



# Rainham (Essex) Cricket Club

Founded 1896

Affiliated to Club Cricket Conference

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

## March 2011 Newsletter

### Playing Update

#### Indoor Cricket

February was a terrible month for the indoor cricket teams with 4 matches and 4 losses, so with the 'B' team trying to gain promotion to Division 2 and the 'A' and 'C' teams trying to maintain their status in Divisions 1 and 2 respectively, March is the business end of the indoor season with all 3 teams needing to hold their nerve and show their character.

6<sup>th</sup> March 2011 – It was down to the 'A' to test their nerve in this match was a bottom of the table battle against Seven Kings 'A' with both teams requiring a win to take them out of the relegation area. With Rainham fully psyched up and ready to go this match had a disappointing conclusion with Seven Kings 'A' failing to show and Rainham 'A' being awarded the 12 points and having to await the result of Ardleigh Green's 'B' against title chasing Hornchurch 'A' to see if we had climbed out of the bottom 2. Some of the jokers playing for the 'A' team tried to convince me in a string of texts that we scored 190 and won by 170 runs, but the give away was one text stating that our Club Chairman scored 88 of them, which we all know is impossible to 'Nurdle' 88 singles when only 72 balls are bowled in an indoor innings!

13<sup>th</sup> March 2011 – The final game for the 'B' team in Division 3 and needing a win against Noak Hill Taverners 'A' to secure promotion to Division 2. Rainham won the toss and decided to bat with openers Peter Reynolds and Ash Foster getting Rainham off to a good start scoring 30 in 4 over before Reynolds lost his wicket caught behind. Ash Foster continued to score runs and keep the scoreboard moving with James Fuller in his normal big hitting style, before also losing his wicket by being caught from a full toss (a bit more coaching required). Kenny Sims then came to the crease and really kept the runs ticking over with an array of sixes and excellent running between the wickets (really). Ash then scored his 25 and retired and then Kenny was joined by Graham Dordoy and Ian Havard who both kept the scoring momentum going before losing their wickets. With only 2 overs to go Ash Foster resumed his innings and kept Kenny company in an entertaining end to the innings taking Rainham and to a very good 111 for 4 with both ending up on 34 not out.

Opening bowlers Ian Havard and James Fuller bowled their normal tight opening spells and each took one and two wickets respectively which left Noak Hill on 19 for 3 after 4 overs. Graham Dordoy and Kenny Sims continued to make life difficult for Noak Hill with Kenny taking a wicket and still leaving Noak Hill well short of their required target. Ian Havard and James Fuller then continued their bowling spells and again found success by finishing the match with Noak Hill ending up on 68 all out, which then lifted Rainham into 2nd place in the league and promotion to Division 2 (That's the first of my 2011 predictions that has come true!). Well done to all the players that have played for the 'B' team during the indoor season and gaining promotion that we just missed out on last season.



Ash Foster – couldn't thank his indoor opening partner enough after his 34no v Noak Hill



Kenny Sims – a swash buckling 34no v Noak Hill to guide Rainham 'B' to promotion

20<sup>th</sup> March 2011 – the ‘C’ team second from bottom in the Division 2 and only 4 points behind third from bottom Havering ‘A’, it was important to win this match against bottom of the table Hornchurch Athletic. Rainham won the toss and decided to bat opening with a very young opening partnership of Dan Skipper and Reiss Sims (their combined age is still 9 years younger than me!) and they got Rainham off to a good start of 40 before Reiss lost his wicket for 17. Dan Skipper followed soon after, being stumped disappointingly on 24 and 1 run short of retirement. Another youngster Ricky Cooper came in next and was out for 1 soon followed by James Fuller for 2. This left it up to Captain Joe Sarro and an injured Kenny Sims, who was unable to run, to try and build a big score for Rainham. Kenny could not emulate his previous week’s big hitting exploits and was out for 10, which left last man stranding Joe Sarro to take Rainham’s final score to 95.

