

U's NEWS



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THE NEWSLETTER OF UPMINSTER CRICKET CLUB

www.upminstercricketclub.com



FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S OFFICE

Welcome to the 2nd edition of the UCC Newsletter! We had some great feedback from the first edition at the start of the season, so great to know that you enjoyed it. We plan to produce the newsletter four times throughout the year, so do let us know if there's anything specific you'd like to see in here in the future, or indeed if you'd like to become a contributor. For this mid-season edition, we are also producing some physical copies so keep your eyes out for those!

As you can read about in here, it's been a hectic social calendar so far this season helped by England's success in the World Cup. There's certainly been lots happening and the best thing for me is that we've had a much wider range of our members all getting more involved in the various events. There's nothing better than seeing the clubhouse being well used and enjoyed by so many people, and my thanks go to all of those who have worked hard to make these events happen.

On the playing side, there's everything to play for in the second half of the season at both ends of the table! There's a great summary of the story so far for all of our league teams, and let's hope we can get some more wins under our belt in the coming weeks. A word of congratulations for all of the colts teams also, who continue to put in some great performances and represent the club fantastically well.

Finally, please do make a note of the remaining social events in the calendar. If you haven't yet booked your ticket for the Dinner & Dance, then I'd encourage you to take action before the tickets are sold out! And don't forget that the Essex Benefit Match is Sunday 2 September – please do come along to spectate, help out and enjoy the day.

Ollie Peck



NICKY ISON - FIRST XI CAPTAIN

We are just past the half way stage of the season now and so far it's been a very tough summer. Despite playing some really good cricket at times, we currently sit in the relegation spots although a couple of wins have lifted us off the bottom of the table. It's not all doom and gloom though, it is still in our own hands and if we can go on a run and string a few more wins together, we would move up the table very quickly.

It's been hard to pin point the exact reason why we are struggling to win games. Our batting has improved in recent weeks and we are now starting to consistently notch up some big scores. Since the pitches have dried out, our bowling has struggled a little bit, but our attack is full of experience so I'm sure they will come good also. Ideally, we just need a little bit more luck and to improve our fielding.

The big positives so far this season has been the form of Kiran Kullar and Louis Pickering. Kiran, playing his first full season as a 1st XI opener has excelled and currently has 285 runs at 35, including two half centuries, whilst Louis sits on 300 league runs at 37. I'm fully expecting these two young batsmen to more than double their runs by the end of the season. The evergreen John Curtis is once again leading the bowling charts with 19 league wickets in 9 games....could he make the 40 mark this season?

Our best day of the season so far was May 28th, Bank Holiday Monday, when our T20 beat Premier League opposition in Hadleigh and Billericay and qualified for Finals Day. Sadly, that didn't turn out quite as well for us as we were comprehensively beaten by Colchester, but still a good achievement to make the semi-final (where have you heard that recently!?).

I'm still very confident we will retain our status in Division One, you can't keep scoring above 250 most games and not pick up a few wins. The team are still very confident and morale is good after picking up our first win....let's hope this continues in the second half of the season!

A WORD FROM OUR SPONSORS



We are happy that the weather this summer has been so lovely which has given us a fantastic backdrop to enjoy all the great sporting events we have had. In particular we are happy to see the cricket season going so well, even if our own Hunter Hurricanes haven't quite replicated their form from last season!

We have been busy with our own accounting season preparing accounts and tax returns for clients. HM Revenue & Customs have been busy themselves with bringing in a whole new tax system called MAKING TAX DIGITAL or "MTD". You may have heard about this in the media as it has been very controversial. We thought we would bring you some more information on the matter.

At first MTD was supposed to have been introduced for all businesses and the emphasis was going to be to enforce quarterly reporting and filing for all businesses. There were also discussions of having Self-Assessment tax payers to pay their taxes quarterly instead of the current tax system of annually or twice yearly.

