Unfortunately, there is no match statistics for this away friendly on the play cricket website. Rainham batted first and finished on 232 all out after 39 overs with runs shared between Tony Stouchberry (100 plus), Will Knowlden and Charlie Puncher. Rayleigh were all out for 155 after 28.3 overs with Tyler Bunn, Charlie Puncher and Joe Attfield all sharing the wickets.

### **“Sid Eyes Cow to Reach Ton...” Rainham Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> XI vs. Rose and Crown 1<sup>st</sup> XI – 18/05/17**

The Sunday XI were to play Rose and Crown at Spring Farm and wanted to put the previous league game loss behind them. Again, captain Nikhil Patel was unavailable and so once more trusted Jono with the responsibilities. This faith immediately paid dividends as he won the toss and elected to bat. The day's play began positively as Sid Patel (97) crisp strokes piled on the runs until he was devastatingly caught at cow corner just 3 away from his ton. Assisted by fellow opener, Jon O'Neill (39) and by fluent Jas Hothi (65), Sid helped Rainham amass a total of 232 for 7 in their 40 overs.

Having such a dauntingly big run chase in front of them, the opposition needed to start firing from the off but this was made tricky by the tight bowling Rainham displayed. The pressure of the scoreboard eventually showed as Rose and Crown were all out for 119 from 31.3 overs. The pick of the bowlers being Biren Patel (4 for 22 off 6.3).

Batting	Bowling
T. Stouchbery vs. Rayleigh – 100 plus	B. Patel vs. R&C – 4/22/6.3
S. Patell vs. R&C - 97	Bh. Patel vs. Scintilla – 3/21/5
J. Hothi vs. R&C - 65	C. Puncher vs. Scintilla – 2/12/6

## **T20 XI**

### **Rainham T20 XI vs. Oakfield Parkonians T20 XI – 15/06/17**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> match on the T20 calendar was against Oakfield Parkonians at Spring Farm Park. The opposition won the toss and elected to bowl. The decision to do so seemed to be unwise as Sid Patel (44) unleashed, hitting 6 fours in his 25 deliveries faced. When captain Jon O’Neill (48) arrived at the crease he was in no mind to slow momentum hitting 4 fours and 2 sixes in his 30 deliveries. A late surge of runs provided by Daniel Skipper (31) helped the T20 XI amass a total of 170 for 4.

The opposition started strongly however struggled to keep up with the run rate of 8.5 from the start. With fading light, it was Jon O’Neill (3 for 9 off 4) who took full advantage; aided by Ronnie Jackson (2 for 18 off 3) and Biren Patel (2 for 23 off 4), Rainham restricted Oakfield to 116 for 7 in their 20 overs. A comfortable victory for the T20 XI.

### **Rainham T20 XI vs. Goresbrook T20 XI – 28/06/17**

There is no statistics available on the play cricket website for our loss against rivals Goresbrook. Rainham won the toss and decided to bat but in contrast to the previous game, they started sloppy with 4 wickets falling within 7 overs. Despite a comeback headed by Tom, Abdal and Biren, the T20 XI found themselves on a below par score of 98 for 9. In reply, the bowlers started positively with Dipal and Jon picking up a couple of wickets each. However, there was never enough runs on the board and Goresbrook surpassed the total in the 19<sup>th</sup> over for a loss of 6 wickets.

Batting	Bowling
J. O’Neill vs. Oakfield – 48	J. O’Neill vs. Oakfield – 3/9/4
S. Patel vs. Oakfield – 44	B. Patel vs. Oakfield – 2/23/4
D. Skipper vs. Oakfield - 31	R. Jackson vs. Oakfield – 2/18/3



Sid smiles in shock after having made double figures with an impressive 44.

Jono welcomes a warm applause from his fans after falling 2 short of a 50.

The final score.