Hornchurch Athletic had nothing to lose with their batting as they were already relegated and just hit out at everything, which proved successful for them on the day scoring the required 96 in just 7 overs and only losing 3 wickets, one each taken by Reiss Sims, James Fuller and Joe Sarro. This was a disappointing loss and the last match for the ‘C’ team will be a tough one against top of the table Seven Kings ‘B’ on 3<sup>rd</sup> April and only a win will do to ensure their survival in Division 2.

27<sup>th</sup> March 2011 – a vital last match for the ‘A’ team against third in the league Goresbrook ‘A’, who still had an outside chance of winning the league. Goresbrook won the toss and batted consistently through out with their entire batsman making positive contributions before finally being bowled out for a solid 99. The star bowler (and I am not making this up!) was Ash Foster over taking 2 for 3 from 1 over. Other wicket takers were Alex Sullivan, Ian Havard and James Fuller whom also chipped in with a run out.

Rainham reply was steady but with the loss of consistent opener Graham Thwaites who scored his lowest total of the season, this left just Ashley Foster who made a positive contribution of 15 before Rainham ‘A’ were finally dismissed for 45 and having to rely on other results to keep them in Division 1. This season has been a good learning curve on the standards of cricket in the Havering League Division 1 and with 2 wins and a few close matches from 6 games this has been descent first season in this Division. Well done to Captain Ian Havard for leading the team during the season.

### Pitch Preparation

A meeting took place on 10<sup>th</sup> March with the Havering Parks Department with Graham Thwaites, James Fuller and Ash Foster in attendance for the club. The meeting was very positive from both sides with each agreeing what action needs to take place on our pitch during the fourth coming season and what activities will be carried out by both parties. The Head Groundsman, Nigel, even went over to the park and gave us some advice on mowing, rolling, how to use and adjust our mower and watering the pitch. Ash Foster has now agreed to be in charge of the pitch maintenance rota (Thanks Ash!) which he is due to complete prior to the season commencing.

With all the positive work that has been going on during pre-season we had a bit of bad news over the weekend of 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> March in that the footballers left the container open and some local vandals took it upon themselves to enter the container and damage our roller, which is now unusable and set fire to the besom broom, wheel-barrow and watering can. This has been taken up with the council to see if they will pay for the repairs to our roller.

### Fixtures 2011

John Read, our Fixtures Secretary, has been working hard during the winter to ensure we have a full fixture list. A big thank you to John, whom has now completed this task with an almost full fixture card, with just one Saturday and one Sunday friendly fixture to be confirmed. Attached is a link to the 2011 fixtures, including the youth section in their first season fixtures in the Havering League.



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John Read – a busy winter  
arranging the 2011 fixtures

## Youth Section

### Youth Section Winter Nets

The first winter nets sessions at Hall Mead School, have been very well attended with around 15 boys turning up and practising their cricketing skills. Now that we are confident that we continue to get good attendance levels for the youth section winter nets then we may look for a better venue next season with a couple of the options being Campion School or Havering Sixth Form College. The last indoor winter net will take place 4<sup>th</sup> April which will immediately be followed by outdoor training over at Spring Farm Park on 11<sup>th</sup> April starting at 6.30pm.

### Player Recruitment in Schools

Dave Joynes has arranged another assembly slot for the club to give a presentation to promote the cricket club at Parsonage School on the 16<sup>th</sup> May. Dave will be working on other primary schools in the area so we can continue promote the club and establish links within all local schools. Keep up the good work Dave!

## Funding & Fund Raising

### Government Cuts

With the last budget imposing cuts in spending in many areas it would appear that this is having an effect on obtaining grants or funding for the club. At present there are not many opportunities for us to gain any further funding but we will continue to be on the look out.

