



# 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

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## Newsletter: June 2020

Will we or wont we? That is the question we have all been asking for a number of weeks now as to whether the recreational cricket game will commence in July. After great expectation that outdoor sports, including cricket, would commence from 11 July, we are still awaiting the Government green light to go ahead.

It looks like the seniors and juniors are ready to go with the attendance at outdoor nets being a great success. We all know there is no substitute for actually being out and playing, so let's hope we all get some good news in the near future.

The Shepherd and Neame league are ready to go, but sadly for our second, third and fourth teams T-Rippon have made the decision to suspend the league for 2020, so friendly fixtures will have to be arranged, if the go-ahead is given. The Havering League is the best option of any cricket for our juniors and it was also very encouraging that nearly all of our junior parents responded that they would be happy for the sons and daughters to play once the current restrictions are lifted.

With anticipation that cricket may just be around the corner the club is ensuring that we are ready to play with our band of volunteers at Thames and Springy keeping the cricket squares well maintained and of course we will need to make sure the clubhouse is in good order, which leads us to the club tidy and bar re-opening day on Saturday 4 July. Full details in the poster below with special bar prices for all volunteers. The tidy up will start at 11am and a socially distanced drink and chat to commence at 2pm. If anyone could just give up an hour of their time on this day, it would be much appreciated.



Jobs to be completed as follows:

- Clear guttering
- Weed the patio area
- Cut grass in front of clubhouse
- Tidy up the nets
- Fix signs for clubhouse rules
- Jet spray and relay shingle for the patio (only if we get enough volunteers)

## **Alternative Cricket Tea**

Thank you to Club Chairman Nick Thwaites organising this day, which was a great success with over a tonne of food and goods being donated. This was organised with the Rainham Foodbank who were 'Blown away' by the generosity of all who donated to the club.

Below are some photos of the donations and Club Chairman Nick Thwaites, Non-Cricketing Director Keith Light (I think) and a representative from the Rainham Foodbank. Well done to all of our volunteers on the day and all those that made donations.



## **Funding**

### **Council Grants/Sport England Community Fund**

After recently taking part in a webinar with Essex Cricket and all clubs in Havering to establish if clubs had received any grants from the Council or Sport England due to the COVID-19 shut down it was discovered that we are the only club in Havering that have not been awarded any grants from the Council or Sport England.

At this webinar each club was asked in turn if we had received any grants from either the Council or Sport England. Some clubs had received both and significant amounts of money from each. Whereas, the Council decision is understandable the Sport England decision is baffling, as clubs that can afford to pay their players are deemed more worthy of a grant than those that do not. This could actually be a back handed compliment, in that the committee are managing the club finances in a sensible way!

We are exploring some further alternatives with the Council to establish if there is a way of obtaining one of the Council Grants. If this proves to be a success, then a further update will follow.

### **Veolia Environmental Trust**

There is still no progress on the actual funds being received from Veolia for our net extension, but the second source of funding we received from Veolia should be received soon after the club has recently bought the following items:

Ice machine for social nights	Container 20ft for Springy	Laptop for clubhouse	Pedestrian rotary mower for Springy	Cricket Pavilion Clock
BOLA Junior Bowling Machine Pack	Cricket Sight Screens for Thames	Dome Shaped Covers for Thames	Sarrol roller for Thames	2 x Shipping Container Ramp for Springy
2 x Scarifiers (Thames & Springy)	4 x Cricket equipment Bags	8 x Kookaburra Cricket Bats	Concertina Mobile Cricket Cage for Springy	Nilfisk Alto vacuum
Dishwasher for Springy	Electric Scoreboard for Springy	Roller Shutter for Scoreboard for Springy	Bola Balls	Santini ECO Flame Gas Patio Heater
Bola Ball Feeder	Amplifier for club social nights	Microphones	Lights for club social nights	Heavy duty chair carrier
Speakers and sub etc for social nights				

### **Havering Collaboration**

On the same webinar with Essex Cricket as mentioned above, Arfan Akram (Essex CCC Development Manager for East London) put a proposal for all cricket clubs in Havering to collaborate, so as to gain a stronger relationship with Havering Council.

This is something Arfan has already developed in 4 other London Borough Councils where cricket clubs work together for their requirements and Arfan will develop relationships with the Council at Cabinet level which will give cricket a greater profile. Successes in other London Boroughs have been around developing women's and girls' cricket and obtaining more investment in cricket squares.

The first stage will just be a survey monkey then followed by 6 to 9 months of information gathering. This will be interesting to see how this develops as all cricket clubs in Havering will have nothing to lose and everything to gain.

### **All Stars & Dynamos Cricket**

With many of the national ECB programmes and competitions having to be abandoned this year due, including the Dynamos programme, to the lockdown, but there is still hope that All Stars will be able to continue in some form in 2020. Lizzie Pattison and George Light, our All Stars Activators, are already to go, so if cricket is given the go-ahead soon then we may also be able to continue with the fourth year of our All Stars Programme

## Lockdown Cricket Skills Challenge

Well done to everyone that took part in the 10 lockdown Cricket challenges. The overall winner was Leo Fevzi-Hunt, winning 4 of the challenges, but many different winners of each of the challenges as follows:

- Alex Porter – ‘Touch Cone and Catch’ and ‘Run Them Out’
- Charlie Sutton – ‘Target Bowling’ and ‘The Plank’
- William Ronan – ‘Name the Counties’ and ‘Batting Skittles’
- Jacob Ronan – ‘Name the Counties’

Now let's get down to playing some matches!

## Chairman's Notes

It has been without doubt the most difficult period in my 20 years at the club and probably since the war.

Social media has taken a real bashing and although it's been "heated" at times, overall, it's been a major help as we maintained both the club morale and friendships that exist.

We look around at the moment and see society struggling and violence erupting. I'm still bloody proud of Rainham Cricket Club as we see both the diversity and community spirit flourishing.

However, we've all examined our own attitudes and actions and the fact we can do this openly within our club, just makes it an even more special place to play your sport.

Never was that more apparent when Steve Attfield walked out of hospital after 10 weeks in a coma. Joe is truly one of our own and we all lived the ordeal with him. Put everything in perspective.

The club is beginning to open now and as you all know we are holding our first social this Saturday. We need volunteers to help set things up at 11am and the bar swings into life at 2pm. Keith Light has stocked the bar and it's critical we adhere to government guidelines on Covid-19 as if it's successful we can open every weekend. We have new speakers for music and a fantastic seating area which is newly extended.

Cricket looks like it's coming back in July and we could still have a really busy July & August on the field. Fingers crossed this week

I'll leave you with 2 quotes I gleamed from our on line session last week with Steve Waugh (Aus) & Stephen Fleming (NZ). Thanks to the ECB for the invite it was sensational.

1) "We May Encounter Many Defeats, but We Must Never Ever Be Defeated."

2) When you arrange a club social, stick to these rules once the music starts. When they play Jump, you Jump. When they play the Twist, you do the twist, but when they play come on Eileen, leave immediately.

Brearley

