



## RAINHAM CRICKET CLUB

(Affiliated to the Essex County Cricket Board, the Club Cricket Conference, Essex Playing Fields Association)  
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### August 2015 Newsletter

#### What a Season!

The last league match of the season set up a tense finale for the First XI, with 8 points required to secure promotion against Little Waltham, this was after the Second XI had secured top position in division 7 the previous week and the Third XI won division 11 the week previous to that.

Dodgy weather the night before meant the toss was vital to win and Jas called correct and put Little Waltham into bat. A couple of quick wickets put Waltham on the back foot, but then a key moment in the match as their next batsman was dropped by Jas on nought. 109 runs later he was bowled by Ronnie and many wickets tumbled with Ronnie being the pick of the bowlers with 4 for 36 as Little Waltham were 197 all out. Rainham were keen to get out and knock the runs off to secure promotion, but immediately after the tea break the heavens opened and no further ball was bowled. The 10 wickets taken ensured 5 bonus points and the match being abandoned secured another 5 points to keep fellow promotion chasers Hornchurch Athletic at bay. Not the ideal way to go up, but sweet none the less.



First XI celebrate after gaining enough points to win promotion in the abandoned match v Little Waltham  
Back L to R: Rushi, Ronnie, Jas, Skipper, Tom, Alex  
Front L to R: Garnet, Dipal, Jono, Sid, Biren

During the course of the promotion chase Tom Herbert earned his club tie by claiming 5 wicket keeper victims with 3 catches and 2 stumpings in the emphatic win against Great Waltham.

Well done to Gibbo's 2<sup>nd</sup> XI who the previous week against Eastwood 2nds secured a 23 point victory to finish top of Division 7, with a game in hand.

Brearley's storming 3<sup>rd</sup> XI went one better and won division 11 in a controversial win against Great Totham 3rds in a match that all that played are likely never to play another like it. Rainham batted first at Thames RFC and were dismissed for just 53 and then went on to bowl Totham out for just 37, with Anish Patel also claiming a club honours tie with 6 for 14.

#### Playing Update

##### 1<sup>st</sup> Team

A strong start to the month with 3 wins out of 3 against Rayleigh Fairview, a nail biter against Writtle and a comfortable win against Great Waltham with notable performances from Sid Patel 51 & Tigsy 48 against Rayleigh Fairview, Jas 46, Alex 35, Rushi 30no v Writtle, and Sid 89no v Great Waltham. With the ball Jono

4 for 35 and Nikhil 3 for 34 v Rayleigh Fairview, Biren 4 for 44 v Writtle followed up the next week with a 5 for 20 v Great Waltham.

A win was required in the penultimate game v 3<sup>rd</sup> from bottom Rayleigh 2nds to secure promotion, but a hesitant batting display with only Garnet with 55 and Skipper with 35 doing themselves justice. This was followed by an early lacklustre performance in the field, which picked up towards the end as Jono picked up 4 wickets to leave Rayleigh 8 down with 20 runs to win. A couple of good overs for Rayleigh saw them secure victory with one over to spare.



Little Waltham were the last game of the season and the rest as they say is history.

The sweet taste of success for  
Jas

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

After a 100% record the previous month the 2<sup>nd</sup> kept their momentum going during the course of August with 4 straight wins against Danbury, top of the table Great Waking, Bentley III and Eastwood II and final match slip up against South Weald II. The match against Great Waking was notable for the absence of 4 Rainham players who were stuck in traffic and as the opposition chose to bat, some excellent bowling from Harry Light and Tyler Bunn ensured that Great Waking did not take advantage of the situation. Excellent keeping from Mickey Clifford with 4 catches ensured Waking were kept to 192 in their 45 overs. Rainham chased it losing just 4 wickets to take over Waking as table toppers, which set up a tense match against Bentley III the following week.

A win against Bentley III would ensure promotion and Rainham batted first at home and scored a modest 188 for 9. Some accurate bowling and early wickets ensured Rainham looked comfortable and then all of a sudden a surge of runs from Bentley set up a tense last few overs, which could have gone either way, but Craig Miller ensured victory by dismissing the last Bentley batsman to secure promotion.

The following week was a less tense affair with Tyler Bunn claiming 5 Eastwood II wickets as they were dismissed for 157 and Rainham chased it losing 6 wickets to ensure they had enough points to finish top of the table with one match remaining.

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

The first week in August saw Brearley's invincibles lose their first match against Navestock II by just 6 runs, as the last wicket stand of Brearley and Umer scored 40 runs before Brearley was dismissed dancing down the wicket trying to play his trade mark nurdle.

