



# RAINHAM CRICKET & FOOTBALL CLUB

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



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## Newsletter: November 2020

With the second lock down due to end on 3 December we all live in hope that the virus 'R' rate will start to decline that some of the restrictions on life can be lifted and that the vaccines will start to have the desired effect of permanently keeping this nasty virus at bay.

There has been some good news in that restrictions on sporting activity have been lifted, but the good news is mainly for under 18s, as the new guidelines in Tier 2 from 3 December state the following:

- *Organised activities for U18s in groups of up to 15 and disabled people will be able to continue indoors across all tiers;*
- *In Tier 2 areas, organised adult sport can only take place indoors if there is no interaction between people from different households. For cricket activity this means (subject to a satisfactory risk assessment of the individual facilities) that a net session is allowed between individuals from a different household, but only on a 1:1 basis. If individuals from different households want to net together indoors, the maximum number of people permitted to take part in an indoor net session is three – two taking part in the session and one coach, who must remain socially distanced.*
- *In all cases, the COVID risk assessment of the individual facilities must consider whether indoor nets should be used on an 'every other' basis.*
- *Outdoor cricket activity will be able to resume across all tiers.*

This second lockdown left us with no options at all as regard practicing or playing cricket or football. The lockdown rules based on Government guidelines and issued by the ECB meant we could not do anything, not even net coaching outdoors (which would be a stoic thing to do at this time of year), where the rules stated the following:

*You may be aware that DCMS and Sport England have now confirmed that 1:1 coaching is only permissible during lockdown in England in a public outdoor space as long as social distancing is maintained. In reality from a cricket perspective, we understand that playing on good quality surfaces is imperative to safeguarding our players. Therefore, we do not believe 1:1 coaching activities in public spaces is appropriate for the welfare and safety of our players.*

- ***Is a cricket ground classed as a public open space?***
- *No, privately owned cricket clubs are private outdoor spaces (in the same way as golf courses) and therefore not open to the public. Each club will need to understand their own situation and apply measures accordingly to avoid any potential liability.*
- ***Can a club use its nets for 1:1 coaching?***
- *No. Clubs should not be organising any activity using their facilities including the nets for the reasons outlined above.*

- ***If my club is in a public park, can we use the ground for 1:1 coaching?***
- *No. Cricket clubs should not be allowing or encouraging anyone to use the cricket club facilities for cricket activity.*
- ***Can a player under the age of 18 be coached 1:1 in a public space?***
- *No. Coaches should always avoid being 1:1 with a player under the age of 18.*

Although this is good news for under 18 members of the club it is not so good for anyone 18 or over, as only 1 to 1 sessions can take place with people from different households. We would normally be expected to be fully engaged with the youth indoor league, the club AGM, Halloween and Firework night and preparations for a Christmas party at this time of the year current restrictions have prevented this. Although it may feel that nothing is happening there has still been some activity going on in the back ground with committee members and willing volunteers trying to keep the club momentum going through these strange times as explained in the sections to follow:

## **Playing Updates**

### **Hamro Foundation Essex Cricket League – Annual General Meeting**

In case you have no idea what league this refers to it is the new name for the old Shepherd & Neame Essex League (SNEL), who withdrew their sponsorship for the league in June 2020. Hamro Foundation have now stepped in the sponsor this league and for short it will now be known as HFEL.

Jono attended the AGM on Sunday 22 November and the main issue was the restructuring of the divisions, especially division 3, where there are 16 teams assigned to that division. The league committee put a proposal together to create a league structure similar to the T-Rippon where second teams could also be playing against first teams, so as to create a 10 teams league structure, playing each other home and away with 2 teams being promoted and relegated from each division.

The vote required 66.6% in favour of the proposal, which we were in favour of, but unfortunately there were only 65.7% in favour, so division 3 will remain as a large 16 team league. Hopefully common sense will prevail in the future and we will have a league structure based on the strength of the opposition and not just whether it is a first team. As soon as the fixtures are available, they will be made known to all club members.

### **T-Rippon Cricket League – Annual General Meeting**

The T-Rippon AGM took place on Thursday 19 November and are normally pretty short meetings and the zoom meeting was no different.