Due to opposition from the government and accountants, HM Revenue & Customs have adapted their plans and delayed the introduction of MTD for everyone. It has now been announced that MTD will be brought in from April 2019 for VAT registered business who have a turnover over the VAT threshold of £85,000 only.

Once MTD is enforced, businesses who currently use the government gateway to file their VAT returns will be unable to do so. To file VAT Returns under the MTD regime, businesses will need to use acceptable commercial software.

At Hunters, we have been working with Sage to bring this technology to our clients. Sage understand that technology choice is built around your needs which is why they offer both cloud and desktop-based cloud-connected technology to help take advantage of the platform that works best for you.

We have been recommending our clients to move to Sage Business Cloud, on either the latest version of Sage 50cloud, or Sage Business Cloud Accounting. Sage have also offered our clients free training and helpline support as well as a special discount for signing up to the software.

If you would like further information on this, then please do not hesitate to contact us on 01708 255555 or feel free to pop into our offices at 195 St Marys Lane, Upminster.

Wishing you all a happy summer,

Esin Hunter

ABOUT OUR SPONSORS

The Colts Friday night sessions are always popular, but this year our Sponsors Healthy Roots and Kushoom Bugh have made them even more of a social occasion by providing delicious food at the club so that our club parents and children can enjoy the cricket and sunshine just that little bit longer without having to dash off home for dinner – a huge thank you to Healthy Roots and Kushoom Bugh.

We were also delighted to announce another new sponsor at the start of the season in Acumen Design. Ray Calder, joint skipper of the 6th XI, is the driving force behind Acumen and we'd all like to thank Ray for his sponsorship support.

Our sponsors are all local businesses owned by people that are connected to the club or live and work in Upminster. All sponsors can be found on the club website and many give special offers if you mention that you are an Upminster Cricket Club member.



Based from our local design studio in Romford, Essex, Acumen Design have been helping companies large and small grow and market themselves better for over 25 years. We can help you target and attract new customers and build a brand that your audience engages with and wants to buy from.

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SPOTLIGHT ON.....

JOSH LAMONT



* Josh, your 3rd XI currently sits at the top of the Premier League table, what do you think your chances are of winning the much eluded 3's championship?

Half way through the season and unbeaten we have got a great chance of winning it finally. We will have a few tough games to come but hopefully we should do it this year the boys have been quality and all are really focus on winning it

* What has been the secret to your sides winning ways?

Well, apart from my unbelievable captaincy, we have had a solid core to the side and everyone has bought into the winning mentality. No one person has scored all the runs or took all the wickets, every week someone different has stood up and delivered quality performances. We also have a good mix of youth and experience which has helped in tight games

* What has been your favourite performance of your teams been this season?

Brentwood at home, they hadn't lost for over a year and won the league last season so was nice to end their streak

* Your side is quite young, which of the youngsters are you backing to be a 1st team player in a few years time?

Tom Daniels is a quality all rounder and has moved onto the 2s last few weeks on the back of some great performances.....he has all the potential there.

* What has been your favourite moment as a Upminster CC player so far?

Taking a 5fer in my first 2s game!

* And finally, which three people would you invite to your UCC Come Dine With Me Special?

*Bobby Mack - often has some great dinner table antics especially at Old Wilsonians
Oliver Peck - bound to bring a couple of complimentary bottles of Dom Perignon
Nicky Ison - can have some quality TV chat #Power*



2018 BENEFIT MATCH

After 18 years without a drop of rain on Benefit Match Day, 2017 finally saw us run out of luck, and the annual contest between Upminster CC and an Essex CCC XI, held once again last Year in aid of the Essex Cricket Foundation, was affected by the elements for the very first time. The day proceeded as planned for the most part, and the Club was touched by the support the of the local public and of our sponsors who all turned out in force to support the day despite the miserable conditions.

