



Rainham (Essex) Cricket Club

Founded 1896

Affiliated to Club Cricket Conference

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

May 2012 Newsletter

Playing Update

Saturday 1st Team

12th May v Sandon Sports – **‘Jugs galore as Havard & Shallow start the first league outing in style’**

Rainham finally got a first team game in after agonising weeks of lousy weather which was a home match league game in Division 4, after promotion the previous season, against last seasons’ mid table side Sandon Sports. New first team skipper James Fuller won the toss for a youthful looking first team (excluding Peter Reynolds and Johnny Wratten) and decided to field. Ian Havard and first team league debutant Jono opened the bowling and Sandon found it difficult to score runs. Ian Havard produced an excellent spell, bowling his 12 overs straight off taking the first 5 Sandon wickets and taking the 5th jug taking wicket from the last ball of his spell, which was last emulated by that never to be forgotten bowling spell from the great Brearley 3 seasons ago. Once Ian finished his spell there was no let up as Johnny Wratten frustrated the Sandon batsmen and Captain James Fuller and Garnet Shallow chipped in with 2 wickets a piece and a run out from Ash Foster contributed to Sandon’s dismissal of 108 all out in 42 overs. A special mention for the fielding in this game where the first 3 catches were nominations for catches of the season with Paul ‘Tigsy’ Margiotta taking a full length diving catch inches from the floor, Garnett Shallow taking 3 jug taking catches with one spiralling in the air and looking for all the odds was never going to be taken and finally Ash Foster in the covers taking a full length diving catch with him flying 3 feet (approx 1 metre for those under 30) in the air like a salmon to a shot that was travelling like a rocket.



Ian Havard – the first 5 wicket haul of the season

With a modest total to chase, but in difficult batting conditions with a slow outfield, Rainham’s opening batsmen Tigsy and Alex Sullivan went about the run chase in sensible fashion dispatching poor balls and running singles and twos. A partnership of 30 runs was ended when Tigsy was given out LBW after hitting a stylish 4. Alex Sullivan was next to depart with the score on 40. Further sensible batting from Garnett Shallow and Ash Foster took Rainham to 110 for 2 and a 26 point victory, with the batsmen both not out on 56 and 23 respectively and a second jug from Garnett and a very good all round display to start the league season.

19th May v Terling – **‘Sullivan super show leads Rainham to victory’**

A first time visit to the picturesque ground of Terling was the 3rd league fixture for the 1st team. Captain James Fuller won the toss and decided to field. Opening bowlers Ian Havard and Jono had the Terling openers in all sorts of trouble early on and made inroads with one wicket a piece, which was Jono’s first 1st team league wicket. A period on consolidation followed from Terling’s classy looking number 4 and the remaining opener and they managed to take the Terling score past the 100 mark but were restricted to around 3 an over with some good bowling by James Fuller, Garnett Shallow and South African debutant Peter Hammes. Spin was the telling factor as Alex Sullivan broke the partnership with a good catch on the boundary by Jono and another wicket followed with Alex taking a caught and bowled. Jas Hothi was then brought on and managed to dismiss the opener with an excellent over the shoulder catch from Tigsy, but not after he had reached his 50. Another frustrating partnership followed until Ian Havard was brought on taking his second wicket and Terling ending their innings on 163 for 6 on a wicket that played consistently with all Rainham’s bowlers bowling tidy spells.

Openers Alex Sullivan and Tigsy got Rainham off to a good start by staring at around 5 an over until Tigsy was bowled for 19, but not after some classy shots to the boundary. Garnett Shallow came in also

hitting a few classy boundaries and was then caught behind and the run rate was still just above target. Alex was then joined by Ash Foster and both set about the task sensibly keeping just above the required run rate until the last few overs when Alex hit a couple of sixes going past 50 in the process and Ash Foster also despatching any bad balls. Rainham made their target with 3 overs to spare with Alex Sullivan 80 not out to top of a fine individual display (we won't mention the 2 dropped catches) and 'The Finisher' Ash Foster 30 not out and a second successive victory to leave the 1st team in the top 3 in the early stages of the season.