Not to be down trodden by this defeat the 3rds immediately hot the ground running as fellow promotion chasers Little Baddow III were the next visitors to Thames and were dismissed for 90. Rainham lost 6 wickets chasing it to secure victory knowing that a win the following week could secure promotion.

Next up were Great Totham III in what proved to be a controversial game as it looked as though the second defeat of the season was on the cards as Rainham were bowled out for just 53 with Brearley top scoring on 14. An inspired bowling spell from Anish Patel taking 6 wickets lead the way to the opposition being dismissed for just 37 and Great Totham reporting the Thames pitch to the league! With other results going the 3rds way this ensured the 3rds would finish top of Division 11.

The following week should have been a local game against Goresbrook but was moved to Billericay as we were not allowed to play at Thames. This was a match where Charlie Puncher decided it was time to become an all-rounder after he had consistently taken wickets all season. Rainham opened the batting and scored 274 for 7 with Charlie leading the way with 70 runs and well supported by Ben Little with 23 no after his brave 0 no the previous week in his senior debut against Totham. Goresbrook were all out for just 115 as a 12<sup>th</sup> victory was secured for the 3rds.

The last match was an icing on the cake day as the 3rds travelled to the nice ground of Bentley with Neeral just 7 runs short of a ton. Charlie Puncher carried on his form with the bat scoring 48 and Hari Patel then came out of semi- retirement to claim 4 Bentley wickets in a 150 runs victory.

## **Sunday**

What a difference year makes as last season the Sunday XI finished bottom of the Sunday league but 2 victories up to now ensured Rainham were still in the mix and a further victory against Hainault and Clayhall ensured this was still the case. Nikhil lead the way with 38 runs and Biren did the same with the ball taking 3 for 18.

The Sunday XI were then keen to take on Harold Wood Academy later on in the month knowing that a win in this match would ensure they still had a chance of winning the league, but the good old British weather done its best to ensure the game was washed out without a ball being bowled. One more league match in September should ensure a top half or even a top 3 finish for the Sunday XI this season.

There were also 2 friendlies against East Ham Corinthians and Trini Wanderers which were 2 contrasting games. The first being a low scoring affair against Trini Wanderers with Nakul adding to his club record 7 wickets the previous week by taking a further 5 wanderers scalps for just 18 runs and was well supported by Tyler Bunn (3 for 7) as the opposition were bowled out for just 78. Jas moved the score on quickly scoring 40 not out to claim the win in just 12 overs.

The East Ham Corinthian game was the complete opposite as Rainham posted 210 for 8 with Nikhil showing more excellent Sunday form with the bat scoring 69 and was well supported by Neeral with 58. East Ham Corinthians were positive in their run chase, but were steadily losing wickets. Eventually with just one wicket left Corinthians reached their target in an excellent game of cricket.

## **Youth Section**

### **Under 13s**

Only 2 matches left for the under 13s in a busy season. The first was against Harold Wood in what was a disappointing all-round display. Early short and wide ensured Harold Wood raced to 50 runs in no time at all, as 2 of their batsmen retired not out on 30 runs. The pick of the Rainham bowlers was Anthony Connor taking 2 for 14 as Harold Wood scored 115 for 5 in their 20 overs.

Anthony then opened the batting with under 11 Charlie Vickers as they both set about the run chase in positive fashion scoring 40 runs off the first 4 overs. Anthony was eventually dismissed for 8 and Charlie retired not out on 32. A casual mind set then set in as the general feeling was the game was won but some tidy bowling and casual batting saw Rainham wicket fall at regular interval with only Raj Hothi 18 and Ben Brindley 8 showing any resistance as Rainham finished 10 runs short of their target in what must be one of the most disappointing under 13 displays of the season.

The last match was against Upminster A and it would seem all the boys wanted to get the disappointment of the Harold Wood defeat out of their system. Upminster batted first and lost an early wicket, caught raj bowled Daniel Purton. A tidy spell of bowling from Will Knowlden at the other end claimed 2 further wickets for just 14 runs in his 4 over spell, Good support from Anthony, Ben and Raj restricted Upminster to 98 runs.

In response Jamie and Raj got off to a steady start before the runs continued to flow at a steady rate, but they both lost their wicket for 13 and 7 respectively. Ben Little 3no and Will Knowlden 23no took the score to 56 for 2 after 12 over which set up a potentially exciting finish before bad light and rain intervened.

### **Under 11s**

There were 3 reaming games left for Jay's under 11 against Gidea Park, Harold Wood and Upminster B. First up was an away match against Gidea Park with the promise of some great homemade cakes to tuck into during the break. Rainham batted first and Charlie Vickers and Kyan Lehal got the team off to a good start with Charlie scoring 8 and Kyan adding 13, which seemed to give the momentum for the rest of the batting line up as every single batsman contributed with Alfie Stouchbury top scoring on 15 an excellent support from Bobby Little 7, Flynn 6, Billy 5. Olly 4, Leo 3, Alfie Clark 2 and Jamie Little 2 ensuring 295 runs were posted for Gidea Park to chase.

