



Rainham (Essex) Cricket Club

Founded 1896

Affiliated to Club Cricket Conference

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

March 2012 Newsletter

Playing Update

Indoor Cricket

4th March – ‘B’ Team v Matt and The Machine – **‘Kenny’s bat smashes Matt’**

The ‘B’ team were able to draw from their core squad again with the added bonus of Kenny Sims recovering from a shoulder injury and Paul Collis returning after a broken ankle (we won’t mention how he originally broke it). Another bonus was the ‘B’ team were able to warm us nicely for this indoor league match with a game against a mix of the Rainham ‘A’ and ‘C’ teams to ensure that the ‘B’ team end their league season with a bang.

Captain Reynolds lost the toss which is normally a good sign as victories have tended to follow and Rainham were put into bat. A positive start by Reynolds and fellow opener Dan Skipper saw the score board ticking over at a rate of around 8 an over with many runs for 3. In the 4th over Reynolds went for one run too many and was run out by a direct hit. Dan Skipper continued to score runs freely and then Joe Sarro was unable to copy the big hitting antics of his previous match and was caught for just a single. Jas Hothi, who performed well in the warm up match, joined Dan Skipper also scoring freely and Jas kept Skip company who was able to retire on 25. Enter Kenny Sims who immediately got on with it with a sweetly struck 4. Jas continued to score 3s and was able to quickly retire on 25 and the second batsman in the bin. Paul Collis soon tested his ankle by scoring a 3 and give Kenny another chance to face the bowling and smash his way to 25 and another retired batsman. With only a couple of overs remaining and a healthy score already on the board Skip and Jas quickly lost their wickets with Kenny to face the last over hitting a stream of 4s and 6s to take his personal tally to 40no and the ‘B’ team to their season’s best 125 for 4.



Kenny can’t contain his joy (or saliva) after taking ‘The Machine’ bowlers to the sword

Jas Hothi and Joe Sarro kept the Machine openers quiet in the first couple of overs with only 7 on the board, when in Jas’s second over one of the Machine openers decided he had to get on with it and lost his middle stump. Joe followed this up taking the other opener with a regulation catch from Reynolds off the wall. Some consolidation from the Machine batsmen 3 and 4 kept the score board ticking over, but not anywhere near the required run rate, when a mix up lead to their number 4 being run out after some good work from Joe and Kenny. Another short period of consolidation lead to another run out this time with some good work by Dan Skipper. In the last over there were only 2 wickets remaining and still 55 runs required and Joe snapped up 2 wickets the first a low catch from Paul Collis behind the stumps and the second the dismissal of their number 3 batsman this time from a stumping and a well deserved 51 run victory.

The ‘B’ team finished 4th out of 7 with 3 wins and 3 defeats with the defining match being the loss to bottom of the table Havering ‘A’, which had it been reversed would have guaranteed promotion in a tight league. A big thank you to all of the ‘B’ team squad especially Dan Skipper who played in every match.

11th March 2012 – ‘C’ Team v Gidea Park and Romford – **‘Albi & Jacko Senior Thump Park’**

This was a double header Sunday for the ‘C’ team and with 2 wins and 2 defeats out of 4 in a very tight there was an outside chance the ‘C’ team could get promoted. Gidea Park batted first and were immediately in trouble with some tight bowling from George Light and Steve Jackson. Excellent fielding from Captain Fuller and George lead to a couple of Gidea Park run outs. George then chipped in with the

ball taking a further Park wicket ending his spell with 1 for 21. Steve Jackson added a couple of wickets to finish of the Gidea Park innings on 60 all out.

Ronnie Jackson opened the innings and lost his wicket early, but fellow opener Albi Birchmore took charge of the situation taking part in a healthy partnership with Albi retiring on 27 and Steve bludgeoning his way to 20 (they don't teach bludgeoning shots on the Coaches course). Only 1 further wicket was lost as Rainham comfortably made their required total and losing only 2 wickets to set up a potential promotion battle against 2nd place Romford Post 'A'.

11th March 2012 – 'C' Team v Romford Post 'A' – **'C Team just miss out'**

After a comfortable victory in their first game the 'C' team went straight back into action against promotion chasing Romford Post 'A'. Rainham decided to field against a competent Romford Post batting team and could not make enough in roads with ball as they had in the previous game. Post went on to record a challenging but not out of reach 83 for 4.

