



## RAINHAM CRICKET CLUB

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

#### Success for Ronnie in Australia and for the 'B' & 'C' Indoor Teams

Ronnie Jackson departed for Australia on 7<sup>th</sup> March to represent the England Learning Disability against the Aussies, which consisted of 2 x T20 matches and 4 x 40 over matches all being played in Melbourne.

England got off to a great start in the first 2 T20 matches with 2 victories with Ronnie's contribution being 22 not out in the first match and a direct hit run out. Moving to the 40 over format seemed to disrupt England's momentum as the Aussies claimed victory to take the series to 2-1.

This seemed to be just the spur England needed as the next 40 over match Australia were dismissed for just 44 runs as England lost just 2 wickets to go 3-1 up. In the penultimate match a win would mean a series victory for England with Ronnie claiming 3 for 10 as Australia were dismissed for 83 chasing 231 and an unassailable 4-1 position for England. In the final match Ronnie again played in part scoring a quick 15 runs as England sealed the series 5-1.

If you wish to see Ronnie in action hitting a mighty 6 (shirt number 31), then just click on the following link <http://www.bbc.co.uk/sport/0/get-inspired/31949011>



Left picture – Ronnie celebrates with his England team mates after the final match and Right picture – Ronnie receives his England cap with other team mate debutants

Prior to departure to Australia England's Learning Disability Coach Derek Morgan stated.

“Ronnie is the youngest member of the squad, although if you sit and have a conversation with him you would think he's the most mature member of the team,” said Morgan.

“He's a really responsible young man and takes his cricket very, very seriously and is an aggressive player, but a positive person.

“He brings a lot of self-belief to the squad, which is very welcome, and trusts himself to perform in whatever situation.

“He is completely fearless and bowls some very good away swing for us and bats in the middle order with a really positive approach, which gives us real impetus in the middle innings.

“He's a smashing young man to have around the group and is a fantastic player to have around.”

We all back Derek's sentiments and I think it's safe to say we are all proud of Ronnie's achievements for England as he represented the club fantastically while in Australia and this must go down as the highest honour ever achieved by any cricketer representing Rainham Cricket Club. Let's hope Ronnie success continues with a hatful of runs and wickets for the 1<sup>st</sup> XI.

Further success for the club, but this time in the indoor league as the 'B' team came top of Division 2 of the Havering Indoor Cricket League, which was superbly led by Jas Hothi. A disappointing defeat in the last match against Harold Park prevented the 'B' team from going through the season with a 100% record, as the 7 consecutive victories prior to the defeat ensured Rainham finished top.

Also the 'C' team topped the Division 3 table by scraping an extra bonus point off the very last ball of the game to beat Seven Kings 'C', their opponents in the last game by a single point, thanks to Jono's batting.

## **Indoor Playing Update**

### **'A' Team – Brearley Sorely Missed & So Are 'The Patels'**

**1<sup>st</sup> March 2015 v Hornchurch 'A'** – The potential key to the result of this match could have been inspirational indoor skipper Brearley being unavailable. Hornchurch chose to bat and hoped to continue their recent good indoor form with 3 wins on the bounce and so it proved to be as the Hornchurch openers got stuck into the Rainham bowlers. Jono was bowling well, but was unable to dislodge any of the Hornchurch batsmen as a succession of them retired on 25 not out, which led to an overall big total of 137 for no wickets.

Rainham tried to go about the task in a positive fashion, but some excellent tight and accurate bowling from the opposition led to a steady stream of wickets as Hornchurch dismissed Rainham for just 57 and a first heavy defeat of the season for the 'A' team and a well-deserved victory for an in-form Hornchurch team.

**22<sup>nd</sup> March 2015 v Harold Wood 'A'** – Brearley was determined to go out with a bang in the last indoor game for the 'A' team after so many close fought matches. With regulars Jono and Alex unavailable Brearley called on the services of Sid, Dipal and Rushi Patel. A change from the original starting time from 5.30pm to 1.30pm was communicated, but as the match was about to start Rainham found themselves with only 3 brave men (Brearley, Skipper and Jas) to take on the might of Harold Wood. Luckily enough Rainham won the toss and decided to bat and a brilliant performance from all 3 batsmen ensured they all scored at least 20 runs each to end up with a reasonable total of 70 runs.