Although there was no league cricket played last season the league sponsors, T-Rippon, still fully sponsored the league and will continue to do so in the 2021 season with the same contribution of money. This helps all clubs with their overall spend to play as the cricket balls are normally bought at a reduced rate.

The Umpires representative said that 5 new umpires are now qualified to stand in matches in the higher divisions.

As no teas were allowed last season due to the COVID restrictions there may be a proposal that no teas will be provided at all in future league matches, if the majority of teams feel this is the way to go. Some leagues, namely the East Anglian Cricket League, have already voted not to provide teas in any future matches and individuals will provide their own. This was only a suggestion, so we will see how this develops.

There will be 4 new teams in the league next year: Terling 2s, Basildon & Pitsea 4s, St Andrews and Chelmsford Spartans. This should help the league numbers as two teams, Hornchurch Athletic 1s and Bentley 1s will be moving to the Hamro Foundation Essex League (HFEL) in 2021.

Without first team playing in the HFEL next season it is important that the team is as strong as it should be which means second team players pressing to play in the first team and third team players also wanting to do the same to get into the second team. With the T-Rippon Divisions having to be restructured due to teams leaving and arriving, we are hoping the restructure will enable some of our teams to play in higher divisions than was originally planned in 2020.

Once the T-Rippon divisional structure is known we will communicate to all members.

### **Winter Cricket Nets**

As mentioned previously we are normally busy on Friday evenings during the winter season with the youth indoor cricket league at the Hathaway Academy in Grays, but restrictions have prevented us from participating this year. We were hoping to arrange some winter nets as Government and ECB Guidance at the time allowed six to a net, but the second lockdown has prevented this from happening. We have been in touch with Schools Space, the new company that arranges the bookings for the Harris Academy in South Ockendon, and they will be in touch with us in December to establish our booking requirements for the winter nets.

The plan is to commence winter nets in early January 2021, which we should be able to do for the youth, but adult sessions will just be able to use on a 1 to 1 basis. A risk assessment will have to be carried out and it may be that any parents who bring their children may be requested to be outside of the hall whilst the net sessions are taking part. This will be fully communicated once the facility has been booked.

### **Rainham Cricket Club – AGM**

We normally hold the club annual general meeting on the last Friday in October, but we had to postpone this for obvious reasons. Volunteers are at the heart and soul of this club, so if anyone feels they would like to play a part whether it be a small role, Captain of a team or a committee member then the committee would be pleased to hear from you. There are some vacancies up for grabs, so if anyone is interested please let any member of the committee know.

As long as restrictions allow, we will be holding an AGM at the earliest possible opportunity so that we can be fully prepared for the 2021 season. Once the date of the AGM is known we will communicate out to all members.

### **Essex Youth District Trials**

This year we nominated Nimrut Kaila and Aaditya Rakesh to go to the Metropolitan Essex District Trials. Good news for Nimrut in that she has been selected for the under 15 training squad and congratulations from all within the club to Nimrut.

Aaditya has been another victim of the lockdown as the boy's trials have been put on hold.

### **Coaching Courses**

At present all Essex CCC coaching courses have been postponed. We have a Jas Hothi, Tom Herbert who are looking to attend a level 1 coaching course and Paul Stretton looking to attend an All Stars Activator Course. All will be made aware once restrictions are lifted.

Peter Reynolds has been booked into an advance batting and bowling Course at Beckenham CC on Friday 5 February 2021.

It's very important that we maintain and expand the number of cricket coaches we have as it is vital for the development of the club.

## Social Events

### Youth Presentation Evening

It was with regret that we cancelled the Youth Presentation Evening, which was originally planned to take place on Friday 18 September. The trophies are all ready and engraved and all Champagne moment entries are waiting to be voted on, so as soon as updated Government restrictions allow, we will be looking to hold the event prior to the new season starting in the new year.

## Funding

### ECB Return to Cricket Grants

We finally had some success with some funding, which was available to help all clubs during lockdown, when we were awarded £3,000 from the ECB Return to Cricket Grants Scheme in August 2020. After being rejected for the local Council scheme and the unhelpful Sport England Scheme, this was a final chance to receive some assistance with regular outgoing payments the club still has to pay during the course of the year.

This was most welcome and thank you to Graham Pryke from Essex CCC who helped the club to push for funding that was available.