This had to be a positive batting display and captain James Fuller lead the way with an excellent 29 with the match winning batsmen from the previous match Albi and Jacko senior adding well needed support with 23 and 20 respectively. Although the 'C' team were keeping up with the run rate, wickets were also falling and with the game tied at 83 Rainham lost their last wicket off the final ball for the game to end an exciting match in a tie and Romford Post 'A' joining Harold Wood 'A' in being promoted to Division 2. Captain Fuller stated this was a brilliant game and thanked all his 'C' team players for their contribution during this indoor season and a creditable 3rd place in the league.



Albi – two good knocks for the 'C' team

18th March 2012 – 'D' Team v Parkers – **'D Team end the season with a loss'**

The final game for the D team was against fellow strugglers Parkers and Rainham had a surprisingly strong looking team with 3 'A' teamers (Dave, Alex and Ash) playing due the lack of availability of some of our youngsters on this weekend. Also there was an indoor debut for Ian Gibbs junior whom it is estimated is the 30th player to play for one of the 4 Rainham CC teams this winter season.

Ian Gibbs junior opened the inning with stand in Captain Dave Adkins and put on 29 before Dave was the first wicket to go but not before adding 13 runs. Ian Gibbs followed soon after but not before hitting a 6 and eventually being dismissed for 19. Ian Foster added 7 before being caught with Rainham on 40 for 3 after 5 overs. Ash Foster and Alex Sullivan added 44 runs for the fall of the next wicket with as being run out on 21 soon followed 2 runs later with the loss of Alex for 19, including a 6. Jamie Adkins was the last man standing but was run out for 3 taking the team score to 90 all out and the potential costly error of the team not batting the full 12 overs, with 5 balls left to spare.



Gibbo – some big hitting on his indoor debut

Jamie Adkins kept it tight in the first over conceding just 3 runs. Parkers then seemed to gain confidence and the run rate started to climb to the required rate which was briefly interrupted by Alex Sullivan with a good catch from Jamie Adkins. Big hitting wasn't required from Parkers as they carried on the build the runs and run well between the wickets. Jamie finished a tidy spell conceding just 19 from his 3 overs but this couldn't prevent Parkers numbers 2 and 3 batsmen retiring on 25. Ash Foster's bombs could not prevent the flow of runs and with just 1 over to go Parker's needed 10 runs off the last over for victory and still 5 wickets in hand. Three balls later the game was all over and Parkers gained a well deserved victory to potentially leave Rainham at the bottom of the league.

18th March 2012 – 'A' Team v Ardleigh Green 'A' – **'Young batting duo shine'**

An exciting penultimate match loomed against top of the table Ardleigh Green 'A' with Rainham just one point behind and a potential winner takes all in the top division. Even before the match Captain Brearley suffered a couple of blows with strike bowlers with Jono sampling the 'space cakes' of Amsterdam and James Fuller nursing a bad back after ricking it at the nets the previous Thursday (putting his bag in the boot of his car). Brearley then drafted in Jas Hothi and Kenny Sims as they had both been showing some decent indoor form lately and to give the team some further bowling options.

Brearley played a master stroke and opened the bowling with Alex Sullivan who removes the Green opener with a pleasant 'wrong un' Ardleigh Green then picked up the pace of their innings and moved to 27 after 4 overs with the tension you could cut with a knife. Ardleigh Green continued to make good progress for the 2nd wicket with both batsmen retiring on 25. Rainham then started making inroads by taking a 3 further wickets which then brought both the retired batsmen back to the crease and take their team score to an impressive 107 for 4 including hitting 19 off the last over.

In form opener Dave Adkins opened the innings with Captain Brearley and some sharp and accurate Green bowling restricted Rainham to a few runs in the early overs and then Dave lost his wicket. Brearley went on to make 13 before losing his wicket with Rainham only on 40 runs at the half way stage and behind the required run rate. Wickets were also tumbling and then Jas joined Ash Foster at the crease with these two carving the Green bowling and running quickly between the wickets. A little bit of panic set in the Ardleigh Green ranks as runs were plenty before Ash lost his wicket just 1 run short of retirement. Jas continued the flow of runs before the overs ran out leaving Rainham just 8 runs short in an exciting game played in an excellent spirit. Rainham still have an outside chance of victory in the league if the results go their way in the final match on 25th March against Goresbrook 'B'.