With still only 3 players available in the field Brearley's tactical genius then came into play as he instructed his bowlers to bowl 2 feet outside off stump and just have a wicket keeper and one off side fielder. Jas and Skipper stuck to the plan magnificently as Wood slowly made their way to building a total and lost a couple of wickets due to some quick thinking by Jas and Skip resulting in 2 run outs. By the 8<sup>th</sup> over Wood still required 20 runs and their captain started to panic with the potential result being a defeat against a 3 man team. Due to the restriction on the number of overs a bowler can bowl, it then required Brearley to relinquish the gloves and turn his arm over, which is where the master plan came unstuck as 16 runs were taken from his first over as Harold Wood reached their target in the 10<sup>th</sup> over. This was an excellent effort from Brearley, Jas and Skip against good opposition.

When Sid was asked why they hadn't arrived on time he said 'I thought it was a 3.30pm start!' You couldn't make it up!

### **'B' Team – Winners of Division 2!**

**15<sup>th</sup> March 2015 v Harold Park** – Rainham lost the toss and batted first. The batting struggled right from the start with Tom being clean bowled for 0. Hothi was then dismissed for 5 when he was caught behind. Skipper and Charlie then rebuilt the innings but Charlie was run out for 7. Skipper top scored with 24 before Rainham were all out for a tame 38. Harold Park batted aggressively to chase the total down in 6 overs without losing a wicket. A very disappointing ending to what was a fantastic league winning season.

Well done to Jas and all of the 'B' team squad of Dan Skipper, Tom Herbert, Charlie Puncher, Ronnie Jackson, Steve Jackson & Tyler Bunn for almost going through the indoor league season unbeaten.

### **'C' Team – Best Bowling Figures of the Indoor Season? & Division 3 Success**

**8<sup>th</sup> March 2015 v Old Gaynes 'A'**– After a heavy defeat to Old Gaynes in December it was all guns blazing for the 'C' team who were determined to give the opposition a much better test this time around against the top of the table side. Rainham lost the toss and were put in the field. Opening bowlers Tyler Bunn and George Light gave nothing away and this was followed by Jas Hothi also keeping it tight. Captain Reynolds was keen to mix it up and immediately got into the action taking the first wicket as Jas took a good catch at mid-off, as the same combination took care of the second Gaynes wicket, but this time a sharp low catch from Jas. The third wicket was a jug taking wicket as Jas took his third catch, which was matched by Reynolds with his own caught and bowled (erasing the memory of the 6 dropped catches previously against Gaynes) to leave Gaynes on 35 for 4 after 9 overs and personal tally of 3 for 6 for the Captain. George Light took a well-deserved wicket in the 10<sup>th</sup> over clean bowling the Gaynes batsman as he tried to work him behind square leg. Gaynes then rallied in the last couple of overs and ended on 57 for 5.

Jas Hothi and Jason Downton opened the innings and scored 6 off the first over and then Jas's good recent indoor batting form eluded him as he went for a six and guided the ball into the hands of Gaynes tallest fielder. Peter Reynolds and Jason Downton both lost their wickets cheaply to leave Rainham on 22 for 3, as the tradition of making things difficult for ourselves continues. Ian Gibbs and George Light batted with great temperament and composure to score the winning runs in the last over for a superb team victory and leap frog Gaynes into top spot. It's all down to the last week against Seven Kings to see if the 'C' team can top the table.

**29<sup>th</sup> March 2015 v Seven Kings 'C'** – This was a cracking match that would decide which of the teams would win Division 3. Rainham lost the toss and Seven Kings chose to bat first. Some good opening overs from Jono and Tyler ensured Kings were kept to 5 an over in the first 4 overs, which also included a run out by Jono. 'C' team debutant Abdul Altaf, a late replacement for Charlie Puncher who injured his foot the day before (Thanks Jono!) also ensured the run rate was kept at the same rate. In form bowler Reynolds then struck with a low catch caught and bowled and in the next over took another wicket after some good glove work from Ian Gibbs. It was at this stage that Seven Kings virtually ran for everything, which seemed to come off except on one occasion when Reynolds ran out one of the Kings batsman. The momentum of good running between the wickets ensured the opposition scored 100 runs.

