



RAINHAM CRICKET & FOOTBALL 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

www.rainhamcc.co.uk | 01708 523 508

Newsletter: April 2020

We all hope everyone and their families are keeping well during the Government lockdown restriction and taking the advice of staying indoors during these uncertain times. Members of our committee have also been hit with the COVID-19 virus in one form or another, but now seem to be on the road to recovery.

After we were all looking forward to one of the most exciting season's in the club's history the rug has been pulled from our feet with a string of uncertainty and this newsletter will be designed to keep everyone up to date of the position with the cricket authorities and the position of the club regarding playing and finances. The committee recently held a remote 'Zoom' meeting and are still working away during these times to ensure the club stays stable during this period of cricketing lockdown.

Well done to everyone that are practicing their cricketing skills in their gardens in one way or another with many of our youth section sharing videos, via the youth Whatsapp group, of drills that can be practiced in their garden with just the very basic equipment. Keep up the good work and keep sharing the videos.

Also, a special mention to one of the club sponsors, Rainham Village Kebab, who are supporting the NHS.

Seniors

The England and Wales Cricket Board have announced that no professional cricket will take place prior to 28 May 2020 and the recreational game is likely to fall in line with this, although off the record it is felt this could be pushed back even further than that.

Due to the many financial difficulties being experienced in various forms at present times, Shepherd and Neame, the current sponsors of the Essex Cricket League have decided to pull out with immediate effect, which is no surprise as they are in the hospitality industry. The league will still be called the Shepherd and Neame Essex League for the 2020 season, but with no sponsorship, this may have a knock-on effect to the expenses of the club as the sponsorship money they provide to the league normally means we receive reduced costs for league fees and cricket balls. Only time will tell and an update will be provided once things become clearer.

We have yet to hear anything about the sponsorship of the T-Rippon Essex league, which our seconds, thirds and fourth's will continue to play in again this year.

The ECB has been hosting remote meetings with County officials and they have already made plans for a shortened season of how leagues could be restructured with different scenarios based on 11 to just 4 weeks of cricket. Some of these proposals are playing each team just once, having smaller leagues within each league and the winners of each playing off in a final to just straight knock out formats.

The Essex County Cricket Board feel cricket has an important part to play at this time in connecting communities and improving lives and there is plenty of work going on behind the scenes to ensure cricket clubs are supported during these uncertain times. The County Cricket Board will be hosting a number of webinars over the coming weeks as stated below and club committee members will be taking part so as to ensure we are fully updated. One of these webinars is on scoring and umpiring and if anyone is interested in these vital roles within the club, then please contact Peter Reynolds who will provide details of how to log on to this webinar

- Thursday 23 April: 5pm – 5.30pm – Club Development / Funding
- Tuesday 28 April: 12pm – 12.30pm – Volunteering, Governance, Safeguarding
- Thursday 30 April: 5pm – 5.30pm – Grounds Maintenance
- Tuesday 5 May: 12pm – 12.30pm – Women and Girls
- Thursday 7 May: 5pm – 5.30pm – Youth Cricket
- Tuesday 12 May: 12pm – 12.30pm – Scoring and Umpiring
- Thursday 14 May: 5pm – 5.30pm – Coach Education
- Tuesday 19 May: 12pm – 12.30pm – Marketing and Commercial

Juniors

The same degree of uncertainty is the same with youth cricket and I will try to sum this up below for all age groups. No date has been set yet, for the return of any youth cricket.

Under 16s matchplay – We were again planning to field a joint team with Goresbrook in 2020. This is a competition organised by the Essex County Cricket Board and we are hoping to hear soon as to how this competition will be re-vamped to try and finalise this competition at the end of the summer. These dates are set in stone, but as this competition doesn't start until later in the season, there is a possibility this competition will not be affected

Under 15s Dennis Peters National Cup – These matches are always early in the calendar year with our first match originally planned for 26 April. The Essex section of this competition usually has to be finalised by the end of May, so a decision has been taken to scrap the Essex qualifying competition and just send a side from either Wanstead, Ilford or Frenford CC, as they are traditionally some of the stronger clubs.