## Social Events

### Dinner and Dance

The dinner and dance took place at The Cranleigh in Hornchurch on 26<sup>th</sup> March as usual it was a very enjoyable evening, although it was not as well attended as in previous year's with only around 50 people attending. The 2010 players of the year were awarded on the night with Alex Sullivan taking the Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> team award (is this the 4<sup>th</sup> time?) for his consistent batting throughout the year, inclusive of 2 hundreds, Alan Aviss took the Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> team award for being the top wicket taker in Lords Division 3. The Sunday award went to Ashley Foster, with Reiss Sims taking the young player of the year for finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> in the second team batting and bowling averages. The Chairman's award went deservedly to James Fuller whose contribution on and off the field has been tremendous scoring his maiden hundred in the League against Ashingdon., taking 6 wickets v Sandon Sports, Sunday Captain, organising all the indoor teams, passing his ECB level 2 coaching, taking on the management responsibilities of the under 15s, carrying out pre season wicket maintenance, tiling the kitchen and finally putting together the mobile net and sight screens.



James Fuller – a deserved winner of the Chairman's Trophy



Alex Sullivan – only 4 not out with his 1<sup>st</sup> team player of the year on this occasion



Ashley Foster – Sunday player of the year and also an excellent contribution to the club off the pitch

The final awards of the evening were the honours ties which are awarded for individual performances of either taking 5 wickets or scoring 100 in a match. Joining this elite club this year were Jamie Adkins (6-30 v Hockerill), James Fuller (6-12 v Sandon Sports and 106no v Ashingdon) and finally the one which any of us thought we would ever see Graham Thwaites (5-31 v Bishop Challenor). Thank you to Peter Allen for taking the photos, our President Barry Bumpstead for presenting the trophies and finally to Jack Gilliland for organising the evening.



Jamie Adkins, James Fuller and Graham Thwaites joining the elite 'Rainham CC Honours Tie Club'



Julie Kennelly – another great year in providing excellent teas



Mickey Callaghan – a special award for his long service for managing the indoor cricket team

### St George's Day Celebrations - 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2011



The next social event will coincide with our first home match against Belhus II on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> April and will be a St George's Day celebration with special offers on Fosters at £1.50, Real Ale on tap and other reductions on other beers and spirits we have to offer. A poster is attached with further detail so please try and support the club and have an enjoyable night out.



## General News

### Nat West Cricket Force 2011 – 9<sup>th</sup> April 2011

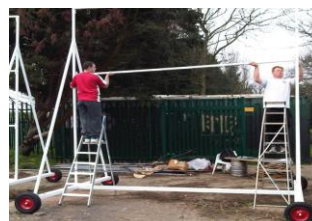


We have had a result on few fronts for the Nat West Cricket Force day with Enviroguard Pest Control Services (part of the Green Compliance Group) donating £200 towards the day which will be spent on some of the materials we require, see table below. Ground Control (a Grounds Maintenance contractor) have also put us in contact with, Daniel Spurling from Travis Perkins, whom has stated that he can provide many of our materials either free of charge or at cost price. Ground Control have also offered for some of their staff to carry out some work for the day which will probably be a thorough clearance of all the vegetation to the rear of the club, in readiness for storage the sight screen and mobile net. Biffa will also be supplying a skip for the day and free of charge and providing us with a couple more 240 wheelie bins to ensure that we recycle our waste and keep the club house tidy. A big thank you to Enviroguard for their generous contribution, Jon Coote from Ground Control for the offer of some of their workforce, Cath Leslie from Biffa for arranging the skip and wheelie bins and finally Daniel Spurling from Travis Perkins for supplying many of the materials free of charge.

Alex Sullivan has also been keen on starting early and recently applied weed killer via his weed sprayer to the front patio area and to the rear of the club house which should make them easier to remove all unwanted vegetation on the day.



Alex Sullivan – one of the Nat West Cricket Force coordinators and not just a destroyer of the opposition's bowling



James Fuller and Ash Foster putting together the 2 new site screens that were recently delivered

One of the other tasks that will need completing on the Nat West Cricket Force day is the final construction of the site screens where the white slats will need to be inserted into the site screen frames that were recently erected by Ash Foster and James Fuller (more great work from these two). Once the slats have been fitted the site screens will be ready to use for the new season.

