

U's NEWS

Issue 5 – June 2019



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THE NEWSLETTER OF UPMINSTER CRICKET CLUB

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Welcome

A warm welcome to the first U's News since the 2019 season has started!

Rob noted in our last newsletter that the winter months tend to be the busiest for our committee members and it is nice to see some of the hard work paying off. Among other things, annual subscriptions are all in, the new square is looking good and playing well and we have a jam-packed social event calendar (more on that below!). Having said that, there are still plenty of items on each monthly agenda in the summer months, so we haven't put our feet up!

As you read on, 1st XI captain Ollie Peck will give his views on the first few weeks of the league season so far, but I wanted to highlight what a start it has been for Dave Brown's Sunday 2nd XI, winning 6 games from 6! The Sunday 2s are clearly enjoying their cricket with Dave at the wheel.

One thing that is noticeable this year is the opportunity being given to many of our youngsters in the higher teams, which is great to see. Clearly our colts set-up is paying dividends, as they aren't looking out of place in the higher teams and are making many of us feel old!

On a final note from me, it would be great to see lots of you watching cricket at the club on Saturdays and Sundays and also seeing you at the many social events we have planned. Social Membership at UCC is only £25 and entitles you to use the pavilion and the facilities as well as a 10% discount on takeaways at Kushoom Bugh (and a friendly hello from Bobby Mack who you are bound to see there!).

We hope to see you all soon and thanks for reading!

Mark

Mark Schofield



Club Captain



It's safe to say the first few weeks of the season haven't gone as I or the rest of the 1st XI would have wanted! After 4 matches, the league table paints a grim picture, with three defeats and a draw from the first four games. However, analysing things in a broader context there are a number of positives to take from individual performances so far.

The league programme began with a visit to Woodford Wells and whilst we were able to put runs on the board, a late collapse saw us 30-50 runs short, and despite taking early wickets we then struggled to stay in the game after a fine 120* from their overseas player. A hefty defeat at the hands of Monty Panesar and Shenfield followed before finally stopping the rot against Loughton with a hard fought draw. Again, we had them in early trouble before they recovered to post a big total, but we did show a lot of fight to stave off defeat – young Tom Daniels batting out the last 20 overs to remain undefeated at the crease at the end. At Southend the following week we again put runs on the board, but the home side coasted home by nine wickets to leave us still looking for our first win.

There have been some excellent individual performances in the league games to date. Shahbaz has been in fine form, with a century against Loughton and several other contributions, and he tops the divisions run scorers. He has been well supported by Kiran Kullar, Nathan Woods and Louis Pickering, while Harry Jenkins has shown glimpses of what we all know he is capable of.

With the ball we have been missing key players John Curtis (injury), Nabeel Aziz (uni) and James Aggio-Brewe (stag-do's) only available for a total of 3 combined league appearances between them. These bowlers are very difficult to replace, but it has given the likes of Scott Fisher, Billy Wright and Nicky Ison a chance to impress with the ball which will serve them and the club well in the long term.

We close off the time games this weekend with a visit from local rivals Gidea Park before the format changes to limited overs the following week where we have always enjoyed much more success.

In the cups it has been a better start. After a first round defeat in the League Cup to Harold Wood, the Conference Cup saw us with a very tricky draw away to Surrey Championship side Banstead. This was one of our best days out for many a year and a brilliant all round team performance saw us record a fine victory against a strong side with Kiran Kullar coming of age with a great unbeaten 80, and a rare 6 wicket haul from Shahbaz Butt with the ball!

The following day we reached the group final of the Essex T20 competition with Louis, Shahbaz and Harry dismantling Southend in the first round before losing out to a very strong Harold Wood side in the group final. Ellis Pickering and Scott Fisher again bowling very well against strong 1st XI opposition.

We have also picked up two wins from two in the Essex Sunday League and will be looking to our younger players to help mount a challenge for the end of season playoffs in this competition too.