Rainham 1st XI having a great day out in the lovely Essex Village of Terling which was topped off by everyone celebrating West Ham's return to the Premiership

26th May v Willow Herbs – **'Shallow shines on batsman's paradise'**

Captain James Fuller won the toss and decided to bat on a pitch and a warm day that looked ideal to bat on after the early season bowler friendly conditions. Openers Alex Sullivan and Tigsy got Rainham off to a steady start when Alex crashed a full toss leg side straight to the only fielder out there. Garnet Shallow then joined Tigsy whom both found it difficult to score quick runs against some steady Willow Herbs bowling. At the 22 over stage Rainham were 46 for 1, when Captain James Fuller requested a little more intensity. Immediately after the drinks break Garnet and Tigsy put their foot on the pedal and runs began to flow until Tigsy was dismissed for 30. James Fuller then adjusted the batting order putting himself in at 4 and immediately hit some hefty blows to keep the scoreboard ticking over at a rate of knots before he was dismissed to a sharp caught and bowled. A further change to the batting order saw Jono come to the crease and he batted in belligerent style carving the Herbs bowlers including a couple of big sixes. Garnet was now also in the mood striking some stylish fours. This pair took Rainham through to the end of 45 overs with Garnet 89no and Jono just missing out on his maiden club 50 making 46no for a fantastic and entertaining end to the innings finishing on 222 for 3.



Garnett Shallow
– loves batting at Springy

Rainham opened the bowling with Ian Havard and James Fuller, with the Herbs openers finding it difficult to lay bat on ball and then Ian struck with 2 quick clean bowled wickets. James Fuller followed with the next 2 a caught behind from keeper Albi Birchmore and a catch at mid off from Tigsy. A good partnership from Willow Herb followed to take then up to the drinks interval with more runs than Rainham had at this stage. A pep talk from the Captain ensured Rainham came out with more urgency with veteran Johnny Wratten tying the partnership down before striking with an important partnership breaking wicket. James Fuller brought himself back on and bowled spin which had the desired effect as 2 further wickets fell in 2 consecutive balls. Further bowling changes saw Alex Sullivan, Jono and finally Garnett finish off the Willow Herbs innings for 168 all out and consolidation of a top 3 position.

Saturday 2nd Team

5th May v Springfield 4ths – **'Disappointing start for the 2nds'**

After weeks of cricket inactivity due to what must be one of the worst starts to the season due to the weather for many a year, it was down to league action for the newly promoted second team against relegated Springfield 4ths. A Rainham team with masses of experience that looked as though it had a good batting line up on paper batted first. Experienced openers Ian Gibbs senior and Mickey Callaghan both made double figures but then wickets tumbled at regular intervals with only Garnett Shallow making 18 not out and a disappointing total of 79 all out in 38 over. Top score was extras with 22 runs which

summed up the dismal batting display.

Rainham then set about the task of making life difficult for Springfield with Garnett and Jamie Adkins both taking early wickets. A third wicket partnership of by Springfield's three and four batsmen looked as though they would take Springfield to a comfortable victory before the inspired bowling change of James Mansfield who took 3 wickets to put some panic in the Springfield ranks. A further wicket from Joe Sarro when the scores were equal gave Rainham extra bowling point but could not prevent a well deserved victory by Springfield and a 4 wicket loss for the 2nds.

19th May v Great Baddow 3rds – **'George Light secures club tie in below par batting display'**

With the return of inspirational Captain Brearley the second team were determined to put the disappointment of the league defeat on the first week of the season behind them against last season's fellow promoted team Great Baddow 3rds. Rainham bowled first and found it difficult to contain the Baddow opening batsmen who got off to a good start. Sid Patel managed to take a wicket but Baddow continued to score steady runs. A change of bowling brought on the young Light Brothers George with both getting into the action early on both taking a wicket each. In his first outing of the season George continued in a good bowling rhythm adding another 4 Baddow wickets and being the first player this season to earn an honours tie and emulate younger Brother Harry. Joe Sarro also came on to bowl his 'dibly doblies' and bowl a tidy spell also finishing with 3 wickets and Baddow completing their innings on a challenging 213 for 9.



George Light –
emulates brother
Harry to earn a
club tie

Rainham lost the early wicket of opener Paul Read and found it hard to get the ball away against some tight opening bowling. Adrian Moon was looking good scoring 21 before being bowled. Joe Sarro carried on his batting as he had with the ball and top scored with 23 before getting out and the only other batsmen to get into double figures were Ian Gibbs Junior (19) and Brearley (13 two innings on the trot!). Sid Patel continued his consistent early season form with another golden duck. The 2nds were eventually all out for 114 and the next fixture against St. Andrews to try to turn around 2 consecutive defeats.