This year we have remembered to book the weather and we are very much looking forward to Sunday 2nd September, and especially looking forward to welcoming the County Champions to Upminster Park. Ryan Ten Doeschate and his side produced one of UK sports most thrilling recent stories to claim the championship crown last season, and we hope that the local public will turn out in force to give them a suitable ovation.

In a change from previous Years the day will follow a slightly different format in 2018 and will aim to highlight the many strands of both Upminster Cricket Club and the Essex Cricket Foundation. At 11.00am a ladies softball festival will take place on the outfield, and this will be followed at 12.30pm by a T20 game between an Upminster CC youth side and a side representing the Essex Cricket Foundation. And then at 3.15pm the main event will begin, a T20 contest between Upminster CC and an Essex CCC XI. The day will once again give local people the chance to watch the County side in their local park and for youngsters to grab a photo or autograph with their cricketing heroes. We hope the local public will welcome the changes we have made to the day, and we would like to thank Arfan Akram, Dan Feist and Nick Browne from the County for their help in agreeing to these plans. Programmes for the event, required for entry, will be available from 1st August from the Club and from various local business, priced at £2.50 each.

Of course, the day itself takes a lot of organising and we would like to invite all members and friends of the club to come forward before and on the day to assist in anyway they can. Whether it's putting up marquees, laying out chairs, pulling pints or clearing up after, any help you can give with any of these tasks would genuinely be much appreciated.

And finally, these wonderful occasions would not be possible without the support and generosity of our sponsors. Many of these sponsors have supported the day since 1997 and the contribution of all of them is crucial to the success of the day and to keeping this annual event as a date in the diary of the local community.

More details regarding the day will be available on the club's website over the coming weeks so please look out for this information.

We look forward to seeing you all on the 2nd September.



200

C L U B

As you may be aware, the success of the UCC 100 Club last season has seen us push on and try and convert into the double century! We're currently on 112 members and so we still have a long way to go, so please do join in if you haven't already.

- The cost for a number is £50 – this is paid in two instalments of £25 on 1st July and 1st January.
- A monthly draw with a chance to win up to £1000 in cash.
- With 100 members the draws would be 10 x £100 1 x £500 in July and 1 x £1000 in October at the Dinner & Dance. The winnings are prorated upwards according to the number of players.
- 50% of revenue goes into the prize fund, and 50% will be used for the Pavilion Redevelopment Fund.

All details are on the website, or please ask any of the club members for more details.

The latest lucky winners are:

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HOUSE & GROUNDS

While most of the country has welcomed this hot, dry summer to date, it has been a challenging first half of the season for our new groundsman Mark Severn. The south east of England has not seen any rain since the start of May and of course, this creates all manner of problems for those working on the land. Mark has been working extremely hard in trying to get as much water as possible on the main square at Upminster, as well as repairing the used pitches and rolling and preparing pitches for use at the weekend and also for the midweek Windmill Whack tournament.

We have invested in new irrigation equipment for the club and, in an effort to give the square as much water as possible, club members have been helping out with watering duties during the week, which has been extremely helpful. With no real rain forecast in the immediate future and plenty of cricket being played at the club, we will be continuing to try and get as much water on the square as we can during the week.

The League has recently released its ratings from the umpires that officiate in the first team matches and the pitch has been marked as 15.2 out of a possible 20 marks, which is encouraging and indicative of the hard work that Mark has put in on the square since starting his role in April 2018. However, there is a long way to go and it is virtually inevitable that the square will receive extensive work during the closed season, which is currently being investigated and costed.

As for the out-grounds, Coopers and Champion schools are looking a picture following the pre-season work, combined with the hot dry summer. Although very dry, the wickets at both grounds appear to be holding up well and in general, they are playing well.

The club is in the process of purchasing new sight screens to be used at Champion, which again shows the committees commitment for improving facilities at all grounds. Mark Severn has also been working on the wicket at Champion school throughout the season and his input has seen an improvement in the playing facilities.