What I have really enjoyed seeing so far is some of the club's younger players stepping up into the 1st XI, as well as some who have previously played more regularly in the 2nd XI. Kiran Kullar is obviously not new to this level but has put in some fine performances in recent weeks. Tom Daniels has come into the side and has shown great maturity. His knock to help secure the draw with Loughton was one of great determination and patience and bodes well for the future. Sam Twine and Josh Lamont have not featured in the side on a Saturday as yet but have shown what they are capable of in the Sunday League games and the Saturday 2nd XI and should be looking to push on as the season progresses. And Scott Fisher, Nicky Ison and Billy Wright have all come into the side and shown that we have good quality players in our other Saturday sides who are capable of improving and challenging for regular places. James Aggio Brewe has also returned to the club after a few years away and it's great to have him back involved again.

We have to be honest about where we are at the moment as a team, and throwing some of these younger players in at the deep end will undoubtedly strengthen them individually in the long term. Our younger players will gain valuable experience from their involvement in the team and those coming in from the lower sides bring with them a positive and committed approach which has a positive influence on those around them.

The season is still early, and everyone involved in the team should be focussed on continuing to improve to help us climb up the table.

Ollie

Ollie Peck
1st XI Captain



A WORD FROM OUR SPONSORS

We hope that everyone involved with the club has made a good start to the season. We thought we would provide some insight into employment topics and hope that it provides some useful information.

Off-payroll working in the private sector: The changes to the off-payroll working rules (commonly known as IR35) that came into effect in April 2017 for the public sector will be extended to the private sector from April 2020. A consultation paper has now been issued on the proposed operation of the rules.

The off-payroll working rules apply where an individual (the worker) provides their services through an intermediary (typically a personal service company) to another person or entity (the client). The 2020 changes will use the off-payroll working rules in the public sector as a starting point. This means a client will be required to make a determination of a worker's status and communicate that determination. In addition, the fee-payer (usually the organisation paying the worker's personal service company) will need to make deductions for income tax and NICs and pay any employer NICs.

Only medium and large businesses will be subject to the 2020 rules, so small businesses will not need to determine the status of the off-payroll workers they engage. The government intends to use the Companies Act 2006 definition of a small company which means meeting any two of these criteria: a turnover of £10.2 million or less, having £5.1 million on the balance sheet or less, or having 50 or fewer employees.

The latest consultation is not intended to consider alternative approaches to tackling non-compliance with the off-payroll working rules. The consultation is intended to provide businesses and off-payroll workers with greater certainty around how the off-payroll working rules will operate and help businesses make the correct determination of a worker's status.

Employer provided cars: The scale of charges for working out the taxable benefit for an employee who has use of an employer provided car are normally announced well in advance. Most cars are taxed by reference to bands of CO2 emissions multiplied by the original list price of the vehicle. The maximum charge is capped at 37% of the list price of the car.

For 2018/19 there was generally a 2% increase in the percentage applied by each band. For 2019/20 the rates will increase by a further 3%.

Exemption for travel expenses: New legislation has been introduced which removes the requirement for employers to check receipts when making payments to employees for subsistence using benchmark scale rates. This will apply to standard meal allowances paid in respect of qualifying travel and overseas scale rates. Employers will only be asked to ensure that employees are undertaking qualifying travel. This will have effect from April 2019.

The legislation also allows HMRC to put the existing concessionary accommodation and subsistence overseas scale rates on a statutory basis from 6 April 2019. Like benchmark rates, employers will only be asked to ensure that employees are undertaking qualifying travel.

Trivial Benefits: Employers don't have to pay tax on a benefit for employee if all of the following apply:

- The benefit costs £50 or less to provide
- The benefit is not cash or a cash voucher
- The benefit is not a reward for work or performance
- The benefit is not in the terms of the employees contract

This is known as a 'trivial benefit' and employers do not need to pay tax or National Insurance or report the benefit to HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC).

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.



Esin Hunter



On the Field

The first few weeks of the season have been a mixed bag for the Club's senior sides, with some disappointing results but some excellent individual and team performances at the same time.

You will have read about the 1st XI's efforts so far elsewhere in this edition, but while they have been inconsistent in terms of results and performances the Saturday 2nd XI have been the opposite, as they have been a model of consistency. The first four weeks of the league season produced no wins and no losses.....but four draws. With availability not at it's best, and injuries to some key players, the team have done well to grind out the results they have. In three of the games, against Wanstead, Woodford Wells and Ilford, it has been Upminster pushing for victory late in the game, while only a strong Shenfield side looked like getting the better of Billy Wright's men. The upcoming switch to limited overs games should suit the side, and there is no reason why they cannot put together a run of wins as they did at the same stage in 2018.