26th May v St. Andrews – **'Jimbo joy with 5 wicket haul leads the 2nds to first victory'**

With 2 consecutive league defeats it was time for the team that looks good on paper to deliver a victory. Captain Brearley decided to bat on a wicket that didn't look batsman friendly even though the weather was. It was good to see the return of Dan Skipper (as I have him in my Dream Team) opening the innings and playing his first league game of the season after being last year's club leading run scorer. In difficult batting conditions Skipper was the first to lose his wicket scoring just 5 run. More wickets tumbled with only fellow opener Joe Sarro making 24 before he was dismissed leaving Rainham on 80 for 6. Mickey Callaghan and Ian Gibbs Junior both played good innings for their 16 runs and 12 runs respectively and an excellent partnership followed of over 40 runs between George Light 18 runs and Brearley 16 runs (this is not a typo). A further flurry of runs from Jimbo saw the 2nds finally dismissed for 153.



Jimbo – 5 for 15 v
St. Andrews

Brearley opened the bowling with last week's 5 wicket hauler George Light and Jimbo, with Jimbo immediately getting stuck into the St. Andrews batsmen taking 3 early wickets with some swing bowling that the opposition found it hard to handle. Accurate bowling from all the Rainham bowlers on a difficult batting track made it difficult for St. Andrews to consolidate and they were finally dismissed for 93 with Jamie Adkins finishing off the innings and other wicket takers being Joe Sarro (2), Kenny Sims and George Light.

Sunday 1st Team

6th May v Old Sertonians – **'Ian Foster says "Who's the Daddy?"'**

Another frustrating start for Sunday captain Jas Hothi as the first two matches of the season were victims to the awful weather, so it was a fond welcome to our opposition of many seasons Old Sertonians. Rainham batted first with Ash Foster and James Fuller opening the innings and some much needed practice. Both made double figures before both being bowled by the Sertonians opening bowler. It was then a warm welcome to the returning Sid Patel and then one ball later it was a sad farewell. Good support from Jas Hothi (26), Jono (28), Ian Foster (14) and Scott Foster (10no) took the total to a decent score of 138 for 9 in 40 overs.



Ian Foster –
showing the boys
who is the boss

Rainham opened the bowling with spinner Biren Patel and Ian Havard who both bowled tidy spells, but the first wicket was down to some good work by Sid Patel running out the Sertonians opener. Another steady but decent partnership for the second wicket was then broken by the bowling of Biren Patel and a catch from Ash Foster. James Fuller and Rainham's secret weapon Ian Foster then made inroads into the Sertonians batting line up each taking 3 wickets each. Jamie Adkins then returned for a second spell taking the final 2 wickets, including a 3rd jug taking catch from Ash Foster ending the Sertonians innings 18 short of the target in a game that was played in a tremendous spirit.

13th May v Kent United Football CC – **'Boycott reborn in Rainham'**

Rainham's second fixture against inexperienced Kent United Football CC was a good chance to give a game to some of the younger members of the club. Rainham won the toss and decided to bat with Ash Foster taking on the role of opener in this game. In conditions that were difficult to score runs due to a low outfield Rainham struggled somewhat, but with 'stone wall Boycott'



Ash Foster, playing with the patience of a saint, holding up one end. James Fuller then came to the crease and batted in his usual belligerent fashion carving a quick fire 48. Ash batted all the way through the 40 overs and was undefeated on 56 no at the end, which is an excellent feat in any form of cricket (why didn't I select this boy for my Dream Team?). Some good support from Steve Jackson, Ronnie Jackson and Kieran Howard took Rainham to a respectable total of 166 for 9.

Ash Foster – what an inningszzzz v Kent United

Youngster Kieran Howard opened the bowling with Steve Jackson and they immediately both got into the act of taking quick wickets with Kieran bamboozling the Kent United batsmen with his spin by taking 3 wickets in his first 3 overs. Steve Jackson also matched Kieran's 3 wickets and felt he was actually 'a proper bowler' after 2 smart slip catches from Sid Patel and James Fuller. Ian Foster continued with his good Sunday form also getting into the wickets and Ash Foster was as sharp as a tack in the field contributing with another run out, which led to a 110 run victory after the inexperienced Kent United batsmen were bowled out for 56.

20th May v Hockerill - **'Ash continues good early season form'**

Rainham batted first in a game that was decided by both Captains to be a timed game. A good overall performance saw Ash Foster top score on 40 and being dismissed for the first time in 4 innings. Good support from Danny Sadai (36), Sid Patel ending his run of Golden's contributing 34, Captain Jas Hothi adding 31 and Ian Foster 12 to a team total of 200.