Under 15s Cox and Kings Cup & Under 13s Len Steniford Trophy – These dates were originally set in stone and these competitions are arranged by the Metropolitan District Board. We are hoping to hear from the District Board in the next few weeks of a revised format for these competitions.

Under 12s Brain Taylor Trophy – This is another competition organised by the Essex County Cricket Board and the same will apply with the under 16 matchplay competition, as we are hoping to hear in the near future of a potential amended format for this competition

Haverling League matches – this will affect our under 9s, 11s, 13s and 15s and the beauty of this league are the dates are very flexible. The league is looking at proposals to play more games in August, as it is felt that family holidays may be put on the back burner this year. Cricket is available to play at most venues up to the second weekend in September, so this also gives us another options. There are also ideas to have 3 or 4 teams at one venue and play 2 or 3 matches in a day and for under 9s to play most of their fixtures via festival days and for junior matches to be played before Saturday league matches. At present these are only ideas and the league are looking to set up a 'Zoom' remote meeting sometime week commencing 4 May, with all Haverling League teams.

We have also had to put our **All Stars programme** on hold until we receive further guidance from the cricketing authorities. For anyone that has signed up to All Stars the ECB will be launching an activity booklet some time w/c 20 April 2020.

I think we all agree that in these unprecedented times any cricket that is played this year will be a bonus and a joy for all of us.

Under 14s Indoor League

This now seems like a long distant memory as the under 14 Indoor League was unable to be concluded, but was won by Belhus Eagles who managed to play all of their matches. Both the Royals and Ravens had one more match to play against Orsett & Thurrock Amazons, so a chance that the Royals could have come second in the league if they won their last match.

Credit must go to both the Rainham sides as the Royals were excellent in their last match against Orsett & Thurrock Nights claiming a 28 runs win and the young Ravens team got better with every match, with one notable performance from Taranveer Singh-Sidhu with a big hitting 43 runs in their last match.

League Table as at 15 March 2020

Team	Played	Won	Tied	Lost	Win Points	Batting Bonus Points	Bowling Bonus Points	Total Points
Belhus Eagles	6	5	0	1	100	6	5	111
Orsett & Thurrock Knights	6	4	0	2	80	2	7	89
Rainham Royals	5	4	0	1	80	4	2	86
Belhus Spitfires	5	2	0	3	40	12	10	62
Stanford le hope	4	1	0	3	20	9	10	39
Orsett & Thurrock Amazons	3	1	0	2	20	7	5	32
Rainham Ravens	5	0	0	5	0	14	16	30

Funding

Sport England Community Fund

As all cricket has been put on hold until at least 28 May, then this will affect any revenue that the club will generate from annual subscriptions, match fees and bar takings, but we will still have bills to pay, such as club insurance, pitch fees, TV Licence, Broadband, Maintenance of our grounds equipment and league subscription to name a few. This has been recognised by the Government so the club has put in an application to the Sport England Community Fund so any expenditure and potential loss of revenue can be applied for. There is no guarantee this application will be successful, but we should hear by the beginning of May 2020 if our application has been successful or part successful or not.

If this proves to be unsuccessful then the club will be looking to apply for the ECBs grant scheme.

Veolia Environmental Trust

We were successful some 12 months back in applying for funding from the Veolia Environmental Trust to extend our net facility. Unfortunately, the club has hit a bit of a snag in that The Regulator has audited the Veolia Environmental Trust and has deemed that the deadline for the club to complete this project had passed and are refusing Veolia to pay the money to the club. This is a sum of around £16,000.00 that we still owe the contractor that completed the work. I will add this is no fault of the club, as we had an extension from Veolia to complete the project in September 2019, which we did and Veolia failed to update the regulator of the extension of time we had been granted. This seems a ridiculous situation, which seems to be taking an age to conclude and is now becoming a pain to resolve. We will keep everyone updated as this progresses as it is stopping the club from allocating funds for any future projects.