For the 3rd XI it has essentially been business as usual!!! The side who claimed the title last season, and who have been in the top division for 18 years, have gone to the head of the table once more after the first four games. Two wins and two draws, although Oliver White's side could easily have recorded four straight wins, have seen the team head to the summit of what looks like being a very tight division. The highlight so far results wise was the recent 18 run win over Hornchurch, following a canny declaration from fledgling captain White, although things could have been even better if Brentwood's last pair hadn't stood firm for 17 overs to secure a draw in week 3. With the bat it has been the veterans Rob Mack and Pete Thompson who have been in the runs, while in the bowling department experience has also been key with Andy Berry and Ant Limn doing the business. A strong overall unit looks well set to make a strong push to retain their title in September.

The 4th XI have had a frustrating start to the campaign, letting things slip from promising situations in a number of games. They started the season with a fine win over Frenford (formerly Hainault and Clayhall) but then slipped to defeats against Old Southendians, Hutton and Billericay. In two of those games the team were in great positions until batting collapses hindered their chances. Captain Stewart Hammond has been in solid form again with the bat, and he has been well supported by Ian Munn and Gary Carr. Luke Williams has returned to the club and performed well as the side's all-rounder, while Ryan Brown, Will Bottoms and Kevin Roome have been amongst the wickets. With availability due to improve over the next few weeks, and the side having good depth to their bowling, the move to limited overs games should see a move away from the bottom end of the table.

Along with the 3rd XI, the 5th XI have been the stars of the show so far on Saturdays and skipper Alex Bottoms may soon start to think of an unexpected promotion push in the second half of the season. After clinging on to draw with Loughton in their opening game, they overcame Shenfield with ease the following week and then proved too strong for Brentwood as they moved towards the top of the table. With the withdrawal of another team in their league, they also had time for a friendly win over Oakfield Parkonians, in which Rafe Smallman made his first century for the Club. Smallman has been well supported with the bat by Ray Calder and Harvey Daniels so far, but it is the bowling which has been the team's strength early on with newcomers Shreyansh Shah and Vishal Sharma both impressing and being well supported by Daniels, Brian Martin, Aalok Latey and Michael Jones. Alex Ward has returned to action this season, and his experience will be important as the campaign moves forward.

If Saturdays have been a mixed bag so far then the same can certainly not be said for Dave Brown's Sunday Friendly side. Played six, won six are the statistics at the time of writing and Brown's bandwagon shows no sign of being halted. Not only have the results been positive, but so have the performances and the spirit within the side. Four of the wins so far have been on the road, and credit must also be given to Fixture Secretary Nicky Ison for his work in arranging such good matches for the team. New names like Putney have been added to the fixture list while some old ones such as North Enfield have returned. There have been a number of fine individual performances already, including Josh Lamont's century against Old Fallopians, but the best efforts have surely been the captain's leg spin which has been claiming victims all over Essex and London in April and May!!! With Dave at the wheel there is every chance of the side maintaining their 100% record until the season concludes in September!!



ABOUT OUR Sponsors

Sponsorship is an incredibly important form of revenue for the club, if not least to help keep annual membership as low as possible, but also provides valuable revenue for the Pavilion Redevelopment Fund.

We are keen to involve and work with as many local businesses as possible, so if you know of, work for, or own a local business and would like to become involved with the club, please speak to ourselves, any Committee member or email sponsorship@upminstercc.co.uk.

We have an array of different level sponsorship options, with varying benefits to the sponsors. We can also adjust and tailor sponsorship packages to the individual business.

Following the success of the Colt Friday night training sessions, with delicious food being provided by two of our sponsors – Healthy Roots and Kushoon Bugh – we are looking to increase and vary the number of these ‘Friday Night Sponsors’. So, if anyone has any requests, suggestions or ideas, please get in contact.