Rainham's innings got off to a Mickey Callaghan style start with Reynolds virtually blocking the first 5 balls and running on the 6<sup>th</sup>. This was not good enough to keep the scoreboard ticking overs, as Reynolds lost his wicket in the 3<sup>rd</sup> over. Jono and Jay Downton then ensured that runs were scored at a better rate and Jono then retired on 27. Gibbo and Jay carried on the momentum, but realised the slow scoring rate at the start was not good enough and Jay was then run out for 10 and Gibbo was stumped in quick succession. Tyler Bunn lifted the run rate, but another run out soon followed as Abdul was unlucky to be the next victim. Jono came back in and he and Tyler put Rainham back in contention, but 26 required off the last over was a tall order. If Rainham got with 10 runs of their opponents score this would ensure 5 bonus points which would be enough to top the table. Jono was facing and nudged one into the corner as a run was also taken to ensure Rainham got their 5 bonus points to top Division 3.

Another enjoyable indoor season but thanks to 'C' team regulars Jason Downton, Tyler Bunn, Steve Jackson and Ian Gibbs as well as all those that have played their part including George Light, Scott Foster, Jas Hothi, Abdul and Jono.

### **'D' Team – Promotion Candidate Given a Scare**

**15<sup>th</sup> March v Matt's Melons** – After 2 successive wins the 'D' Team went into this game against potential Division 4 winners in confident mood, which immediately showed in the bowling and fielding display. Father and son combination Warren and Daniel Courtney opened the bowling with both taking a wicket in their first over leaning the opposition on 6 for 2 after 2 overs. A few tidy overs from Charlie Puncher and Bradley Manning kept up the pressure by bowling some tidy overs before Umer Ellahi got in on the act and took 3 more Melons wickets in just 2 overs with assistance from catches by Warren Courtney and Bradley Manning. Warren then capped a fine performance in the field by finishing off the Melons innings with assistance from Danny Sadai behind the stump to leave the opposition scoring just 43 runs.

Rainham's innings got off to an excellent start with 20- runs on the board after 5 overs before Charlie was caught and bowled, which then lead to a further 3 wickets to fall in the next 3 overs with only 5 runs added. Bradley Manning continued to bat well until he was the 5<sup>th</sup> wicket to fall and still another 15 runs short of victory. It was then down to last man standing Warren Courtney to try and steer Rainham to victory, but he then got run out in the 10<sup>th</sup> over 10 runs short of the required target.

Well done to the 'D' team who improved as the season progressed and almost made in 3 wins from 3 in their final matches.

### **Club & Youth – Outdoor Training at Spring Farm Park**

Now that the winter nets at Champion School have come to an end we turn our attention to Spring Farm Park and preparing ourselves ready for the upcoming summer season. Youth training will continue to be on Monday nights from 6.30pm to 7.45pm from 6<sup>th</sup> April and we have an abundance of coaches and coach support workers on hand to assist with these training nights. We now have two level 2 coaches (Alex Sullivan and Peter Reynolds), three level 1 coaches (Steve Jackson, Adrian Moon and Paul Margiotta) and 6 coach support workers (Paul Newman, Jason Downton, Warren Courtney, Tyler Bunn, Charlie Puncher & Joe Attfield) as well as the invaluable assistance from Jamie Adkins upon his return from University.

Senior training nights will be on Thursdays from 6pm onwards commencing 9<sup>th</sup> April and this year it is proposed to bring a better structure the senior nights with one of our coaches being on hand to organise the sessions. Coaching plans have been written up to ensure that every week there will be a theme and an organised session.

### **Social Events**

#### **Pre- Season Meet Up at The Albion**



First Team Captain Jas Hothi has arranged a pre-season get together at the Albion Pub on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> April from 7pm where there is a chance to discuss the new season and enjoy a bit of food and drink with club members. All club members and parents are welcome to join in for a bit of pre-season social.



Jas is ready for a Friday night out

For anyone that is not sure where the Albion is the full address and postcode is: Albion Flaming Grill, Rainham Rd, Rainham, Essex, RM13 8SS.