Scott Foster led the way in the bowling department taking 3 Hockerill wickets, with good support from James Fuller (2 wickets), Jamie Adkins, Sid Patel and Jas Hothi with one wicket each that eventually ended their innings on 158 for 8 and an honourable draw in a fixture that was played in a good spirit at another very nice ground.

27th May v Eastonians - **'Captain Jas unbeaten run ends'**

So far the Sunday team had won 2 and drawn 1 and the next opposition was Eastonians our friends from the Havering Indoor Cricket League. Eastonians batted and the young bowling attack of Harry Light, Georgie Gough, Jamie Adkins and Kieran Howard toiled manfully in the hot weather sticking to their task, but could not prevent Eastonians making 219 for 65 in their 40 overs. The Eastonians wickets were taken by Harry Light, Georgie Gough, Jamie Adkins, 2 from James Fuller and a run out from Jack McMahon.

Rainham then got off to the worst possible start with in-form Ashley Foster being dismissed first ball caught behind. Fellow opener Sid Patel putting on a good partnership taking Rainham to 50. Both were then dismissed in consecutive overs with Sid making 24 and Jas 39. Jack McMahon hit a couple of fours before cutting a short delivery to point and then two further blows followed with James Fuller finding a leading edge to be caught at mid off and then Ian Foster being bowled first ball to make it a bad day all round for the Fosters'. A good partnership from Harry Light (15) and Georgie Gough (9) followed before both were bowled by the Eastonians slow bowlers. Further resistance from Kieran Howard (13) could not prevent Rainham being dismissed for 122 and the first Sunday defeat of the season.

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Bruce Adams Memorial Match

A reminder that the Bruce Adams memorial match will take place at and against Gidea Park and Romford on Sunday 3rd June. The day will commence at 10.30am with the under 15s taking on Gidea Park and Romford in a Havering League match followed by the memorial match of Rainham CC v Gidea Park and Romford CC. Bruce played for both clubs, in the old Recorder Cup format which is 15 x 8 ball overs. Rumour has it that our President Barry Bumpstead and old player Jit Singh have been seen practicing in the nets at Spring Farm in preparation for this game! Take it easy you two old boys, we don't want you to get injured before the big day.

Please try and come along and give your support for the under 15 and Memorial match as we are planning on making this an annual event with next year taking place at Spring Farm Park.

Youth Section

Under 15s

16th May v Hornchurch Athletic – **‘Bright Light on team performance in historic cup win’**

After the 3rd attempt of trying to get the first ever cup game played against Hornchurch Athletic the game was finally arranged at Spring Farm Park on 16th May. New Captain Harry Light won the toss and decided to bat. Openers Ronnie Jackson and debutant Adam Savery got Rainham off to a solid start on a wicket that was keeping low and an outfield that was slow. After the team score was in double figures Adam mistimed a drive and was caught in the covers, which was soon followed by a second wicket when William Emsden was bowled by one that kept very low. Harry Light then entered the fray and got the Rainham innings back on track putting on 44 with Ronnie before Ronnie was bowled after making 21. Georgie Gough looked in good form before mistiming one to the covers. The score was then 61 for 3 after 16 overs, which then lead to Harry opening his shoulders with an array of 4s and a mighty 6 that had the spectators and scorers in danger of being injured. Tyler Bunn added good support to Harry in a partnership of 37 and was then run out on the last ball but not before Harry scored an excellent 53 not out and a few more cab fares for Keith to contribute to a jug.

Hornchurch Athletic's openers looked to have good technique and were ahead of the run rate after 6 overs when Georgie Gough struck dismissing one of the Athletic openers with a straight one leg before wicket. A change of bowlers with Adam Savery's spin and Ronnie Jackson's pace slowed the run rate down when Adam struck with Tyler Bunn taking a catch at mid wicket. Ronnie then got into the act taking 2 further wickets and Adam then took a caught and bowled to match Ronnie's 2 wickets. The Hornchurch number 3 was batting steadily compiling runs when Charlie Amato took two wickets in one over with a good catch from Georgie, to dismiss their number 3 for 28 and then bowled one of the lower order batsman. William Emsden took the final wicket, with all the team getting a bowl with tight overs from Dan Elliot, Bradley Manning and Dan Rogers and some tidy keeping from Tom Herbert behind the stumps all contributing to a Rainham youth team winning their historic first ever cup game.