Additional Match Day Sponsorship Options

Main Ground Match Day Sponsor:

- Sponsor senior match of your choosing - £100
- Sponsor a Colt match of your choosing - £50

UCC 200 CLUB

The first two draws for 2019 were carried out at the Pre Season dinner. Congratulations to the following winners;

January	Glen Curtis	£111
February	O'Dowd Family	£111

The next draws will take place on a Friday night training session and the first ‘Big’ draw will be held on the Cocktail Night, 21st June.

You need to be in it to win it, so please sign up.

- The cost for a number is £50 – paid in two instalments of £25 on 1st July & 1st Jan.
- A monthly draw, with a chance to win up to £2000
- With 200 members, the draw would be 10x £200, 1x £1000 & 1x £2000, over the year. (Winings are prorated, according to the number of players)
- The revenue is split equally between the prize fund and the Pavilion Redevelopment Fund.

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

Sponsorship Secretaries:

Stu Horsley	07553 787971
Matt Chapman	07818 031925

E-MAIL: sponsorship@upminstercc.co.uk



PLAYER Sponsors

UPMINSTER'S MOST WANTED – make sure you're not the last player to get sponsored!!!..... Pester your friends and family!!



Building on last year's success with player sponsorship, we are running this option again for the 2019 season, but with a chance to win your 2020 summer's fees paid for you!!

Sponsor any senior team player for the 2019 season, for £100. In return for this sponsorship, the sponsor will receive;

- 2hrs of free private cricket coaching from our level 2 coaches. Colt parents/non players - these training sessions can be donated and used by any member/Colt;
- One free Social Membership
- Entry into an end of season raffle (drawn at the Benefit Match on 8th Sept), prizes to include – Junior or Senior 2020 summer fees paid, a signed England cricket cap and meal at one of our sponsor restaurants.

For anyone interested in sponsoring a player, please visit the club website www.upminstercricket-club.com or speak to any Committee member.

If you don't know who you wish to sponsor, have a look at each of the Senior Teams (don't forget the Windmill Whack teams) on the website and then under the 'Payments' tab you will find the 'Sponsorship' option. If you don't know the players, it doesn't matter, just choose one at random!

We can upload an image of you, or Company name, or just your name, to go alongside your chosen player, on their bio page. We can also include a link to your business website, should you have one.



SPOTLIGHT ON

Dave Brown



So far this season, it's been Sunday Friendly XI Captain Dave Brown who has been making all of the headlines on the field. We got under the covers with Brown to find out what makes him tick, and asked him how he feels the season is progressing so far....

Hi Dave, as it stands in early June you are undefeated this year, what is the secret to your success??

Players turn up knowing that they will be playing a big part for the team (10 bowlers is not unusual) which keeps everyone motivated and there's a great camaraderie on and off the pitch. Even more importantly the youngsters we gave opportunities to in the previous couple of years are now much stronger players and helping us to victory.

As the best leg spinning all rounder in the club, are you expecting a 1s call up soon?

Not sure about the description but I've not been playing as long as most so I'm sure my time will come as I get a bit older.

What has been the best performance for you this season?

Two performances stand out as they demonstrated a new found toughness and team spirit. The 1 run win at Holtwhites where we defended 11 off the last two overs and the 5 run win at North Enfield when we dragged ourselves back from 30-3 in the first innings to post a defendable total.

Which fixture had the best tea for you so far this season?

The two home fixtures were definitely the best teas which shows we are getting it right both on and off the pitch. There is a lot of good work that goes on in the background.

The Sunday Friendly XI is great for colts to get their first taste of open age cricket, which youngsters would you like to see come into the team over the rest of the season?

There are a number of U13-U15s standing out this year that I will be looking to introduce into adult cricket. Ideally I hope to get one or two out in each match to play alongside more experienced cricketers so that their first taste of adult cricket is both enjoyable and constructive to their development.

Incredibly, you're currently a non-sponsored player! Tell us why should someone sponsor you?

The Sunday 2s have been attracting record attendances this year both home and away. If we keep on winning, surely there's no better player to sponsor.

Which three Upminster CC members would you like to close the bar down with?

Tough one - anyone in the Sunday 2s, one team one dream and a big long till roll.

Thank you to Dave for his time in answering our questions.



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Social Scene

It has been a fun start to the 2019 season with the Bangerz n Mashups music quiz, hosted by quizmaster Ryan Hodges. By the end of the night no one seemed to be worrying about the answers and the whole evening turned into a giant singalong!