Ford Britain Trust Fund

Prior to all the current COVID-19 restrictions in place the club had plans to renovate the Gents toilets and shower area and applied to the Ford Britain Trust to help part fund this project. As many companies now are having to restructure their finances there is a possibility any funding streams may be put on hold. We have yet to hear if our application was successful or not, but with club finances also being closely monitored at this time with no income streams, we may have to put this project back to another time. Further news to follow, once the club are on a more stable footing.

Annual Subscriptions

Our annual signing on night was another victim of the social distancing rules, so had to be cancelled. Below are the annual subscriptions club members would normally have to pay, but as the season has been reduced, then there is the possibility that annual subscriptions could be reduced. This is not a definite and will depend on expenses occurred by the club during the lock down and whether we are successful with either Sport England or ECB funding applications. We will keep everyone updated as things progress. Normally annual subscriptions are as follows:

Juniors - under 16 - £50
Under 21s and Students - £50
Ages 22-25 - £70
Ages 25 and over £90

Nat West Cricketforce Day



The NatWest Cricket Force day had to be cancelled this year for obvious reasons, but once the green light is given for the cricket season to commence, this vital bit of work prior to the season started will still need to be done. Below are the works we planned to get done, so we will keep everyone updated, as to when this day will take place

- Tidy and remark the outdoor nets
- Clean the gutters
- Redecorate the showers
- General tidy up

Socials for 2020

Socials have always been a very important part of the cricket club, not just to raise money, but also for members to come together and have enjoyable evenings, which also creates a good club spirit. It is likely that at least 2 of our regular monthly socials will not be held this year, but this will not stop us continuing once the social distancing rules have been fully lifted.

Whilst people have a little more time on their hands, then perhaps some members can get their thinking caps on and come up with some ideas and themes for any future events. If you can think of anything then please let any of the committee know of your ideas, or even better help bring them to life by helping with the event.

Lock Down Cricket Skills

During this time of restricted movement many of our younger club members have been practicing their skills in their gardens, during this time. We would encourage all that can do so to carry on doing this to keep yourself active and carry on being creative with your ideas. Many of these have been posted on the youth Whatsapp Group with Alex Porter creating a real test of skill and patience involving a small ball, ball rebounders, a dustbin and the removal of the neighbour's fence panel! Also, some excellent skills being shown by Aadittya Rakesh, Joe and James Parsons and Leo Fevzi-Hunt with bat, ball and fielding skills. Keep posting these ideas as they are entertaining to watch.

Club Kit

For anyone that has ordered any new kit, this has now been delivered and is waiting the logos to be printed. Once the lockdown is over the orders will be available to collect with payment due on collection.

Sponsorship – Howdens Kitchens

With Rainham Village Kebab doing some great work by supporting the NHS we also have to say thank you to a new club sponsor in Howdens Kitchens who sponsored the club for £500 prior to COVID-19 restrictions. Thank you also to club member Hari Patel who works for this company and persuaded them to sponsor the club.



Hari Patel presents the cheque from
Howdens Kitchens to the club on a cold
afternoon in late February

Rainham CFC

Thank you to George Light for preparing some comprehensive match reports on the last few matches played by our football team prior to the lockdown. Momentum is a great thing in sport and with the team climbing the league and making the final of the league cup, after a very exciting semi-final, it's a shame the season could not be completed.