25th March 2012 – 'A' Team v Goresbrook 'B' – **Brearley hamstring pull proves decisive**

The 'A' team suffered a massive hammer blow prior to this game when Captain Brearley pulled his hamstring and had to withdraw and he had to draft in slightly less talented but in form Jas Hothi as a replacement. This blow was countered by Jono's return from his jolly up in Amsterdam and James Fuller recovering from his bad back. There was still an outside chance the 'A' team could win the league if results went their way.

Rainham batted first with Mr. reliable Dave Adkins going early after drilling a well pitched up ball, which hit the shoulder of the bowler looped up in the air and was then caught by another Goresbrook fielder. This set the tone of the day with Rainham getting the worst end of some close run out decisions and Ash Foster given out LBW to one that looked as though it was going down leg. Jas Hothi brought his recent 'B' team form to this game and steadied the Rainham inning by making 23 runs before losing his wicket. Rainham made the fatal error of not batting out the full 12 overs and were dismissed for a below par 70.

Jono and James Fuller opened the bowling and made up for missing the previous week (if only they were available against Ardleigh Green) and immediately set about the task of unsettling the Goresbrook openers. All the Goresbrook batsman struggled to get this pair away with James finishing with 2 for 9 from his 3 overs and Jono a just as impressive 1 for 6. Goresbrook then consolidated, gradually building runs and losing only one more wicket, reaching the Rainham target in the last over for a well deserved victory. The 'A' team ended the season 3rd in the league which is probably the best we have ever achieved so it is a big well done to the close knit 'A' squad ably lead by Brearley, which consisted of Alex Sullivan, Dave Adkins, James Fuller, Ash Foster, Jon O'Neill and Jas Hothi.

Overall this has been a successful season with over 30 club members, including many of the youth section playing in one of the 4 teams, with the 'A' team finishing 3rd in their league, the 'B' and 'C' teams finishing 4th and the young 'D' team gaining valuable experience and making a good account of themselves in their league.

Youth Cup Match & Training 2012

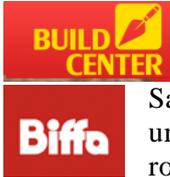
This year's under 15s will be playing the club's first ever Havering Cup game against Hornchurch Athletic on Sunday 6th May, so please come along and support the under 15s, as you never know we might have a cup run.

The indoor nets have been fairly well attended with the attitude and discipline displayed during these training sessions being a real credit to the club and we also have added bonus of a new recruit Adam Savery who has joined us from Ardleigh Green. As with all the youth section we hope Adam enjoys his cricket at Rainham and continues to play for the club in his senior years. The youth section outdoor training session will commence on Monday 16th April from 6.30pm at Spring Farm Park and will continue through to the end of August, so all those youth section players that have been unable to attend during the

winter due to other commitments will hopefully get some practice in before the cup and league season commences.

General News

Nat West Cricketforce Day



There was another excellent turn out from club members which took place on Saturday 31st March. The tasks that needed doing were to renovate the storage room, umpires room, ladies toilet, paint the gents toilet and a general tidy up of the changing rooms, renovate the bar large seating and tidy the back yard storage area.



Biffa supplied another free of charge skip and we were fortunate in that we qualified for the ECB and Build Center Scheme to open an account with £100 and receive £500 worth of materials, which included all of the wood, paint, a drill, PVA glue and a new toilet and sink for the ladies toilet.

Johnny Wratten and Kenny Sims set about the task of fixing the new WC and sink in the ladies toilet, Ian Foster and Tony Bennett (Callum's Dad) carried out the 'chippy' work in the cricket store room, Ash Foster cleared the rear yard and Alan Puncher (Charlie's Dad) painted the gents toilet, James Fuller and Jas Hothi renovated the large seating, Kieran Howard put in a good shift cleaning and painting and finally Julie provided a nice tea for all the volunteers. Other volunteers were Charlie Puncher, Callum Bennett, Bradley Manning, Sharon Adkins, Jamie Adkins, Jono, Dave Adkins, Dawn Thwaites and finally our Club Chairman just generally got in the way.

