



## Rainham (Essex) Cricket Club

Founded 1896

Affiliated to Club Cricket Conference

**Spring Farm Park, Lambs Lane, Rainham, Essex, RM13 9XF**

### November 2010 Newsletter



#### **Playing Update**

##### Mid Essex League Application

Well what can I say, but our Chairman has done it again, the perfect Christmas gift and another slick presentation to get our 2<sup>nd</sup> team into the Mid Essex League. We were even less optimistic than we were last year as this year there were 3 places available and 9 teams applying which were new clubs East Hanningfield, Old Southendians 5<sup>th</sup>, Thurrock 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>, existing league members Little Baddow 3<sup>rd</sup>, Navestock 2<sup>nd</sup>, Rayne 2<sup>nd</sup> and finally Rainham 2<sup>nd</sup>. East Hanningfield immediately withdrew their application as they had amalgamated with Great Burstead. Old Southendians and Thurrock's acceptance into the league was not accepted, which was a shame for Thurrock as they gave a very good account of themselves, but had more existing members vote against them than for them. At this stage we were getting more optimistic as this left 4 clubs going for 3 places. We felt it was nailed on that Little Baddow 3<sup>rd</sup> and Navestock 2<sup>nd</sup> would get in as they were very well established clubs in the Mid Essex and thought it would then be between ourselves and Rayne 2<sup>nd</sup> for the final spot. Little Baddow gave a steady presentation and then followed Navestock who stated that they are a club that is nearly 250, but then proceeded to shoot themselves in the foot by stating on many occasions last season their 1<sup>st</sup> team fielded only 8 or 9 players and they planned to make up their 2<sup>nd</sup> XI of a mix of players from Ardleigh Green 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> players. This seemed to confuse the floor that was uncertain that this would be a Navestock side or an Ardleigh Green team. Next was Graham to give his pitch stating the importance of youth, our funding to improve facilities, our affiliation to the Institute of Groundsmanship and the potential move to a new ground. Rayne were next to get their 2<sup>nd</sup> XI back into the league after they had to reapply because they failed to field a team in 2 fixtures last season. The reason being that many of their club members play football in August. After being questioned their presenter went on to say that their members would still be playing football in 2011!!

The first vote went predictably to Little Baddow 3<sup>rd</sup> and then surprisingly Rayne 2<sup>nd</sup> got in which left us to sweat on the final vote against an established club that had a 242 year history. The final vote was very close with only a couple in it which then sealed our application, which came as a complete shock, considering that we felt our chances were very slim before we got there. So again well done and thank you to Graham Thwaites who will also be leading the 2<sup>nd</sup> team in their first season in the Mid Essex League.

##### Indoor Cricket

The B team played their second match against Abridge lost the toss and were put in to bat. Opener Peter Reynolds lasted his normal 2 balls before being bowled (isn't it time he was dropped?), which got the B team off to a dreadful start before James Fuller and Ashley Foster shared a partnership of 59 with both retiring not out on 25. A big welcome back to James Mansfield who also added a swift 18 with good support and running between the wickets by Reiss Sims and Graham Dordoy which took Rainham to nearly 100, before they both got out giving the two retired batsmen another chance to have a go at the bowling in the last over. Ash Foster was bowled by the first ball before James Fuller (42 not out) took the final total to 118.

Last season a good batting performance was followed by a below par fielding display, but on this day Rainham got off to the best possible start by James Fuller running out the Abridge opening batsmen on the very first ball of the innings. Tight opening spells by both the James lead to another wicket with James Fuller clean bowling their next batsman. Further sharp fielding by Reiss Sims lead to the next wicket with a direct throw run out, before Graham Dordoy and Reiss Sims took a wicket each, both being caught by Ash Foster (he still owes a jug for the 3 catches he took in the last match). With just one wicket left Abridge still had nearly 80 runs to make and their last wicket pair decided to take on Ash Foster in the field by trying to take a quick single but some lightening fielding and a good throw over the stumps run the last batsman out by a long way. Overall this was great team effort played in an excellent spirit and left the B team with 2 wins from 2 matches.



Jimbo – a welcome return, but this time with the bat



Reiss Sims - a wicket and a run out against Abridge



Graham Dordoy – tight bowling against Abridge



Ash Foster – another excellent batting and fielding display

The B team played their second match in November against Ardleigh Green D who had also won 2 out of 2. Rainham won the toss and decided to bowl with good opening spells from James Mansfield and Biren Patel, with the latter also taking an early Ardleigh Green wicket. None of the Ardleigh Green batsman took control of the innings with Rainham also being unlucky in the field with 2 clear run outs not being given. A steady flow of wickets and a late flurry on runs from Ardleigh Green took them to 65 at the end of the 12 overs with the pick of the Rainham bowlers being Kenny Sims who took another couple of wickets.