### Veolia Environmental Trust

Good news in that we have now received all the money from our second bid from Veolia to provide the following equipment and items for the club. We just need to arrange delivery of the items highlighted in yellow, so we will probably be looking for a few volunteers to help put some of these items together when delivered as they are likely not to be fully constructed upon delivery.

We have to thank Paul Newman for all the work he put in carrying out his Club Development role in arranging for us to put in a bid with Veolia Environmental Trust for these items.

Ice machine for social nights	Container 20ft for Springy	Laptop for clubhouse	Pedestrian rotary mower for Springy	Cricket Pavilion Clock
<b>BOLA Junior Bowling Machine Pack</b>	<b>Cricket Sight Screens for Thames</b>	<b>Dome Shaped Covers for Thames</b>	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	<b>Concertina Mobile Cricket Cage for Springy</b>	Nilfisk Alto vacuum
Dishwasher for Springy	<b>Electric Scoreboard for Springy</b>	<b>Roller Shutter for Scoreboard for Springy</b>	Bola Balls	Santini ECO Flame Gas Patio Heater
Bola Ball Feeder	Amplifier for club social nights	Microphones & speakers	Lights for club social nights	Heavy duty chair carrier

## **Sport England – Return to Play Community Fund**

Another funding opportunity has arisen via Sport England where we have a plan to try and refurbish the showers and Gents toilet area. Sport England bids are notoriously difficult and bureaucratic, so we don't go into these bids with much expectation, but this will not stop us from trying. Hopefully we will have some good news this time with Sport England and be fifth time lucky

## **Easyfundraising Website**

If anyone wishes to help the club with funding in any way, they can do this just by going about their normal day to day business, by shopping online via the following link.

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/panel/>

The way this works is as follows:

- Register on the above easyfundraising website the club or cause you would like to support
- If, for example, you were going to buy something from Amazon you would first go into the easyfundraising website, then you would select Amazon as the place you would like to shop
- This will then take you into the usual Amazon website and you would just shop in the normal way you would do on line
- You would still pay the same price for the item you require, but Amazon would then contribute 0.5% or 1% (depending on what percentage contribution is being offered on that item) to the Rainham CC easyfundraising account

Other retailers that can be accessed via the easyfundraising website are Spots Direct, Wilko, M & S, Debenhams, John Lewis, H & M, Just Eat, Halfords, Waitrose. Tesco Groceries, Sainsburys Groceries, Curry's, QVC, Vodaphone, Easy Jet, Wickes. This is just naming a few, so worth checking via the easyfundraising website prior to ordering any items on line.

## **Havering Collaboration**

I mentioned in the last newsletter in July about the Havering Collaboration where all Cricket Clubs in Havering will be putting a plan of action together in conjunction with Arfan Akram from Essex CCC to put some proposals together as to how Havering Council can provide more support to all clubs.

Paul Middlemiss from Upminster CC is coordinating the Havering Clubs response and has held the first meeting with Arfan and representatives from Havering Council of which is summarised below:

*Thanks to everyone for sending through the template with information for their clubs over the last few weeks. At the same time Arfan was able to get in touch with two contacts at Havering Council and he sent on the data to them and I then joined Arfan, Dan Feist and Graham Pryke from Essex on a call yesterday with the two representatives from Havering Council. One was Darrell Birrell who is one of the Sports Partnerships Coordinators at Havering Council and the other was Abbigail Cleary who is a Sports Development Officer at Havering and looks after the Havering Teams who represent the Borough in the London Youth games.*

*The meeting was really just a chance for them to explain their roles within sport in the Borough and I then just gave some brief background on all of the Havering clubs in terms of competitions and the huge numbers of people currently involved in the game in the Borough. Arfan then explained how similar groups had worked with their councils in other East London Boroughs such as Newham and Redbridge.*

*The main points discussed were:*

- *The Numbers of people playing at or involved in cricket clubs in the Borough*
- *Grounds, and the fact that all of the Havering Clubs play at council/public facilities*
- *Some background on the Havering Sports Council, of which some clubs are already members*
- *Set up of potential junior indoor winter leagues with assistance from Havering Council*

The next stage will be a zoom meeting with all Havering Clubs, Arfan and the Council representatives either mid-December or early January 2021. It would be good for Rainham CC and all clubs in Havering that we gain more support from the local Council.