The under 15s celebrate their historic cup win v Hornchurch Athletic with a beaker of orange squash

23rd May v Goresbrook – **‘Cup run ends against strong Goresbrook team’**

Originally planned as a league this match was switched to the Havering Cup against tough and experienced opposition Goresbrook who won the toss and elected to bat. Shane Barwick and Bobby Gaymer of Goresbrook got them off to a great start accumulating 87 runs in 12 over with Shane retiring

not out on 50. Gaymer made 39 before Charlie Amato took a wicket with his first ball with a good diving catch from Georgie Gough in the deep. Dan Rogers then came on and took a caught and bowled. Further tidy overs from Tyler Bunn and Charlie Puncher followed until secret weapon Callum Bennett took two consecutive wickets with the last two balls of the 20th over both caught by Tyler Bunn at Mid On. Callum's next ball in his next match will be his hat-trick ball and a potential jug for his Dad Tony. Credit to all the under 15s for keeping at it in the field with the last 8 overs costing just 44 runs and taking four wickets.

Openers Ronnie Jackson and Adam Savery got Rainham off to a great start scoring 35 off the first 6 overs before Adam was caught at Mid Off to a mistimed drive. Tom Herbert came in next and immediately hit a 4 with the first ball he has faced in about 6 months, but was then stumped after Goresbrook brought on 2 very good spin bowlers. Ronnie Jackson was looking like poetry in motion making 20 very swift runs before being bowled. Harry Light soon followed losing his wicket to a great low catch close to the bat. Georgie Gough consolidated also hitting a few 4s, but in between losing William Emsden and Tyler Bunn who were again victims of the Goresbrook spin twins. Georgie Gough was then bowled after making 13 runs. Dan Rogers and Charlie Amato stayed to the end 2 and 5 not out respectively with Rainham's innings ending on 74 for 7 and a creditable performance against one of the stronger under 15 outfits in Essex and putting an end to our first season in the cup. Next up is Gidea Park and Romford in a league game on the Bruce Adams Memorial match.

Under 13s

20th May v Upminster 'C' – **'Bradley's performance as sweet as Honey'**

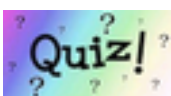
A big thank you to Adrian Moon for stepping into the role of new under 13s at just a week's notice and managing to ensure that the fixture against Upminster 'C' was played as a friendly. Captain of the day Bradley Manning opened the bowling with young Jamie Eacott who immediately started the new season as he ended the last by taking a wicket with his first ball. Bradley then also took a wicket in his second over to end a good bowling spell. Other wickets were taken by Brandon Honey with a good diving catch from Charlie Puncher, Alex Nichol and another from Bradley. There was also some good wicket keeping from Ciaran Simpkins and some excellent work from Raj Hothi and Bradley to lead to two Upminster run outs. Good support bowling from Charlie Puncher, Reece Anatol-Liburud, newcomer Daniel and Raj Hothi restricted Upminster to 99 for 7 from their 20 overs.

Brandon Honey opened the innings with Charlie Puncher with the latter losing his wicket in the second over. Further early wickets tumbled with Reece, another newcomer Louie Forsythe and Daniel all being bowled. Bradley Manning came in at number 6 to keep Brandon company and they put on a good partnership before Bradley was bowled for 17 but only after hitting some lovely shots to the boundary. Raj Hothi also looked good before scoring his first runs for Rainham and was caught in the 19th over. At this time Rainham needed 7 runs in the last over for victory and with Brandon Honey still at the crease there was a hope of victory. A tight last over from the Upminster bowler prevented the win with Brandon Honey achieving an excellent fete of batting all the way through the innings for his 7 runs and a 4 run defeat for the under 13s in what was an excellent team performance for a very young and inexperienced team.

Social Events

Tour – Des Ormes

The planned tour to Des Ormes in Brittany during September 2012 has had to be cancelled due to work being carried out to the cricket pitch during the weekend we were due to play. It is hoped that the tour may take place pre next season in 2013.



Quiz Night

The first social night of the season will be down the club on the long weekend of Saturday 2nd June at 8pm. Please bring any family and friends for one of the most popular social nights down the club. Come and join your quiz host 'Brearley' for an enjoyable night with bar prices that will not be beaten in Rainham.