CFC Rainham 5-1 Zone 4 (02/02/20)

After back to back defeats in controversial circumstances, Rainham got back to winning ways in style hammering the league leaders in a dominant display. Rainham raced into a 2-goal lead with Reece Rhodes heading in a Ryan Gooday free kick and then Harry Light calmly finishing (with his right foot!) after great closing down from Jordan Somers. Zone 4 then pulled one back, bundling in a free kick before the real turning point of the game. Capitalising on a sloppy back pass, Luke Mainhood stole in from his new left wing back position to finish superbly and put Rainham into a 3-1 half time lead. The second half, surprisingly, was a stroll with the expected pressure from Zone 4 not materialising and a fourth for Rainham was added from the spot by Ryan Gooday before Ronnie Jackson rounded off the scoring with a header after smart work from Ben Little. A great result to boost confidence.

CFC Rainham 3-0 Emerson Oak (23/02/20)

Three weeks without a game and some key players missing through injury, Rainham came into the game on the back foot against a fellow promotion-chasing side. However, the boys got off to the perfect start, taking control of the game with Charlie Amato's beautifully flighted ball was finished off by Ben Little with a brave header ahead of the on-rushing goalkeeper. Playing against the wind first half, Rainham then endured a lot of pressure from the visitors but defended brilliantly with Charlie Puncher making one great save low down after Emerson Oak resorted to shots from distance. Half time came at the right time and then early in the second half the game was put beyond Oak's reach. Dan Rogers, who worked tirelessly all game up top, chased down what seemed a lost cause to dispossess the opposition keeper and roll the ball into an empty net. Further gloss was then put on the score line as Ben little pounced on yet more hesitant defending to round the goalkeeper and slot the ball into the corner from a tight angle. January's blip was well and truly buried as Rainham put themselves back in the hunt for promotion.

CFC Rainham 4-3 South Brentwood (01/03/20)

Perhaps a contender for game of the season. South Brentwood, the only unbeaten team left in the league knew a victory here would all but secure their promotion and really dent our hopes. They started brightly and took an early lead with a great strike from the edge of the box, Puncher stood no chance. Rainham rode an early storm and could have been further behind were it not for some great last ditch defending from Jono O'Neill and George Light. Then, we found our rhythm and a great burst from Charlie Mace put Jordan Somers through on goal, Somers took his shot early to catch the keeper cold and drove the ball expertly into the corner. For all Rainham's hard work to get back into the match, this was quickly diminished as Rainham failed to stop a cross entering the box which was then brilliantly turned home by the South Brentwood striker on the spin. Half time approaching, Rainham rallied again and Jono O'Neill slammed home a header from Harry Light's corner to enter the break all square. Again, contending with a strong wind, Rainham started the second half on the front foot and spent the first 10 minutes camped in Brentwood's half. The pressure eventually told when George Light's free kick from the left found its way into the corner. Credit to Brentwood, with momentum seemingly with Rainham in the game, a quick counter saw them equalise despite goal line blocks from

Michael Herd and then George Light, the ball was eventually smashed home. 3-3 with 15 minutes left and Rainham needing victory to press home their promotion push up stepped Dan Rogers after some strong play from Mainhood and Somers on the left a low cross was bundled home by Rogers at the back post (despite their linesman doing his very best to disallow the goal for all sorts of reasons) to give Rainham their 3rd league win in a row against the top 3 teams and left us in 4th place just 6 points behind the promotion spot with games in hand.

CFC Rainham 4-4 Harold Hill (AET, Rainham win 6-5 on pens) (08/03/20)