Bobby Mack
House and Grounds Secretary





COLTS UPDATE..

Once again this year the boys and girls are doing us proud across all age groups, with their cricketing skills and fantastic enthusiasm for matches and training. Friday night sessions have been really well attended with over 150 colts fine tuning their skills on most weeks.

Our thanks as always to our dedicated coaches, and also the many volunteers who help keep order during these busy evenings. We've certainly seen the benefit this season of having additional Coach Support Workers in attendance, as a result of the course we ran in April.

The U9s retain a 100% record in 11 games across all competitions so far, qualifying for the semi finals of the Don Coates trophy in the process. Many of the squad are enjoying their second season of matches, with the younger Year 3 children also turning in impressive performances in their first competitive games. The unbeaten run will have to come to an end at some point, as 'Upminster A' will play 'Upminster B' in the Havering League.

The U11 sides have had a packed fixture list across a number of competitions, in what is the first season of hard ball matches for some. Once again, the teams have transitioned remarkably well with a number of notable wins and some determined performances against some of the stronger sides.

The U12 side have progressed to the QF stage of the Brian Taylor trophy with 5 wins from 6 in that competition, whilst the U13s have suffered the agony of a couple of very tight defeats – most notably when losing out to Five & Heronians by a single run.

The U15 team lost out in the National Cup to a strong Goresbrook side, but secured their third straight win in the Havering League with a comfortable victory over neighbours Gidea Park & Romford. They have two matches remaining in that competition, with the final one a chance to even the score with Goresbrook.

Sadly the U16 Matchplay competition continues to play second fiddle to exam season, with only one of our four group games actually taking place. That match essentially became a shoot out for qualification to the next round, but saw a comfortable victory for Woodford Wells in the end. Let's hope a solution can be found to restore this prestigious competition back to its former glories.

All of this is only possible with an enormous amount of work behind the scenes from a small army of people. Do let your team co-ordinators know if you'd like to get more involved in any capacity – you can never have enough scorers, umpires, match fee collectors or refreshment assistants!

ON THE FIELD

Outside of the 1st XI it's certainly been a case of mixed fortunes so far for the club's senior sides.

The undoubted stars of the show so far have been Josh Lamont's 3rd XI. The 3rd XI Premier Division is always a tough league and the Upminster side have been stalwarts of this division since 2002, managing six top three finishes in that time. However, under Lamont they are in a good position to finally claim the title. Having started with an opening day thrashing of Harlow the side have won some thrilling contests including a wonderful win at Wanstead and Snaresbrook and a home victory over Brentwood that ended their opponents 25 match unbeaten run. The skipper has starred with the bat, and had good support from Steve Limn, Tom Daniels and veteran Pete Thompson, while with the ball the evergreen Andrew Berry has been at his best, while young spinners Tom Larke and Nathan Bright have also shone.

The 2nd XI have also found their form in recent weeks and are well positioned going into the second half of the season. With skipper Ollie Peck back with the 1st XI Billy Wright has been in the hot seat and has done an excellent job. After a shaky first few weeks, a win over perennial champions Wanstead and Snaresbrook kick started their season, and they have followed this up with wins over Colchester, Shenfield and Brentwood in recent weeks. James Evans, Mark Schofield, Jake Giddings, Jordan Tigg and Shaffiq Rahman have all made contributions on the batting front, but it has been the bowling of Rahman and Mark D'Cruz that has really caught the eye so far in 2018.

For the 4th XI it has been a tough first half of the season. Having been promoted, under Lamont's guidance in 2017, a much changed side has found it hard going against a number of strong 3rd XI sides. The margin of defeats has been painful for the side with losses by four wickets, three wickets (twice) and two wickets (twice). Two honourable draws were picked up against high flying Loughton and Hutton and vice captain Stewart Hammond has been in fine form, clocking up around 200 runs in the first half of the season. Ryan Brown and Kevin Roome have bowled with skill and accuracy and Will Frost has shown his all round potential. The rest of the season will no doubt continue to be a challenge but the side is up for the fight.