We also had a visit from Graham Smith the Essex CCC Development Officer who gave the club tickets for an Essex CCC v Hampshire County game on 20th July, these were duly presented to the volunteers who made the biggest impression on the day which were Johnny Wratten, Kenny Sims, Ian Foster, Tony Bennett, James Fuller, Ash Foster and Kieran Howard. A big thank you to everyone that gave up their time on Saturday to ensure facilities within the club, improve for all members.



Some of the volunteers with Graham Smith the Essex CCC Development Officer



James Fuller and Ian Foster expertly work on the bar seating. Sharon trying to fathom out how to use a screw driver!



'Good Friends' Johnny Wratten and Kenny Sims getting to work in the ladies toilet



Jamie Adkins and our Club Chairman putting in the hard yards with the sponges



Kieran Howard removing graffiti outside the club house



The Ladies Toilet after the great work from Johnny and Kenny



The Cricket equipment store room after the excellent work of Ian Foster and Tony Bennett

Annual Subscriptions 2012

A reminder that annual subscriptions must be paid at the very start of the season as this is when most of our bills have to be paid. As an incentive for all those that pay their annual subscriptions first Danny Sadai has given the club some Essex CCC playing kit and the first to pay their subs will receive one item of official Essex CCC playing kit. A reminder of the annual subscriptions is below.

Ordinary £65

Unemployed or Full Time Students £35

Junior (under 16 before 1st May) £30

Associate £10

Rainham CC Dream Team

The Dream Team is back for the 2012 season which is being organised by James Fuller, so please get your entries in by 6th May. The way the game works is you have a fictitious £15 to spend and all club members have a value from 50p to £2.50, you must select 11 players and not exceed your £15 budget. Each player scores points depending on the number of runs, catches or wickets taken during the course of the season. Entry is £5 and there will be cash prizes for the teams that score the most points at the end of the season. There are some real bargains to be had with Jimbo costing just £1.25, Scott Foster at £1 and Paul Read at 75p. There are also the expensive players at £2.50 that performed well last season like James Fuller, Dan Skipper and Alex Sullivan and there are also those that may not be good value for money such as Graham Thwaites at 50p!

School Tournament

The annual secondary school under 14 tournament will take place on Thursday 28th June and again we will have Royal Liberty, Brittons, Gaynes and winners of the last two seasons Chafford contesting this year's contest. As usual we will need volunteers to host the tournament to carry out tasks such as scoring and umpiring. This has been an extremely enjoyable day over the last couple of years so let's hope we can make it an enjoyable day again this season.

Kwik Cricket Tournament

Rainham Cricket Club has also been chosen as a qualifying venue for the ASDA Havering Kwik Cricket Tournament. We will be hosting this day on Tuesday 29th May and again we will require volunteers. This tournament is contested by junior schools and we are hoping that local junior schools Brady, Parsonage, Rainham Village, Newtons, Whybridge and La Salette will take part. It is important that we make a good impression in hosting this tournament with many volunteers so that we are chosen again in years to come as this will be the first taste of competitive cricket many of the junior schools will have and we may even attract some of the local children to play cricket in our youth section.

ASDA

The winners of this qualifying round will take part in the Havering Finals held at Havering-atte-Bower CC on 15th June and then go onto the Essex finals on 25th June.

Chairman's Notes

Hard to believe another cricket season is nearly upon us, but in a few weeks we start another season. Both Saturday teams promoted last year looking forward to the new challenge of a higher division & Sundays look to be exciting with Jas Hothi taking the reigns.



The one indisputable fact is that this promises to be the most exciting season in many many years. On the field the development of younger players & the influx of new talent means we are spoilt for choice and we definitely mean the formation of a Saturday 3s, whilst off it the club continues to grow & become much stronger with the continued focus on better infrastructure & playing facilities. It also allows the club to enforce important rules, both crucial to the continued growth we all desire.

- 1) Players must pay annual subscriptions & match fees promptly.
- 2) On field behaviour should be excellent all season long. It's fair to say in recent years we have had to compromise at times to ensure we remain competitive, this is no longer the case and if people behave in an unsporting manor or interfere with our own players enjoyment of the game, forget disciplinary action, they simply will not be selected again.

Having said that with the players we have now, both of these points I'm sure will not be an issue.

My prediction? Both teams promoted again on Saturday & Sundays will produce some excellent player development.

Let's really enjoy the summer & let's win with a smile !!!!!

Brearley!!