The tasks that need to be carried out on the day will be washing down the changing rooms, finishing the painting to the changing room doors, painting the rear of the club house, decorating the bar area, finish the painting in the kitchen, replacing broken ceiling tiles, inserting the slats into the site screens and finally painting the main social area in the club house (design courtesy of Alex Sullivan Interiors). The day takes place on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> April from 10.30am, so please try and give up a few hours of your time to assist in the pre-season preparations and bring with you some paint brushes and paint rollers just in case we are short of a few. Nat West Cricket Force T-shirts will be given to the first 30 volunteers, which will also save you messing up any of your own clothes during the painting duties.

#### Ian and Marie Havard

Congratulations to Ian Havard who recently got married to his long suffering girlfriend Marie, we all wish them both well and hope they have a long and happy marriage. The wedding went very well (too well for some I have heard) with many club members attending. With the pressure of the wedding arrangements out of the way I am sure that Ian will be hungry to take 50 league wickets this season to cap off a good year for the Havards.

#### Paul (Tigsy) and Terri Margiotta

Further congratulations to Tigsy and his wife Terri whom recently gave birth to their first baby girl Isobella. We all wish Tigsy, Terri and Isobella all the very best and look forward to Tigsy avoiding any nappy changing duties during the coming season, especially when the opposition's fast bowlers start their opening spells.

#### Friends of the Park – Green Flag Status

We are hopeful that the proposal for the club to move to The Chafford School will go in our favour, but as ever we have to be mindful that this is not 100% guaranteed and we have to have a contingency plan in case this falls through. Sharon Adkins has been doing some excellent work trying to get some local Rainham people involved in the 'Friends of the Park' group for Spring Farm Park. The idea of the 'Friends' group is to have a committee of park users which will help the park gain Green Flag status, which means that the council will invest to improve the park facilities. Sharon has about 3 or 4 local people who wish to be part of the 'Friends' group for the park, but no one wishes to take charge. Brookway Park does have someone who is keen to take charge, but no other volunteers so it looks as though a joint 'Friends of Rainham Parks' group may be set up. Thank you to Sharon for her efforts and we all hope that the 'Friends' group continues to make progress to obtain Green Flag Status for Spring Farm Park.



Will you be Sharon's friend?

#### Chairman's Notes

Well the season is almost here!! Just a few weeks to go and the whites come out and we oil the bats. With both sides in the Mid Essex league it will be an exciting season.

The indoor league was an interesting season with mixed results but certainly I am very proud of the fact that we may have 4 teams in the league next winter, we have come a long way from our single team in the bottom division!! Thanks this year in particular to Ian Havard and James Fuller who ran the indoor operation. Also special thanks to Mickey Callaghan who really built the foundation of the indoor teams for many years and even managed to secure us national radio coverage! Mickey received a very mature bottle of scotch at the recent awards dinner.

I also want to mention the Chairman's award, which each year is presented to someone who has worked continuously off the field to really keep the club moving. The winner this year was James Fuller and we all owe James a massive vote of thanks!! From organising teams, working on the pitch, helping to improve the club house and much more, James has been at the heart of the club this year. Thanks a lot mate it's much appreciated and well



Chairman Thwaites – honours tie winner in 2010 and Adrian Durham, of Talksport's, number 1 fan

deserved.

Talking of commitment, I have to say how disappointed I was by the attendance at the dinner and dance!! To ask people to come along once a year to support the club is not a large request and some of the reasons given for people not coming were hard to accept!! Even committee members did other things on the night!!

However we had a great night and I think everybody will remember Pete "Fire starter" Reynolds tearing the dance floor to pieces just before midnight!!

Footnote: Most of the ladies at the event approached me during the night asking me about, as they described it "your hot, sexy beard"!! . Thank you for the comments. Please bear in mind a beard has become a fashion item again. I would like to think I had a little something to do with it!!

**Nick (Graham) Thwaites**