## **U19 XI**

### **Rainham U19 XI vs. Newham U19 XI – 30/06/17**

Late June saw the U19 XI play their first T20 game of the season. The youngsters travelled to Newham and soon after arrival, captain Charlie Puncher lost the toss and his team were made to bowl. Tyler Bunn (2 for 15 off 4) was first to strike and soon after Charlie Puncher (2 for 15 off 4) joined the party. The opposition were restricted to 96 for 6 in their 20 overs. In reply, opener Ronnie Jackson (50\* retired) shared a quick-fire partnership of 62 with Joe Attfield (12) before Joe departed. Charlie Puncher (16) continued the trend of hitting from ball one and the game was swiftly finished in the 13<sup>th</sup> over as Umer Khan (4\*) pulled the opposition's bowler for 4.





The boys in blue pre-victory photo. Some clearly more happy than others...

### **U16 XI**

Joe Attfield has revived the under 16 partnership with Goresbrook, as a joint team have entered the matchplay competition and were drawn in a tough group. Representing Rainham in these matches so far have been Ben Little, Will Knowlden, Anthony Connor and Raj Hothi.

The first match was against Brentwood with our lads making a big contribution in the final score of 208, with Will scoring 75, Ben 52 and Anthony 10. A big hundred from the Brentwood opener secured a victory for the opposition in a hard-fought match, as Ben also took a couple of wickets

Another tough match followed against local rivals Upminster, as the joint side batted first and were dismissed for just 91. Upminster had no problem reaching their target as they knocked them off in just 10 overs.

### **U15 XI**

Only 1 match for the under 15s which was a Havering league match against Gidea Park and Romford, who won the toss and batted first. An impressive bowling spell from under 12 Kyan Lehal was rewarded with 3 wickets, as Park scored 120 in their 20 overs.

The Rainham response got off to a good start as Will Knowlden retired not out on 30, but wickets then began to tumble, as we were bowled out in the 19<sup>th</sup> over.

The remaining matches for the under 15s will be against Upminster and Hornchurch.

## **U12 XI**

Only 1 match for the under 12s, which was a glorious morning in Woodford Green. Rainham bowled first and Kyan took an early wicket. Plenty of big partnerships followed, as Green scored 188 in their 25 overs. Kyan took another wicket and other wickets from Jamie Little, who bowled and fielded superbly and Peter Coe cup maiden wicket from Alex Porter, were the other successes. Leo and Bobby got Rainham off to a good start, before Bobby was bowled and soon followed by Leo who scored 8. Alfie Stouchbury was looking solid until he was caught scoring 18. Some very encouraging batting from under 11s Joe Parsons (18no), Alex Porter (10) and Peter Coe debutant Jay Shipton (6), saw Rainham fall short, bowled out for 93.

## **U11 XI**

It's been a busy time for the under 11s with friendlies against Belhus and Old Parkonians and league matches against Upminster and Goresbrook. The friendly against Belhus saw debuts for Govin Singh, Louis Merry, Luis Hardy and Elsie Orwell. Belhus scored over 300, both Leo and Charlie taking 2 wickets each, as Rainham replied with 195 with top scorers Charlie (9), Alex (8) and Joe (6).

Next up was a league match against Upminster with 2 more debutants, Holly Vickers and Jay Shipton. Holly scored a run as both Alex (11) and Leo (10) both batting very well. Upminster also scored over 300 with Rainham taking just 3 wickets, shared by Leo, Joe and Fraser Oates. It was good to see Fraser back as we thought we would be without him after he broke his wrist at the start of the season.

Another league game followed against Goresbrook and a bleak mid-week evening at Springy. Govin and Louis managed to score their first runs in this match, as player of the match, Alfie Clark, scored 9 well supported by Alex, scoring 6. Top wicket taker was Leo with 2 and Louis with his first wicket for the club, as Rainham continue to improve losing by just 47 runs.

After Harold Wood cried off for the original fixture, a last-minute friendly was arranged against Old Parkonians. Another debut was made by Cassie Doyle, as she got off to an excellent start to her batting career scoring 7 runs, which included an all run 5. Fraser Oates also had a dream match scoring 17 runs and taking 2 wickets. Elsie Orwell also scored her first runs and Holly Vickers made 3 no. Other batting displays of note in this game were Joe Parsons 11 and Alfie Clark 9.