The 5th XI have had an up and down first half of the campaign, but sit nicely in mid table under the astute and experienced leadership of Karim Govani. The captain himself has been in fine form with both bat and ball, and he has been well supported by the normal mixture of experienced campaigners and enthusiastic and promising youngsters. Mike Larke has been as consistent as ever with the bat, Nathan Brown has impressed with the gloves and Aalok Latey has delivered with the ball. Results wise, a nine wicket win over Shenfield has been the highlight so far.

Ray Calder and Paul Scott, joint 6th XI captains, are still waiting to taste success in 2018 but the second half of the season will hopefully be a little easier for these two stalwarts. Availability elsewhere

in the club has meant Ray and Paul having to call in a few Friday night “loan” deals to get sides out, and the club even forfeited a league game for only the second time in the 14 years it has been running six sides. With players back from University and one or two old faces returning, the final nine games will hopefully bring some cheer for the 6th XI.

In the Sunday League a strong finish will be needed to make the end of season play-offs. Louis Pickering made an excellent century to help see off Rainham, and a thrilling run chase bought a win at Buckhurst Hill, but two home defeats, to Benfleet and SMTCC, mean there is work to be done to secure a top four finish.

The Sunday 2s have been in regular friendly action and Dave Brown has created an excellent atmosphere in the side. A maiden senior hundred for talented and popular youngster Tom Daniels in the recent win over Orsett and Thurrock was the undoubted highlight from the first half of the season.

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Shahbaz Butt	Batsman	Jamie Green
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Nicky Ison	Bowler	Daisy & George Middlemiss
Alan Ison	All Rounder	Ian Munn
Mike Larke	Wicket Keeper / Batsman	The Brown Family
Steve Limn	Batsman	Karim Govani
Paul Middlemiss	Wicket Keeper / Batsman	Gus Siggins
Jack O'Dowd	All Rounder	Nicky Ison
Shafiq Rahman	All Rounder	Kevin Roome
Kevin Roome	Bowler	Lloyd Sutton
Joe Simpson	Bowler	Billy Wright
Pete Thompson	Batsman	Oliver Peck
Nathan Woods	Batsman	William Murphy
Will Frost	All Rounder	David Frost
Ben Calder	Batsman	Ray Calder
Callum Berry	All Rounder	Andrew Berry

For anyone interested in sponsoring their favourite player please visit:

<http://www.upminstercricketclub.com/news/sponsor-a-player-in-2018-2192235.html>

SOCIAL SCENE

It's been a busy social scene so far, with quizzes, cocktails, cheese and, of course, football featuring in some cracking events at the club this season. On top of that, the usual Friday and Saturday nights also being blessed with the wonderful sunny weather we've been enjoying.

Cocktail night was as popular as ever this year, with another big crowd keen to test out the mixology skills of the U9 mums....who all passed the test with flying colours! In June, we welcomed back a number of former players and Vice Presidents for a keenly fought game of cricket and a very social lunch. And over the last couple of weekends we've had a hungry Saturday night crowd treated to a feast of cheese and wine from around the world, as well as the excellent Family Fun Day which saw over 9 hours of action for all ages on and off the field. A huge thank you and well done to all of those involved and volunteering their services to make these events so successful.

As well as the Benefit Match against Essex coming up on Sunday 2 September (more of that elsewhere in this issue), we also have Windmill Whack Finals Day on Sunday 26 August and our Dinner & Dance on Saturday 6 October.

Tickets for the Dinner & Dance are selling well with over half of the tables now sold. If you've expressed an interest in attending but haven't quite got round to filling in your booking form and paying, please do so as soon as you can in order to avoid disappointment! We do have a maximum capacity for the room and we are well on track for filling this up, so please do see Elaine Brown to secure your places.