Funding

Royal Mail Sports Foundation

We were successful with our funding application with the Royal Mail Sports Foundation with £700 which will go towards tracksuits for all the coaches and some further playing kit for the youth section.

General News

Pitch Maintenance Team

A special mention must be made to our pitch maintenance volunteers, especially Ash Foster and James Fuller whose hard work has enabled us to play matches over the weekends of 5/6th May and 12/13th May when a vast majority of clubs in Essex have been unable to play because their pitches were not fit to play. There was also comment in a recent league game from one of the Willow Herb bowlers who was heard commenting, just after his dismissed Alex for 8, "This wicket is a batsman's paradise". I think this comment says it all so well done to Ash and James and all the pitch maintenance volunteers, keep up the good work!

Kwik Cricket Tournament

Four schools took part in this Havering Kwik Cricket tournament qualifier and they were Rainham schools Newtons and Brady and Harold Hill schools Pyrgo and Broadford. A great day was had by all with superbly coached Rainham Schools Newtons and Brady finishing 2nd and 4th respectively. The overall winners were Pyrgo beating Newtons in an exciting final by just 10 runs, after Newtons had dominated all teams in the group stages of the competition. Thank you to Rainham CC volunteers Graham 'Brearley' Thwaites, Adrian Moon, the Havering Sports Collective, all the school teachers and the year 10 volunteers from Emerson Park School. A special mention to Brady School who battled hard and improved their performances all day.

ASDA

One of the highlights of the day was Brearley's umpiring in the final at square leg where Newtons needed 20 runs of the last over and one of the Newtons players pulled a short ball straight at Brearley's tender regions hitting a bulls eye with his bottle of Lucozade flying up in the air and Brearley left prone on the floor with one of the Newtons teachers showing great concern that he had prevented a four being scored!



Action from the Newtons v Pyrgo group match



Participants from Newtons, Pyrgo, Broadford and Brady get ready for Kwik cricket action

Dream Team

Early leaders in the Dream Team competition are Ash Foster, Ian Havard and James Fuller (FIX!) and we won't go into detail of who is propping up the table, but if anyone wishes to see how their team are fairing then the full list has been attached with the Newsletter.

Ash Foster	Average Protecting Team	1669
Ian Havard	Henry's Hard Hitters and Ash	1556
James Fuller	Fullers Walking Wickets	1522

Essex Cricket Tickets

The first pair of Essex CCC tickets for the Gloucester Gladiators 40 overs match was awarded to Ash Foster for being the best performer under 21 during the month of May. Ash has scored over 170 runs in May including 1 x 50 and 2 league batting performances to finish the innings not out for 2 victories. His average is also over 58 runs due to his many not out innings. Well done to Ash the next set of tickets kindly donated by Danny Sadai will be as follows.



Is he preparing pitches to suit his batting style?

- T20 v Kent CCC Wednesday 20th June – donated to the best under 13 performer up to 17th June (under 13 coaches to make the decision)
- T20 v Surrey CCC Friday 22nd June – donated to the best under 15 performer up to 17th June (under 15 coaches to make the decision)
- Day/Night v Australia Tuesday 26th June – donated to the leading individual player (not manager) total number of points accumulated in the Dream Team (points up to 17th June)
- T20 Sussex CCC Thursday 28th June – best under 21 player from 28th May to 23rd June (senior Captains to make the decision)
- T20 Hampshire CCC Friday 29th June - best over 21 player up to 23rd June (senior Captains to make the decision)

Chairman's Notes

Well it's been a strange start to the season this year. We've either been sitting at home watching the rain fall, or sweating in blistering heat. English Cricket!!



One thing is for sure our pitch is the best I can ever remember it, the whole square is looking superb. Thanks to all pitch volunteers with special tributes to Ash Foster & James Fuller.

We have our first social occasion this Saturday with our Royal Quiz night, (Special request from Del Sullivan). Please come along as these nights are always a real crack, but also respect local residents on leaving for obvious reasons, but also as our relationship with Havering Council is on such a positive footing that we really want to develop this.

The bar is running well and our thanks go to the bar committee for their considerable efforts.

Finally a word on the 2s. Slow start but we are now back on track, not surprising really as it does take a little time for the new second team squad to really understand the depth & brilliance of the Brearley message. However I expect another comfortable win Saturday, the juggernaut is back on track.

For those of you who noticed I'm batting more this year it's simply in response to massive demand from all club members! No point keeping a fine wine in the fridge!!

See you in the slips.

Brearley!!