In the end Rainham lost by 41 runs, which is the closest match so far, as the under 11s scored their most runs and took the most wickets. The other wickets were shared by Joe and Jay with a brace each, Charlie, Alex and a run out from Joe.

A special mention to Louis Merry and Alex Porter who both agreed to play for the opposition in this match



## **All Stars Cricket**

The All Stars cricket programme for 5 to 8 year olds has been a great success with around dozen boys and girls attending each session. The final Monday night session will take place from 6.30pm on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> July. There will be another session on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> July from 6pm, to make up for the rained off session in week 3.

We will be looking to continue with the All Stars programme next year.

## **Mini Matchlay Festival at Essex CCC**

For the third year in a row we have entered the mini matchplay festival for under 11s that is played at the home of Essex CCC in Chelmsford. Our day will be on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> August starting at approx. 6pm, so make a note in your diary to come and support the boys and girls.

## **Cricketfest Weekend 15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> July**

Rainham CC will be taking part in the ECB initiative called Cricketfest, over the weekend of 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> July.

The weekend will start the 1st XI taking on local rivals Hornchurch Athletic and the 3<sup>rd</sup> XI taking on Willow Herbs 2nds at Thames in the Mid Essex League. At approx. 6pm we will be running an extra All Stars sessions for our 5 to 8 year olds and then in the evening it will be rounded off with a new themed night of Caribbean Karaoke in fancy dress from 8pm.

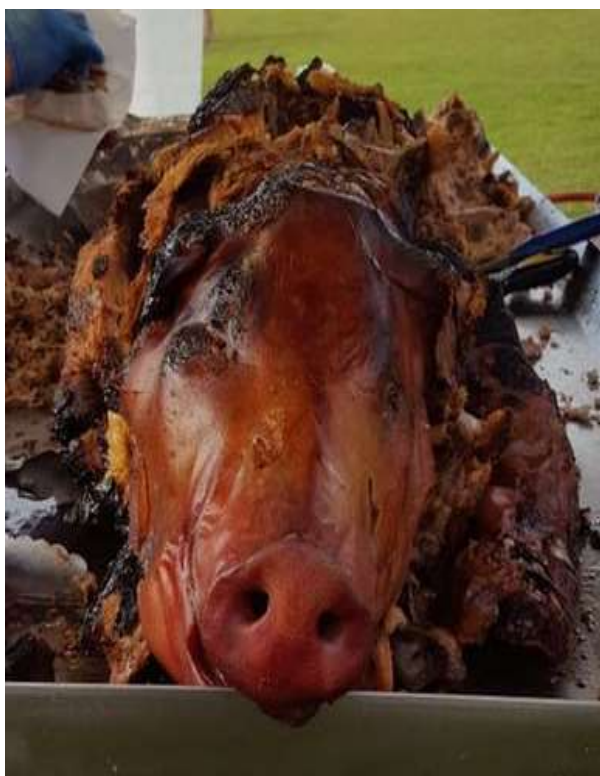
The following morning will be a Peter Coe Cup match with the under 12s taking on Ilford. There is also no fixture for the Sunday XI that day, so even the possibility of reviving an inter club 6 a side with the table tennis tournament.

England will also be taking on South Africa in the 2<sup>nd</sup> test over that weekend.

## **Quiz Night**

Again, another fantastic Social Night over Spring Farm Park which was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. The evening consisted of a human race where George Light and his jockey won for a second year running and received vouchers for the bar; a hog roast was also readily available on the night which seemed to go down a treat.

Rainham is thankful for all attendees as money took from these events and behind the bar helps towards funding the club's facilities, equipment and vibrant youth section.



A half-devoured pig.



Rainham's seniors enjoy a beer and a bet at the recent race night.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

This is one for your calendars and one which is certainly not to be missed. Rainham's very own Caribbean Night is being held on 15<sup>th</sup> July where there will be a fancy-dress theme and karaoke all night. Remember ALL are welcome so feel free to invite family and friends!!!