## **Pitch Maintenance Works**

### **Thames RFC – Post Season Pitch Works**

Post Season pitch works are an important part of ensuring a cricket square is well maintained and ready for the new season. We are lucky in that we have Joe Attfield who is our committee pitch maintenance coordinator and knows exactly what needs to be done to ensure these works are done properly.

On Saturday 24 October Joe organised a working party of club volunteers that consisted of Ian Little, Ben Little and our Club Chairman to carry out these works. With the use of the scarifying equipment we recently purchased via the Veolia Environmental Trust bid, a leaf blower, tons of Ongar Loam and grass seed and a large loam spreader, Joe organised the morning superbly and the work was completed in around 3 hours. It was also good that this knowledge was being shared within the club.

As long as we carry out all the pre-season works and continue to water and roll it should ensure the playing surface improves year on year.

A little multiple Christmas Quiz for you.

Where is this venue? A) The Oval B) Thames RFC C) Lords



### **Essex Playing Fields Association – AGM**

The club are members of the Essex Playing Fields Association and we enter their annual awards and this year we again received Certificates of Merit in two categories at Spring Farm Park, which were 'Playing fields serving communities of 2,500 or more' and for 'Cricket grounds (on which a winter game may or may not be played)'. Well done to all of our volunteers and of course Danny from Havering Council who leads the team of Groundman at Springy.

## Rainham CFC

Our football team were going great guns prior to this latest lockdown being implemented, so hopefully the momentum will continue once the restrictions are lifted on football below the elite level. The team have yet to lose a match with 2 victories in the cup and 2 wins and a draw in the league, which leaves Rainham CFC in mid table, but only due to playing less games than most teams in the league.

Good luck to Keith, Steve and all the boys for the rest of the season once the restrictions are lifted.

### Chairman's Notes

Well we've had the strangest of Summer's, but in many ways, it also brought the Rainham Cricket club family a little closer and demonstrated why we remain so strong, as other clubs struggle.

Covid-19 attempted to ravage the season and yet we managed to continue our progress.

- 1) The 1st team made its debut in the SNEL with encouraging results and a confidence we can establish ourselves and seek promotion in 2021.
- 2) We played a whole season of junior fixtures and indeed carried on playing senior cricket until mid-October. In effect we only lost 4 weeks from a normal season. Mind you those last games playing at 5 degrees were certainly interesting!
- 3) We managed to produce a reasonable social season with many lazy Sunday afternoons or Saturday evenings outside sharing a story or two. Plus Covid-19 couldn't deter us from providing a socially distanced President's day. Being distanced from Bumper was a major plus and great to see VP Dave Adkins back at the crease. Well even if only for one ball!
- 4) For the first time in the club's history we produced FIVE Saturday teams. We did this on a few occasions and its encouragement to build on it in 2021.
- 5) The continued hard work of the committee and many volunteers who worked tirelessly to ensure the club remains strong.
- 6) Growing our connections with the local community, through our club development guys and even providing 3 tonnes of food through our " Alternative teas" food bank drive. All going to local people.
- 7) Joe Attfield and the pitch volunteers going way beyond what's asked for to keep 3 home pitches in top shape: yes, we had 3 venues this year!
- 8) The entertainment on the Club WhatsApp group reaching new levels, led admirably by Sham and his team. The dog at the funeral still ranks highly.
- 9) The club have continued to raise money to ensure we are well set for next season.
- 10) The efforts put in by all members to ensure a safe Covid-19 environment for everyone to enjoy the club and this culminated in an emotional evening where Joe Attfield's dad was presented with a tankard by the club after his brave fight with the virus.

We were all reminded of just what really matters through their family ordeal.



It's going to be an interesting Christmas period and we all wait to see how government restrictions will impact on the Club, normally by now the winter social agenda is in full flow and the football team is fighting for another promotion but both have been curtailed by recent events.

Be assured as soon as things change, we'll be all over it like a rash and putting events together.

Finally, can we take this opportunity to wish all of you a safe and happy Christmas.

It might be cold outside but Rainham Cricket Club is truly on fire.

Brearley