Rainham then started their innings cautiously and had another bit of bad luck when Ash Foster was given run out in a decision that looked a lot tighter than the 2 that were not awarded to Rainham. James Fuller was then caught soon after and Kenny Sims was then bowled a few overs later. Biren Patel then contributed by adding 10 runs but again was run out. This then left James Mansfield and opener Peter Reynolds to try and score 30 runs off the last 6 overs. Steady progress was made until the 11<sup>th</sup> over when James was bowled which left Peter Reynolds to score 10 off the last over, which proved too much as only 3 runs were scored before he was caught and bowled trying to hit a 6, leaving Rainham 7 runs short of their target and ending 2010 with an indoor record of played 3 won 2 and lost 1.

The A team played their second game against strong Shepherd and Neame League opposition Hornchurch. Rainham won the toss and decided to bowl with opening bowlers of Ian Havard and Joe Sarro getting Rainham off to a great start taking a wicket a piece and not giving many runs away. One of the Hornchurch openers retired on 25 and further tight bowling from Dave Adkins continued to ease the flow of Hornchurch runs. Three further Hornchurch wickets followed, with James Fuller contributing to a run and taking a wicket with Dave Adkins also chipping in with a caught and bowled. This signalled the return of the Hornchurch opening batsman who continued in the same vain hitting some quick runs before being caught by Dave Adkins off Ian Havard's bowling. This was a good all round fielding and bowling display which restricted Hornchurch to 77 all out.

Graham Thwaites and Dave Adkins opened the batting getting Rainham off to a steady start by scoring 20 runs in the first 4 overs. Hornchurch were very sharp in the field, especially their wicket keeper who stood up to their opening quick bowlers, even whipping off the bails on leg side deliveries. The steady opening partnership was broken when Hornchurch brought on their spinners which resulted in further sharp fielding that had Dave Adkins caught. This then lead to a very Rainham like batting display with 4 further Rainham wickets falling for another 5 runs. This left opener Graham Thwaites to try and score another 50 runs from 6 overs which proved too much as Rainham lost after being dismissed for 33. This will be a tough season in the top division with our current record being played 2 and lost 2, but the experience will be invaluable.

### Play On Cricket Indoor Tournament

James Fuller took on the responsibility of captaining a Rainham side in this indoor tournament at Canary Wharf and had to endure raft of late withdrawals to the squad which left us one player short of the eight required. The team consisted of Graham Thwaites, Jas Hothi, Ash Foster, Alex Sullivan, Peter Reynolds and Jamie Adkins. Although one player short on arrival the team was in good spirits and optimistic, which proved to be positive, as immediately we were met by an experienced 'Play On Cricket' player, Adam, who was looking for a team to play for if they were short. Our group of 4 consisted of Hornchurch Athletic, Mixed Bag and Bishop Chanellor of which the latter two were experienced at this form of cricket. The winner of the group would progress to the semi final.

The rules of this form of indoor cricket was 8 overs per innings of 8 ball overs with each player bowling an over each. When batting you bat in pairs and bat for two overs losing 5 runs every time you are out. Extra points can be gained by gaining 'skins' which is if a batting pair scores more runs than the corresponding pair of the opposition. Rainham's batting pairs were Graham and Jas, James and Ash, Jamie and Alex and Peter and Adam.

Our first match was against Mixed Bag whom, worryingly, were warming up with a set of exercises prior to the match. With our secret weapon Adam giving us a last minute pep talk by explaining the rules again Rainham won the toss and decided to bowl, just to get an idea of how the game should be played. Mixed Bag got off to a steady start before Rainham got into their stride with some sharp fielding which culminated in a flurry of opposition run outs. Wickets were also taken by Alex and Jamie, but the highlight in the field was Jamie Adkins showing that the youngsters can use their heads when playing cricket by ensuring that he stopped a potential six with the ball cannoning off his head straight into the waiting hands of James Fuller. A rally by Mixed Bag's final pair ensured they scored a total of 53 runs.

Rainham got off to solid start by opening pair Jas and Graham just losing one wicket for 13 runs ensuring that the first skin point was in the bag. Second pair Peter and Adam took the score to 38 and it was looking like a comfortable victory for Rainham especially when the next pair of Ash and James took the score to 56. Final pair Alex and Jamie got off to a steady start and then a few wickets followed that left us on 54 with a nervous two balls remaining, which Alex saw out and lead us to a 1 run victory and 3 skins to 1.