Claire Bannister from House of Colour also hosted a Colour & Wine evening, giving advice on key trends for Spring & Summer over a glass or two of prosecco! In total, from both events nearly £700 was raised for the club in May.

The club will also be hosting a Race Night on Saturday 15th June and the renowned annual Cocktail Night on Friday 21st June will induce some major decisions about which cocktail to try first! Food will also be available on the evening.

For keen golfers, the UCC Ryder Cup event on Friday 21st June at Top Meadow includes 27 holes of golf, breakfast, lunch and evening meal for £50 per person. To book a place, please contact Matt Chapman on 07818 031925.

DINNER & DANCE - After a memorable evening last year, the annual UCC Dinner & Dance will again be held at De Rougemont Manor, Warley, on Saturday 5th October 2019 – tickets are £40 per person, including a 3 course meal and disco. Please contact Elaine Brown on 0778 4712163 for further details and to secure your place now! We hope to see as many members and Colt parents there as possible.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Saturday 15 June: Race Night
- Friday 21 June: Golf Day (Top Meadow GC)
- Friday 21 June: Cocktail Night
- Sunday 8 September: Essex Benefit Match
- Saturday 5 October: Dinner & Dance
- Friday 11 October: Golf Day (Upminster CC)



Above - The ladies enjoy the first Colour & Wine evening.

Below - A great night had by all at the Bangerz n Mashups event.



WINDMILL WHACK 4

The fourth edition of the Windmill Whack started a couple weeks ago with two games taking place on the 19th May, with the Hunter Hurricanes taking on the Govani Maestros in the opening game.

Mark Schofield is the new captain of the Hurricanes and his new look squad includes Louis Pickering, Stuart Connor, Jordan Tigg, Scott Fisher and the returning Dan Simpson. Nicky Ison has taken over the reins of the Govani Maestros and he drafted his brother Alan Ison, two time bowler of the year Billy Wright, 4th XI captain Stewart Hammond and Essex League chairman Andrew Kennedy.

The Hurricanes batted first on a warm Sunday afternoon and got off to a quick start with Connor finding the boundary with ease. Stuart eventually fell for 40 and it led to a flurry of wickets with Govani claiming three and Glen Noller picking up a brace, with Hunters eventually finishing on a very respectable 145/7 off 20.

It proved to not be enough as an Alan Ison special took the Maestros to the first whack win of the season, smashing 53 off just 15 balls including 5 sixes. Andrew Kennedy chipped in with a quick fire 31 as Alex Ward and Matt Malby saw the Maestros home with 6 overs to go.

The second game of the Whack afternoon saw Apple Finance Firebirds entertain Kushoom Buh Tigers – Mark D’Cruz leading a side inspired by the 2011 3rd XI!

The new look Firebirds, led by 1st XI veteran John Curtis is full of youth and experience. John will be hoping to see some impressive performances from the likes of Sam Twine, Ellis Pickering, Nathan Brown and Oliver Woods, backed up by the experience and class of Michael Rath, Terry Wyatt and Oliver Peck.

The Kushoom Bugh Tigers are full of experience and know-how, having drafted Harry Jenkins, the talented Whetstone brothers, Paul Middlemiss, Kevin Roome and Sean Richardson.

The Firebirds elected to bat first but lost Luke Williams early when he was cleaned up by the skipper D’Cruz. Michael Rath (40) and Sam Twine (36*) put on the bulk of the runs for the Firebirds as they set the Tigers 137 runs to win. Jamie O’Dell the pick of the Tigers bowlers with 2-28.

Ellis Pickering and Oliver Woods bowled well for the Firebirds up top as the Tigers never got away. Sam Twine took the big wicket of Harry Jenkins for 21 and then shortly after Aalok Latey struck to send back Tom Hilson (27). When Luke Williams clean bowled Hutton 1st XI skipper Julian Whetstone it looked like The Birds were set for an opening game victory but it was the innings by Connor Whetstone that turned the game. Needing 14 runs off the final over, Connor struck two boundaries in the first two balls to put the Tiger in control as he and Will Frost reached the target with 1 ball to go. Connor finishing on a match winning 41*.