The excellent batting display was immediately followed up by the same with the ball as Charlie took 2 wickets, Alfie S 1, Flynn 1, Leo 1, Bobby 1, Kyan 1 and 2 run outs as Gidea Park managed 227 in reply and a great all-round team display.

The following week was a visit to Harold Wood and this time an even better batting display as Kyan lead the way with 14, Billy 13, Bobby 7, Hayden 5, Alfie S 5 and Olly 4 took Rainham to an impressive 322 runs.

In response Harold Wood got off to a good start, but wickets tumbled at regular intervals with Kyan leading the way with 3 wickets for no runs (including 2 wickets from his last 2 balls, which sets him up for a hat-trick in his next game), Bobby 2 wickets, Billy 1 and Alfie S 1 as a second emphatic victory was secured, as Harold Wood scored 228.

### **Mini Matchplay – Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> August**

As promised some more action photos of our under 11s from the Mini Matchplay festival as Essex CCC County Ground courtesy of the photography skills of Debbi Blackman-Little



Bobby Little cuts one for 4



Jamie Little almost launches  
a big 6



Alfie Clark caresses one for 4

### **Social Events**

#### **Presidents Day – Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> August**



What a great day following the 1<sup>st</sup> XI promotion celebrations the night before, as it was an early start over a very damp Spring Farm Park as the rain almost threatened the day. The first matches kicked off with mixed sides from the under 11/13 squads playing terrier format cricket. Kyan Lehal took charge of one team and Raj Hothi the other, as Kyan's team batted first and scored 231 from their 20 overs with Jamie Eacott top scoring with 18 with good support from Kyan 5, Jake Downton 5, Tommy Brandon 4 and Olly Tulley 3. The pick of the Raj squad bowlers were Alfie Clark 2 for 11 with other wickets taken by Charlie Vickers, Bobby Little, Jack Wallace, Louise and Leo.

As this was a low score in bowler friendly conditions the Kyan squad went about their bowling in a very positive fashion with a couple of early run outs but Bobby Little responded with 12 runs. Wicket tumbled regularly with the pick of the bowlers Teddy Gough picking up 2 wickets and well supported by Kyan 2, Jamie E 2, Jamie L 1, Alfie S 1, Tommy 1, and Hayden 1. This could not prevent the strong last pairing of Raj and Ben taking their team to victory off the very last ball of the match. Other good innings from Charlie, Jack, Leo and Louis all contributed to an exciting game.

The main match was started immediately afterwards with the President's team batting first to see if they could go up 7-4 in the series. Jas Johal was the honorary stand in President on the day and immediately stared by almost hitting the Chairman for 6 off the first ball; The Chairman eventually got his revenge as Jas was caught 3 balls later. Sid retired on 26no and was well supported by Rushi 22no, Umer 17 and Ronnie (caught Brearley bowled Warren) as the President's XI posted 141 for 9. Other highlights in the batting being Sid



running out most of his team mates Jamie's switch hit off Jas and Jay Downton's 4 from Anish. Wickets were shared by the Chairman's XI by Jono, Warren, Abdul, Joe Amin and Charlie.

In reply the Chairman's XI got off to a double quick start as Jono retired on 25 off around 12 balls and was well supported by the Chairman scoring 9 including a 4 off Nikhil. Jas also retired on 25 and then a period of consolidation as Charlie Puncher unusually made a steady 16. Wickets tumbled at regular intervals but Amin and Abdul saw the Chairman's XI to victory with a couple of overs to spare. The pick of President's bowlers were Gary Littlechild with 2 wickets, Alex 2, Umer 1, Ronnie 1, Tom 1 and Nikhil 1. Another game played in tremendous spirit and a close fought contest.

The final match was the under 16s against the parents as Ronnie took on captaincy duties for the unders and Warren for the Parents. The Parents batted first and lost both openers, Eddie Spear and Lee Carter, with no runs on the board with Jamie and Ronnie taking the wickets. Jamie then added Jay Downton to his wicket haul as the parents were struggling on 9 for 3. Some steady batting from dal Lehal and some big hitting from Ian Little ensured the parent's innings got some momentum into it as they were dismissed for 18 and 17 respectively. Warren and Ben continued in the same fashion as Ben was then stumped by Raj off the bowling of Jake. The Parents innings eventually closed on 110 for 9, as Warren played a Captain's innings top scoring on 21. Ethan Musham was equal top wicket taker with Jamie Eacott 2 each and other wickets were shared by Nakul and Ben Little.