In the meantime, we look forward to seeing you all during the remainder of the season and fingers crossed that the beautiful cricket weather continues.



2018 BENEFIT CRICKET MATCH IN AID OF THE ESSEX CRICKET FOUNDATION



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Despite the majority of group games now being completed, the make up of Finals Day for WW III is very much still unknown after a season of shocks and surprises.

The two dominant forces of the first two seasons of the competition, Chairman's Choice and the Hunter Hurricanes, have failed to shine so far in 2018. For the Choice, winners in 2016 and runners-up in 2017, the season is effectively over already after three defeats in their opening three games. Captain Rob Bannister faced a tough challenge following on from the franchise's previous two captains and a number of injuries to star players has made things even harder. They were well beaten by the Hurricanes in a repeat of last year's Final on the opening day of this term, and then fell to defeats against the Root 66ers and the Govani Maestros to leave them all but out of the competition.

The story has been a similar one for the Hurricanes, their victory over the Choice aside, as they have lost their next three contests. The loss of Matt Tigg (now an "Overseas" player) to the Tigers has hit them hard and with Will Chuter stuck at University and Shaffiq Rahman's appearances being limited, it has been a tough season for Mike Larke and his men. They will need to win their final group game against the Roots and hope other results go their way if they are to have a chance of making Finals Day.

The Roots themselves have been in excellent form so far, winning three out of three to this point. With games against the Maestros and the Tigers to come they will be confident of making Finals Day for the second time, but questions may persist over their character and whether they can go one better than they did in 2016. The Roots surely have the strongest batting line up in the competition, but they will need to produce on the big day.

A change of sponsor appears to have galvanised the Kushoom Bugh Tigers who are also in with a great chance of making Finals Day for the first time. The Tigers did lose out to the Roots, but that defeat was sandwiched by victories against the Firebirds and the Hurricanes. Talisman Rob Mack picked up a nasty injury in the win over the Firebirds, but he should be back to full fitness before their next game, and his brother Steve has been in fine form with the bat. One more win from their remaining games should see the Tigers through to the show-piece event.

The Govani Maestros were last to start the campaign due to the way the fixtures turned out, but they have picked up two wins from their two games so far. They started their campaign against the Firebirds in what turned out to be one of the greatest games in Whack history, with the Maestros winning by just 1 run. They then comfortably overcame the Choice in the second encounter. Without any real superstars, they do though have a number of in form batsmen including Josh Lamont and Jordan Tigg and look on course for a positive campaign.

And then there is the Apple Finance Firebirds, the Crazy Gang of the competition. They started with defeat to the Tigers but came back well to see off the Hurricanes, before losing by 1 run to the Maestros. They will need to win both of their remaining games to have any chance of making Finals Day. Always entertaining and always including many great characters in their side the Firebirds would certainly be a popular addition to the 26th August event.

There are still a handful of group games remaining to be played including a double header on Sunday 5th August before Finals Day takes place on Sunday 26th August.

Please check the PlayCricket site for full fixture details.

Congratulations



Louis Pickering- first 1st XI League century

Tom Daniels- first senior century

Tom Daniels and Tom Larke for making their 2nd XI league debuts

Steve Limn for his 170* at Woodford Wells

Harry Jenkins for his 166 vs Harold Wood

Mark D'Cruz for his two league 5-wicket hauls this season and for passing 300 club wickets.

Peter Thompson for joining the 3's 100 club.

Upminster U9s for progressing to the semi-finals of the Don Coates Met Cup

Upminster U12s for progressing to the knockout stages of the Brian Taylor trophy

James Evans for passing 5000 club runs.

Stewart Hammond for passing 4000 club runs

Ryan Brown for reaching 100 club wickets.



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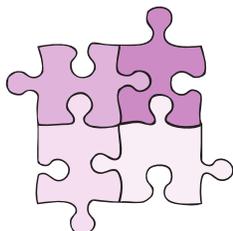
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