Prizes are up for grabs for the best dressed and best singer on the night. The karaoke champion will not only win a prize but be invited to perform once more nearing the end of the night... An opportunity not to be missed!!!



### President's Day

The infamous President's day will be held on 27<sup>th</sup> August. The day's format will be explained in later newsletters/notifications but will hopefully include an U11 vs. U13 match; lads vs. dads match; the main event, "Bumper vs. Brearley"; followed by the "all night" after party.

### Dinner and Dance



The club's end of year award ceremony will be hosted at the new Ingerbourne Links Golf and Social Club. The date in question will be 11<sup>th</sup> of November. Ticket prices and other information will be available. A date for your calanders.

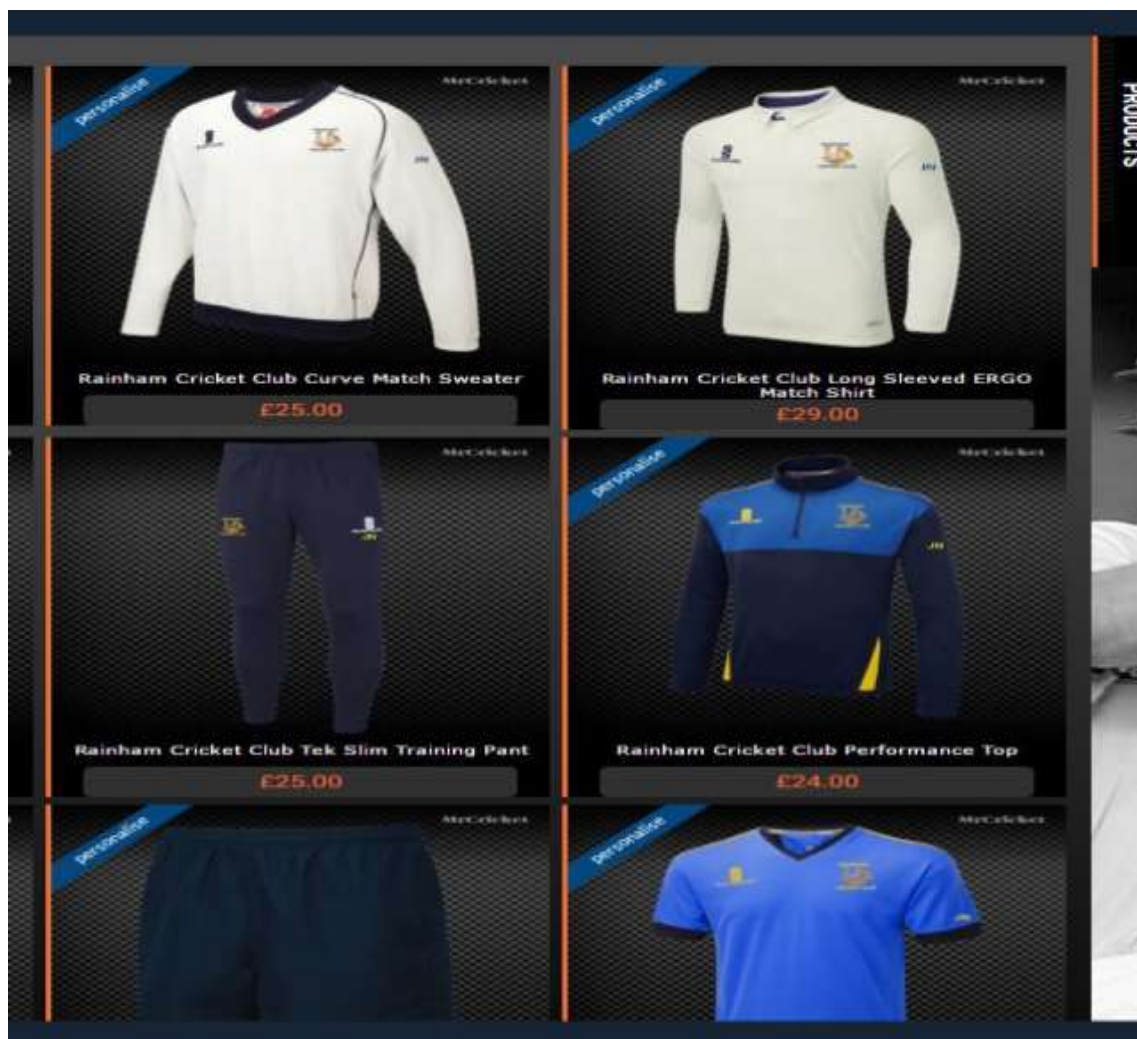
### Buy a Brick

A reminder that bricks are still available to purchase at a price of £20. Register your interest by writing your name on the notice board's list. The big reveal is planned to take place during President's day. A fantastic opportunity to make sure your name is a part of the club for the rest of time...

### Order Kit Online

It is not too late to order yourself some of Rainham's fine garments!!! The website, the link of which can be found below, requires the password "RAINHAM112" before you are directed to the personal Rainham store.

<http://www.mrcricketshop.co.uk/cricket/club-shop/rainham-cricket-club/>



## **“FUN 15”**

Rainham’s very own, Countdown champion, Jonathan O’Neill has been randomly selected and tasked with answering the all new FUN 15 interview. The mixture of pace and bounce generated from Jon’s 6 ft 3” frame has made him Rainham’s top wicket taker of recent; his unorthodox batting technique has proven to be devastating for opposition’s bowler and is improving each year since joining Rainham.



### **Name & Club History**

Jono

Joined in 2012. Became Club Secretary soon after. Have seen the 1s promoted from Div. 4 to Div. 1 in that time and our sights are higher this season. I've won Player of the Year twice which I'm very proud of.

I have seen the club move forward massively since 2012 and am very proud of and grateful to the people who laid the foundation for that and have contributed in my time here. Also some big time Charlies have moved along which helps!

### **Cricketing Hero**

I have two.. Curtley Ambrose and Pete Reynolds. One still strikes fear into the hearts and minds of great English batsmen of the 90s, and the other was a good bowler for the West Indies.