Jamie Adkins –  
showed his heading  
ability in the field



Jas Hothi – leant from his  
batting partner 'the master' in  
the Play On Cricket  
Tournament



James Fuller – showed  
resilience in getting a side  
together for the  
Tournament

The next match was against local rivals Hornchurch Athletic who won the toss and put Rainham in to bat. Openers Jas and Graham got off to a better start than the previous innings, which was backed up by the next pair of Alex and Jamie. Ash and James did not lose a wicket in taking the score to 48 after the third skin and the final pair of Peter and Adam also batted out without losing a wicket taking the final total to what appeared to be a healthy 73.

Hornchurch Athletic's opening pair started positively and although losing a couple of wickets took their score past the Rainham opening partnership also taking the first skin. Their second pairing continued in the same vain taking the oppositions score to 50 after 2 skins. Hornchurch then began to wobble losing a flurry of wickets mainly to some sharp fielding, before their last wicket pair came in batting steadily and taking their score past 73 before another sharp piece of fielding from Jamie Adkins caused a run out and left Athletic needing 4 to win with 2 balls to spare. A single and then a 3 off the last ball lead Hornchurch to victory by the narrowest of margins in which was a very enjoyable match.

With all 4 teams in the league having won one and lost one it was all to play for against Bishop Chanellor and a win would put us in with a chance of victory as our skins total was 5 won and 3 lost. Rainham were again put in to bat and after the first over the opening pair of Jas and Graham took us to an excellent 23 from the first over, which little did we know would be the peak of our innings. It was at this point that lady luck swung in the favour of Bishop Chanellor with every rebound from the net going straight to hand and every throw at the stumps hitting directly. From a score of 23 after one over we finished on minus 3 after eight overs and a very tough ask to try and pull victory out of a batting disaster. A never say die attitude ensured that after the first skin we were ahead at this stage, but with Bishop Chanellor not having to take any chances they steadily made their way to 42 runs and a well deserved victory, but was still not enough for them to progress to the semi final, which was taken by Mixed Bag (whom we defeated) on count back. News came later that Mixed Bag made it to the final and lost to Tower Hamlets in which ended up being a very enjoyable Saturday that we hope to return in 2011. A big word of thanks to James Fuller for organising the team and to our 8<sup>th</sup> man, Adam, whom passed on his valuable experience, in playing this form of cricket.

### **Youth Coaches Meeting**

This meeting took place on 4<sup>th</sup> November to decide the roles and they were appointed as follows:

- Under 15s – Manager - James Fuller, Coach – Adrian Moon, Assistant Coach – Dave Joynes
- Under 13s – Manager – Dave Adkins, Coach – Peter Reynolds, Assistant Coach – Mickey Callaghan
- Under 11s – no one appointed at the moment. This will be reviewed if more under 11s can be recruited in 2011
- Alex Sullivan will be available for training nights on Mondays and would prefer to coach the under 15s. Alex may also be able to assist on some of the youth team matches on Sundays.

Both the under 13s and 15s will be entered into the Havering League in 2011 and Dave Joynes has agreed to take on a recruitment role in local Rainham Schools to try and boost the number of under 11s for next season. We will be looking for parent volunteers for any home games to help with setting up the ground and providing hospitality, so if anyone is interested please contact either Dave Adkins or Peter Reynolds

Winter nets will commence on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> February from 7 to 8pm at Hall Mead School and will continue until 4<sup>th</sup> April. Summer training nights will start on 11<sup>th</sup> April and will start half an hour later than usual at 6.30pm until 7.45pm. Bank Holiday Mondays will also continue to be training nights during 2011.

### **Funding & Fund Raising**

#### **Havering Youth Opportunities Fund**

Dan Elliot has completed our application to obtain funding for a new bowling machine, let's hope we have some good news just before Christmas on our application and Dan, Scott McHugh and Ronnie Jackson are rewarded for all of their efforts in putting together this application, which will benefit all club members.

#### **The Chafford School Proposal**



We have yet to hear further on The Chafford School proposal, but we would like to take this opportunity to thank Jason Jarvis for providing the drawing plans for our application.