If you thought the week before was a rollercoaster then you had seen nothing yet. Rainham were looking for their first ever cup final and were up against a Harold Hill side who nobody knew a lot about having only played 6 league games all season with a mixed bag of results. Maybe this uncertainty was a factor to the start of the game and two set pieces in the first 15 minutes caused trouble at the back for Rainham and they found themselves 2-0 down and manager Keith Light with his head in his hands. Rainham struggled for rhythm and for half an hour were poor with misplaced passes, missed headers, we were second best to everything. Then a spark. Oli Jones back from injury did well to challenge what seemed a lost cause and poked the ball through to strike partner Ben Little. With the keeper charging from his goal and the ball bouncing awkwardly, Little kept his composure and cutely lobbed the ball over into the empty net to give Rainham a route back into the match. Momentum had shifted and just a few minutes later a well worked throw-in from George Light and Oli Jones meant a cross looped to the back post where Luke Mainhood was rushing in and met the ball with a brilliant cushioned volley which gave the keeper no chance. You could sense the nerves being released from the Rainham players and the comeback was complete seconds before half time. Callum Murphy hustled his way through a few challenges and played the ball out to George Light, who then played a teasing cross which evading the Harold Hill defenders and goalkeeper for Oli Jones to nod into an empty net. Unfortunately, the half time message from Keith to see out the game professionally did not work out as two minutes into the second half a Harold Hill equaliser from yet another set piece threw the game wide open. Things got worse for the home time shortly after, with a cross that was for all the world heading behind and out of play swung back onto the corner of the crossbar and bounced down perfectly for the Harold Hill striker to tap home. 25 minutes to save the semi-final. Rainham threw everything at Hill for the remainder of the game yet it seemed the ball just would not fall for us. With time running out, a clipped cross from Harry Light found Oli Jones on the edge of the box and with a body swerve only ever seen late on a Saturday night from him, sent three defenders the wrong way to drill in the equaliser. Extra time loomed. Extra time seemed to fly by with both teams taking cautious approach however with virtually seconds left great play from Gooday set up Ben Little 6 yards out centre of the goal. How the ball didn't end up in the net is a mystery as Ben's effort followed by Oli's and Harry's strikes were somehow kept out. Penalties and the memories of the semi-final shootout from the previous year were there for all involved. Gooday and Jones dispatched the first two spot kicks with Harold Hill matching, then, a breakthrough as Charlie Puncher stood tall to beat away Hill's third penalty. That advantage was soon gone as Callum Murphy saw his penalty saved for Rainham. With the score at 3-2 Harold Hill, Jono O'Neill broke all rules regarding centre halves to guide his penalty into the top corner. Sudden death and George Light had to score to keep Rainham alive- which he did sending the keeper the wrong way. Harry Light then had the same scenario... and it ended with the same result another cool, calm penalty. Then the moment. Puncher guessed correctly and with a strong hand palmed the ball to safety which left Reece Rhodes the opportunity to send Rainham through. Rules regarding centre halves were thankfully also broken on this occasion as Rhodes slammed the ball home sparking celebrations.

Chairman's Notes

I do hope everyone is safe and well and managing to stay positive. It's a difficult time for everyone and many of us have been touched in one way or another by COVID19.

However, it does seem from the data that we are turning the corner and hopefully if this continues and we can ensure safety for everyone, we may get some cricket this year.

The committee are in constant contact on many areas concerning finance, groundwork, the bar and a host of day to day club requirements.



Thank you to all committee members and volunteers as even in these difficult times, you are stepping up.

Social media has been a massive help to club members staying connected and there is a regular debate, Quiz or RCC comedy club soiree most days.

This contact is vital for our club and also plays a part in helping all of us in these unprecedented times. Mental health is such a massive concern and we all need people or social interaction.

I even attended a virtual pub session with members all with a drink or two in our hands.

Although it did hit me that face to face or via social media we still talk the same garbage and tell the same stories.

Example:

Jamie Adkins bowling 3 long hops at Barking being pulled into a lake for 6 each time and then burst out crying as the chairman swam out and was bitten by Pike each time!!

Rainham cc is 124 years old this year and we'll be here another 124 years. Our strength is in the friendships and family ethos that exists.

We will be playing cricket, enjoying a beer/ Wine or "ten" very soon and we will have a typical RCC party to celebrate when we do.

In the meantime, I hope we can all spare a thought or prayer for members of our RCC family who are struggling.

God bless everybody and remember.

RAINHAM'S ON FIRE

Brearley