### **Favourite Club Ground(s)**

Warminster and Trowbridge on the Bath tour were pretty decent.. it's just a shame that we always seem to turn up at these lovely venues as more or less a team of walking Jaegerbombs. I vividly remember this year the warmup consisted of a football kickabout with my head spinning, as the Trowbridge attack bowled a single stump hitting it 70% of the time... I got hit for about 700 from my 3 overs and then got cleaned up by turncoat Jamie Adkins (not for the first time). Needless to say we lost but still hit the town hard that night.

### **Best Innings**

A few stand out as good individually but sharing a 170-run partnership with Biren to win the match against Aythorpe Roding in 2016 was awesome especially as our backs were against the wall when we came together. Similarly early on in my Rainham career I put on about 60 with Sid when we were batting 8 and 9, chasing about 150. Very satisfying to bring the win home for the team.

### **Best Bowling**

Taking my first hattrick in 2016 against Ingatstone and finishing with 6-11 as Dipal cleaned up at the other end was quality. We had to chase about 60 and knocked it off quickly before a monsoon so it really felt like we had stolen a win for the team together.

### Best Catch/Fielding

Sharp take off a Bhavik's full toss at slip against a left-hander. To be honest I didn't see it but stuck a hand up and when they stick they stick. I have to give the credit to Pete on this one as before we had fielding training I wasn't much of a slip fielder.. probably on the level of a Jas Hothi. But since turning up regularly on a Tuesday I'm snaffling chances that Jas wouldn't even go for. But I have to give credit to myself as well because turning up alone doesn't seem to work.. Sid Patel turns up every week and still drops dollies consistently!

### Club Mate Most Like Batting With

For comic value I have to say Sid Patel. You'll chat between overs about how you have to survive for 5 overs before thinking about taking on the bowling, only to see him smash the first ball of the next over for a 6 over the bowler's head. You can only laugh... the guy's batting average is higher than his number of brain cells.

Running-wise I'd nominate Dan Skipper as you know he won't leave a run out there and the pressure is always on the fielders. He's also not got a lot going on up top but his brain is a mush of cricket, golf and pumping iron so you can't really argue with that.