The under 16s got off to a lot better start with Harry spear and Umer keeping the score board ticking along until harry was caught by Darren Wallace off the bowling of Paul Newman. Umer then succumbed on 11 followed by Raj 6, bowled by his Dad Ben. Abdul and Ben Little looked as though they were going the steer the under 16s to victory until Ben was run out and Abdul playing across the line off Jay for 20. Nakul and Ronnie were now at the crease and some stylish batting from Nakul and a couple of big hits from Ronnie came to a halt as Warren dismissed Ronnie for the second time of the day LBW. Daniel Courtney came in with just 2 runs to win and instantly stroked one through the covers to seal the win and a 2-2 draw in the series. Ben Hothi was the pick of the bowlers taking 2 for 7 in another close fought match played in an excellent spirit to conclude a thoroughly enjoyable day's cricket.

Finally thank you to all the people that put in the hard work to ensure this day is a success, so Sharon and Suzanne for the food, Mickey Clifford, Stacey Scott and Lee Carter behind the bar, Pete and Dave on the BBQ, Warren, Dal, Derek Sullivan, Tom, Joe, Bradley Manning & Charlie Puncher for umpiring, Jamie Adkins, Alex and Joe Sarro for scoring. Last of all to our President Bumper for providing the evening entertainment.



All the participants of the under 16s v parents pose for a photo after the match

## **General News**

### **Thank You Jas (Jit) Johal**

Jas Johal is a long standing member of the club and was an excellent cricketer in his younger days. He is now a Vice President of the club and was stand in Honorary President in the main match on President's day to which he kindly donated £200 to the club. We all wish to thank Jas for his generous donation.

### **Youth Section Presentation Night Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> September**

Come and support the youth section on their presentation and review night down the club from 7pm on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> September. There will be trophies awarded in each age group and a most improved player award. The bar will also be open before, during and after the presentation night.

### **Chairman's Notes**

Absolutely fantastic! Bye bye Hornchurch!! Great end to a great season and 3 YES 3 promotions on Saturday with a strong Sunday league performance. Plenty of prestigious wins for the 11s,13s and 15s.

Then finally a massive chairman's victory on Sunday!!! Au Revoir Hornchurch!!!

The 1s being promoted to division 1 is simply the biggest event in a generation. Jas has built a team spirit unheralded previously and led from the front .His team responded magnificently, prompting Jas to be renamed Ghandi (I know, he only made one film).

Anybody that saw Jono and I put on 30 for the opening partnership on Sunday off 12 balls will never forget it. Jono was solid in defence but my back foot cover driver was compared to Steve Waugh. One guy walking his dog burst into spontaneous applause. Arriva Derci Hornchurch!!!

The evening to Presidents day was yet another classic RCC event, Bollywood dancing, Kenny Simms auditioning for Strictly and then informing EVERYONE at the club of his offers for next year: Upminster, Ardleigh Green, Mumbai Indians, Melbourne Stars, thus considering his options but did say he had turned down Hornchurch as they remain in Division 2.

To finish 4 things.

1) The whole club wish to thank Ian Gibbs who after 3 successful promotion seasons as 2s skipper is standing down. Gibbo is a great guy to work with and Jas and I can confirm how fair he is in selection and always sees the bigger picture. Calm on and off the pitch, going to be a hell of an effort to try and replace him. As Ian once said "You don't need runners to get promoted ".

2) A massive thank you to all our volunteers this season. The club are fortunate to have so many and I can't list them all, but from committee members to youth section and tea ladies it's a real team now. THANK YOU, THANK YOU and THANK YOU AGAIN.

3) Another big thank you to Pete Reynolds, the backbone of the club and once again responsible for simply too much to mention. We were proud to make Pete a life member Sunday and nobody deserved it more. Whenever Pete is involved, things quietly just get done.

4) Finally I have amongst the happiness to shed a tear. We waved goodbye to our President Bumper and his wife Pat. They leave for a new life in Spain and although we're excited for them we are also privately very sad. Bumps is a guy that we all depend upon and things revolve around him. Wherever he is there is a crowd and secondly always laughter. On a personal note Barry helped me through the club and the Golfing crowd to get over the loss of my best friend many years ago. I can never say thank you enough for that mate. Barry and Pat, wherever life takes you, Rainham cc WILL ALWAYS BE HOME and you'll be Presidentie For as long as YOU want to be. Especially as its 6-6 in the series now!!!! In parting bumper shouted "Buenas Nochas Hornchurch"



Well that's it for this season, the best I can remember and seeing every Saturday the pavilion full of young players and their girlfriends ordering takeaway, as Tony Blair once said " things can only get better" and went on to say "Rainham you are the biggest club in Havering ".

This really is a special club!!

Brearley