#### **A Busy Social Calendar in May**

The month of May will be busy in the Rainham social calendar with the interclub 6 a side and table tennis tournaments being the first on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May, followed by the annual golf day on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> May at Burstead Golf Club and ending with a Quiz night on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> May at the club house after our league matches.

If anyone from under 13s, seniors and veterans wishes to play in the 6 a side tournament then please contact Jono on 07908-474929 as Reynolds Rovers will be keen to defend their inter club 6 a side title as will Biren Patel the current holder of the Bumper Table Tennis Trophy. If any wishes to play in the table tennis tournament, open to club members and parents, but likely to have a 32 player restriction, then please contact Peter Reynolds on 07711-144497. A barbeque will be available on the day as well as the bar being open from midday to late in the evening. For all those not playing Cricket the following day (Under 13s Peter Coe Cup match and under 16s matchplay), you'll have the following day bank holiday to give yourself time to recharge your batteries.

This year's golf day will be played at a new venue to Rainham CC at Burstead Golf Course on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> May. The cost will be £39 and will include the following:

- Breakfast: 08.45am Coffee & bacon roll
- Tee time: 09.44am – 9 holes (team competition)
- Lunch: 12.15pm – Ham, egg & chips
- Tee Times: 1.20pm – 18 holes (individual competition)
- Prizes



As usual there will be a £10 non-refundable deposit required to book your place. This is an enjoyable day so please feel free to bring along any family and friends. I am sure Paul Collis will be keen to defend his title and amass another 40 Stapleford points (bandit!) in the individual afternoon 18 holes competition (photo of Paul collecting his prizes last year). Please contact Peter Reynolds on 07711-144497 to book your place and pay your deposit.

To end the month there will be a Quiz Night down the club on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> May, which will probably be six various rounds of 10 questions, with an opportunity to play your joker, on the round you feel will be your strongest subject, which will ensure you receive double points for this round.

### **Social Nights – A Blast from the Past**

Social nights at Rainham CC have always been a part of the club and below is a photo of a musical social night with the ex-President the late Bruce Adams playing the stumps, John Read on the cardboard box with a knife and fork and current President Bumper playing the bat in his cricket trousers! Could this be a regenerated theme for a club night in 2015?



### **General News**

#### **Nat West Cricketforce Weekend –Thanks to Gibbo & Havering Construction College**

The Nat West Cricketforce got off to a brilliant start courtesy of Ian Gibbs supplying and fitting new doors to the front of the clubhouse. I think you'll all agree they make a massive difference and ensure the clubhouse feels and looks a lot brighter with the new doors in place. Thanks must also be given to Gibbo's labourer Mickey Clifford who contributed by passing Gibbo his tools and putting the kettle on!

Saturday saw Graham Burr, Sharon Adkins, Paul Newman, Steve Jackson, Ronnie Jackson, Charlie Puncher, Bradley Manning, Abdul Altaf, Mickey Clifford, Peter Allen, Jono, Tyler Bunn, Jas Hothi, Jamie Adkins and a special mention to under 13 Daniel Purton who worked tirelessly during his shift. The works completed on Saturday included repainting the outside of the club house, tidying up the rear of the club and the equipment room, replacing the guttering clearing out the outdoor nets and redecorating the ladies toilet.

Volunteers from Havering Construction College, organised by Duane Randall, repainted both changing rooms and all the changing room corridors and Sharon ensured everyone was well fed and watered by providing sandwiches, wraps and pastries, as well as an endless supply of tea and coffee.

Sunday was a miserable day, but Bradley, Charlie, Abdul, Mickey and Burrsy returned and were joined by Umer Ellahi, Jason Downton Warren Courtney, Alex Sullivan and Gibbo who repainted the clubhouse and bar area, the external shutters, cleaned out the container and ensured all of our equipment and machinery was in good working order. Well done and thank you to all the volunteers from the club that got involved.



New French Doors  
for the clubhouse



Mickey – proud of his  
hanging baskets



Umer and Abdul during  
Sunday's painting duties



Jay contemplating  
what wall to paint

When the time is right we will always plough any spare money we have back into the club to ensure our equipment and facilities continually improve and as you can see from the photos from the weekend we had many willing volunteers to ensure that our facilities improve. Another thank you must go to Duane Randall from Havering Construction College for providing volunteers from the College to gain on-site, which they willingly did by getting stuck into painting duties in the changing rooms and corridors.