### Club Mate Least Like Batting With

Running-wise I have to say that there's nobody who could run me out as I always trust my partner 100% and make sure they trust me 100%. So I have to base it on between-overs banter and there's a clear loser which is Tom Herbert. You can tell by just looking at him there's not a lot going on behind the eyes and that's proven by his batting banter which is absolutely dead. You can ask him what the bowler is doing and he won't have a clue. I also remember cracking a joke about an overweight fielder and he wasn't listening because he had caught a glimpse of his own reflection in a car door mirror about half a mile down the road. Very peak!

### Best of Times in Cricket

I love a close finish, especially when you win. Garnett's run-out on the last ball away against Writtle in 2014/2015 was amazing because we deserved the win and got it in dramatic fashion. I also remember captaining a game at home that we won on the last ball when Tom got a sick run-out. That day I had turned up early to make the teas, so I woke up at 7am and didn't stop concentrating until 7pm when we won. I believe I then got wrecked at the club!

### Worst of Times in Cricket

The worst I've felt was against Rayleigh away in 2015 when we needed a win for promotion. We were defending about 190 and I'd got 3 wickets in my second spell, leaving them 8 down, when I nailed Sree on the pad in front of all 3 stumps and their umpire looked me dead in the eye and lied that it wasn't out. I think that sense of injustice spurred us on to get promoted anyway but I don't think I spoke to anyone for about 3 days after that game. The umpire is now buried under Keith Light's garden patio.

### Funniest Moment in Cricket

There have been loads. When you've shared a pitch with the likes of Umer Ellahi it's hard not to have seen some hilarious moments, before you even consider things like Harry Light's eyebrows.



But Biren's run out, when he fell over turning for a second run and then fell over again trying to get up, then tried to swim/army-crawl his way to the crease had me in tears. Even now in difficult times I look back to that moment of pure athleticism and it cheers me up.

#### **Your Song to Enter the T20 Arena**

The Prodigy - Smack My Bitch Up

#### **Your Perfect Tea**

Massive plate of chips.

#### **The Best Thing About Rainham CC**

People from all walks of life, with all different personalities, coming together to share their passion for cricket and the socialising around cricket.

#### **Your Rainham Career in 10 or Less Words**

Runs. Wickets. The question should say fewer not less, wasteman.

#### **Your Future Vision for Rainham CC**

On the pitch I'd love to see the current crop of U-19s continue improve as they have done and stay with the club, helping it to grow, as the very young guys, the likes of Ben Little, Nakul and Raj develop into the future of the club. In 3-4 years we should be very competitive in the Prem, alongside clubs like OC's, Bentley and Springfield.  
Off the pitch I'd like to see people's hard work bear fruit. Hopefully the youth section will continue to grow and I hope to see the volunteer force increase as it has done in recent years.

### **Chairman's Notes**

Firstly let me congratulate all players in all teams for another super month. Seniors sides all challenging and most noticeably the first team are looking so strong and ready to push our club into the Premier Division !!  
I've commented on this before but for those of us who have lived through dark times years ago, this is unheralded and we continue to improve and grow as a club.  
Also I must say a big thank you to all members who regularly support the teams, it's very encouraging and even our social media groups are virtually 24 hours, full of humour and information.

3am Thursday - PING , It's Pete with the pitch Rota

4.30am Thursday - PING, It's Barvik singing

3.50am Friday --PING , It's Umar, enough said !!

The club continues to be something special. On that note I must also mention one thing, the club is flourishing because of volunteers and we have more than ever right now. If somebody gives 5

minutes a week to the club, I would always say a massive thank you and not complain because it's not 10 minutes.

Volunteers are not employees and have busy personal lives that we do not see each day.

So on behalf of all members, a MASSIVE THANK YOU TO ALL THAT GIVE THEIR TIME.

I look forward to seeing you all Saturday as I expect to win the fancy dress prize.

I am built like a West Indian 🦶, so naturally only Garnet and myself are in the running.

See you in the slips.

Brearley