Bad weather saw the game between Root 66ers and Govani Maestros postponed to be re-scheduled, with the next fixture seeing the Hunter Hurricanes take on the Kushoom Bugh Tigers on June 12th.



HOUSE & GROUNDS

With the significant amount of work undertaken on the main square in the closed season, groundsman Mark Severn and myself were awaiting the start of the season with trepidation, as we were all unsure as to how the pitch would play. The 'Koroing' and deep drilling of the square was extremely intrusive work and there were concerns that the square might not have settled and bedded in for the start of the season. However, Mark's expertise and pre-season work, combined with the trusted band of helpers who spent the weekend in mid-April rolling the square, gave it the best chance of being playable for the start of the season.



The wicket so far has exceeded expectations and has been playing fantastically well. The bounce is arguably low, but the first and second team players I have spoken to have said that considering the amount of work undertaken, the wicket has played exceptionally well. Hopefully, as the season goes on, the wicket will become better and better and the improvement in the playing surface has justified the expense the club has made.

Not only has there been a great deal of time, effort and expense put into the playing surface, club members have also been busy in preparing the facilities and equipment for the 2019 season. The traditional Good Friday 'spring clean' and the Cricket Force weekend saw many club members give up numerous hours of their time in order to undertake maintenance on the net facilities; remove the wire fencing from around the square; and to clean and tidy the clubhouse and storage containers. Furthermore, the rusting sight screens had some overhaul and thanks must be given to colt parent Chris Moore, who spent several days cleaning, repairing and treating the aging steel sight screen frames. A further band of club volunteers spent the late spring bank holiday painting the frames and they are now looking rejuvenated.



In addition to the improvements made at headquarters, we were busy with pre-season preparation at both Coopers and Campion schools. Once again, the work that Mark Severn has completed, accompanied by the numerous number of hours put in by dedicated club members has reaped its rewards and the wickets are looking and playing wonderfully well in the early part of the season. Both Coopers and Campion schools are now excellent facilities and playing conditions at Campion have been improved with the arrival of new sight screens, which were in part funded by the Jack Petchey Foundation's Leadership Award grant for Stuart Hulbert. As you will see below, the squares at both schools were looking really good in April of this year and now the season has started, I can confirm that they are both playing really well.



With the season now well under way, it is time to enjoy the club's facilities and reap the rewards of those dedicated club member's hard work over the months of the closed season. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has given up their time in putting effort into the square and playing facilities. Our wonderful club would not be able to function if it wasn't for the tireless efforts of the small band of volunteers who regularly put themselves forward, come rain or shine, to help out. Enjoy the summer one and all, as it won't be too long before I'll be badgering you all to help out again!

Bobby

Bobby Mack
House & Grounds Secretary



CONGRATULATIONS TO.....



GUS SIGGINS & JAMIE GREEN

The highlight of the playing season so far came on Sunday 2 June when U12 duo Gus Siggins and Jamie Green put on a hugely impressive partnership of 101 runs in their Brian Taylor trophy match against Brentwood. After losing two early wickets, the young batsmen hit their stride with Green scoring a fluent 58, and Siggins pushing on to record a brilliant 118 not out!

Scoring a century at such a young age is a fantastic achievement, so huge congratulations to Gus! Upminster went on to win the match by 102 runs, so well done to all of the team involved.

SUNDAY FRIENDLY XI

A roaring start to the season for Dave Brown's men as you will have read so far! Skipper Brown has stamped his own brand of cricket of the team and it's paying dividends, with some outstanding results so far, and winning over the hearts and minds of cricket fans across the South East!



OLIVER WHITE

Despite losing all four tosses this season (plus two more in friendlies!), youngster White has lead his 3rd XI to the summit of the 3rd XI Premier Division after 4 games. Keep up the great work skipper!

RAFE SMALLMAN

Congratulations to the returning Rafe Smallman for making his maiden club century, scoring 101no against Oakfield Parkonians on 25 May.

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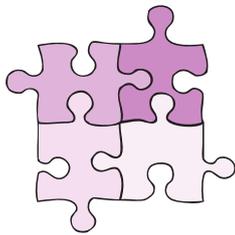
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