Cadman Jason Jarvis – hopefully  
we'll see him playing in the Mid  
Essex League in 2011

#### **Royal Mail Sports Foundation**

New Rainham CC shirts and jumpers have now been delivered for next season's under 15s. As with the kit we received last year they will be embroidered with the Royal Mail Sports Foundation logo and the Rainham CC badge. This will ensure that our under 13s and under 15s will be fully kitted out with Rainham CC shirts and jumpers for their first season in the Havering League.

## General News

### Essex County League – Presentation Evening

Graham Thwaites and Peter Reynolds represented the club at the Essex County League presentation evening sponsored by Lords International. The evening was hosted by much respected league Secretary Laurence Weeks from Hornchurch Athletic CC who put in a lot of work to ensure that the evening was a success. It was a shame that the league sponsors messed up the engraving of the trophies by engraving the names of the 2009 champions on the trophies instead of the 2010 winners. It was especially a shame that this happened to the premier league trophy that was about 50 years old and looked very impressive. Ex England fast bowler Angus Fraser was the special guest and told some entertaining stories of his relationship with ex England captain Nasser Hussain and what it was like to bowl against Brian Lara when he scored the world record test score of 401 not out, but again it was a shame that during the presentation and question and answers session that some of the attendees conducted them selves in a poor way by talking over host and the guest. The night carried on in a similar fashion in that a bat that was bought by Laurence as a prize for the evening went missing.



Angus Fraser couldn't wait to meet Club Chairman Graham Thwaites to find out how to execute the 'Nurdle'

### Christmas Gifts

In the past we have had the must have Christmas gifts like the X Box and I Pod, but this year's most sort after gifts are Rainham Cricket Club shirts and caps. Please get in early and beat the rush for the perfect Christmas gift by contacting Peter Reynolds on 07711-144497.



Club shirts for seniors - £20 each – 3 x 2XL size and 7 x XI. size still available



Club caps for seniors and juniors - £5 each – 10 still available

### Utopia Cricket Club

This is also another sort after gift this Christmas and some of the benefits of joining this club are as follows:

- Guaranteed to bowl at least 10 overs per game
- Guaranteed to take 5 wickets per match
- Guaranteed to open the innings every week
- Guaranteed to score a century every innings
- Guaranteed to win every match
- No dropped catches
- The grass on the outfield is definitely greener at this club
- A five course meal for tea
- Annual subscriptions are £1 and match fees 10p a game
- Beer is 50p pint
- Wine and sprits also 50p a shot
- An annual tour to the West Indies costing just a fiver
- A committee that is perfect



Rumour has it that this club is somewhere in the Horndon on the Hill area.



### Christmas Competition

Below is a picture taken on the summer tour to Des Ormes just before a night out on the Town. I will buy either a 6 pack of beer or bottle of wine to someone who can provide me with the best caption that describes this photo. Captions to be sent to [peter.j.reynolds@royalmail.com](mailto:peter.j.reynolds@royalmail.com) by 15<sup>th</sup> December.



The committee wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and prosperous new year.

### Chairman's Notes

Freezing cold temperatures and cricket is still being played! It seems like the season never really stops these days. The indoor league is well and truly under way and there is the little matter of a small series down under. C'mon England, 1986 is far too long to wait, the Ashes are coming home I am sure!!



We are delighted to have the 2<sup>nd</sup> team in the Mid Essex League for the 2011 season. The strength in depth in the new league is immense with 12 fully populated divisions and a waiting list of 5 or 6 teams trying to get in each and every year. Not only will the 2nds be visiting much nicer venues in Brentwood and Chelmsford, but it also guarantees the future of the club on the pitch as the Lords League is losing clubs each and every year.

Off the park the normal rumours are circulating about players leaving. If people have designs on playing a much higher level of cricket and really think they can make something of themselves then so be it, we would wish them "Good Luck" in the future. I fear in some cases however it is not for these reasons but instead the "Grass is always greener" story! It very seldom is!!! Rainham Cricket Club have many faults but in general provide a great environment to play cricket and also a healthy social side and now a real plan to grow the club on and off the park, as you can read for your selves in these letters. Whatever happens in the next few months Rainham Cricket Club will flourish and grow and this will continue with secured financial investment and a large focus on creating a really positive on field experience! Real growth in every club is based on individuals who "Stick" through thick and thin, but we look forward to welcoming back all players who try elsewhere in the coming months.

Of course the exciting news also is that we should have real opportunities in the 2<sup>nd</sup> team this year for our youth players to push into senior cricket and play regularly. Last year they made a real impact and we anticipate having a real balance of youth and experience in the coming season.

Finally let me wish you all a very Merry Christmas and happy cricketing new year!!

**Nick (Graham) Thwaites**