### **Rainham CC - Club Shirts etc.**

The order should be completed by the end of April, so anyone that has still not paid for their shirt or any club kit, can they please ensure either cash or a cheque made payable to 'Rainham CC' is posted to Peter Reynolds at 293 Goodwood Avenue, Hornchurch, RM12 6DD.

### **Coaching in Schools**

Coaching in Rainham junior schools will commence on 15<sup>th</sup> April at La Salette and continue right up to 15<sup>th</sup> May on various days at the following schools:

- Brady
- Rainham Village
- St Albans
- Newtons
- Scargill

Steve Jackson will again be assisting with coaching and Jason Downton is also looking to volunteer his services for any sessions that take part in the afternoons.

### **Cricket Helmets**

Danny Sadai has again come up trumps in provided some much needed training equipment for the club as he has provided the club with 6 brand new helmets which should ensure that anyone, especially the youngsters, have the correct safety equipment when batting in the nets. A big thank you for Danny for providing these helmets.

### **John Read in Australia – Another 'Two for One'**

The newsletters have taken on very much a 'down under' theme lately with John Read having an extended holiday and sending regular reports back on his World Cup experiences, ex-player Steve Pumfleet sending updates and Ronnie representing the England Learning Disability XI against Australia.

John was not aware that Steve Pumfleet was living and working in Australia and only found out via the newsletter, so John managed to get in touch with Steve and they both had an enjoyable day at Sydney Harbour, as the 'Two Rainham players in one photo' shows.



Steve Pumfleet & John Read 'suffering' the sights and warm weather of Sydney

John has also been lucky (or unlucky) enough to get tickets for some of the world cup matches and below is John's latest update on England's fortunes:

'Yesterday I was given two free tickets for the Melbourne quarter final, Olympic Stand, level 2, bay N54, row L, seats 11 & 12. These tickets would have cost \$160.00 each. If England had beaten Bangladesh, they would have played their quarter final in Melbourne, now Bangladesh play in Melbourne. What a bummer, do you know anyone looking for tickets? I just can't go now that England are out.

I also have tickets for England v Afghanistan at the SCG, don't know if I can go to that, I think I will, even as England should beat Afghanistan? I will not be wearing my official England 2015 ODI cap, the Aussies would take the mickey so much as to be unbearable, better to pretend to be an Afghanistan supporter, they have always been minnows and now England are a new minnow.

Aussie TV reported, "Bangladesh narrowly avoided embarrassment by beating England minnows by 15 runs". says it all. Boycott is having a field day here, sack- em all, bring back ?????, is there anyone?

Not all roses in paradise.

All the best.

### **Chairman's Notes**

Apologies about my absence on Nat West day and indeed for these shortened notes. I'm in France until the weekend and as yet haven't found The Parisian pace bowler I've been looking for. Do you know how many French legions it takes to defend Paris?  
Answer - Never been tried old boy!

Anyway enough of that, season is here! The brains of the club met last week to pick the 3 squads, Gibbo and Jas attended also. Interesting to see the selections and I have to say very exciting.



Is Mr Shallow returning?

Will Pete's leg be amputated?

Will the kidnappers return Joe, the scotch eggs are at the agreed point?

How many younger players will move through the 3s & 2s and play for the first team?

Will the Vice Chairman continue to play with a shattered spine?

Who will keep for the 1s?

How many times will Pete say he's retired after playing on a Saturday?

Will Nikhil become the most reliable Patel?  
Can we field a team of 11 Patels?  
How many juniors will play senior cricket?  
Can Jay Downton and Keith Light keep nicking a game?

Well it's here and on a serious note please remember it's Your Club! Please play & if you can't play please come and have a drink and become an even bigger part of this club. We need you guys and gals to support the club and if you do we can continue to build something special.

Here's to long summer days and entertaining nights at RAINHAM CRICKET CLUB.

**STOP PRESS:**

Joe Sarro was seen Monday breeding with a Tortoise; the aim is to improve his running in the indoor league.

Brearley

