



We are back playing at last!

It was no secret, at the time of the last HOWZAT! Newsletter, we had no clue as to when the season would begin. Despite allowing other non-contact sports to start, the Government, in particular Boris Johnson, were insisting cricket was still not possible to be played safely, even going as far as describing the cricket ball as a 'vector of deace'!

As late as 3rd July, Boris was on LBC News in the morning saying there were still issues with the playing of cricket including teas and the use of pavilions. The ECB were understandably livid at this. Weeks of work had culminated in the latest ECB recommendations to the Department of Media, Culture & Sport including the banning of teas and use of pavilions for anything other than use of toilets!

Someone must have taken Boris for a great lunch the very same day, (including copious amounts of fine wine and port!) because, during his Covid-19 Briefing that evening, Boris then declared that the advise was that cricket COULD safely re-start and that recreational cricket would be allowed from Saturday 18th July.

Panic then set in! Although we were prepared, two weeks didn't seem long enough to get everything organised.

The new Tees Herts & Essex Border League (HEBL) Management Committee met (virtually) the following Monday and recommended that the league season start from the half-way point with the first two games being tagged on to the end of the season in September.

The HEBL clubs then met (virtually) the following day to agree these terms. Only two clubs declared that the Covid restrictions set by the ECB were too onerous and that they would not play any cricket in 2020!

Our Sunday fixtures from 19th July, already in the diary, were very quickly confirmed and we were all set. Even the Boardmans Davies Cup and The Cricketer National Village Cup found ways to make their competitions happen. We entered them both.

Excitement in the club was immense and lots of people declared their intent to play. We've had players return to the club and a new member join. All very encouraging.

The season began with a very encouraging win over 2019 HECL Champions Nazeing Common. Even more encouraging was the fact that our two top scorers on the day were teenagers Olly Hartnell and William Cutlan-Smyth. Excellent signs for the future.

The day after we recorded a fine 3 wicket victory over Netteswell & Burnt Mill. The star of that game was another 16-year old, Max Smith with a match winning 30 not out.

Last week, the weather was not on our side. Our planned Saturday match against neighbours Hatfield Heath was postponed and West Bergholt CC answered our plea for a game. The match reached it's half-way point before rain spoiled the day.

Last Sunday, Chrishall CC were our opponents and again the juniors were at the forefront of our win. Only 2 of our 221 runs were scored by players over the age of 16. And 1 of those was scored by debutant Dad Richard Porter!!

The remaining fixtures can be seen on the next page. There are a few highlights to point out, in particular this Sunday 2nd August when we have selected two Sunday XIs. We think this is possibly the first time in the club's history that we've been able to field two teams on a Sunday. It was only two years ago we could manage one!

This position has occurred due to The Cricketer National Village Cup match away at Horndon-on-the-Hill, a team we met many years ago in the same tournament.

We were keen not to let Tillingham, our other Sunday opponents, down. We had a very enjoyable match against them last year and we are looking forward not only to them visiting us again, but to our trip to them later in September.

We look forward to seeing as many as possible supporting our teams, but please observe the social distancing and hygiene guidance when visiting the club.

Remaining fixtures for 2020

August

Sat, 1 August	1st XI v. Bishop's Stortford 3rd XI	Home	1pm	HEBL Prem Division
Sun, 2 August	1st XI v. Hordon on the Hill	Away	1pm	National Village Cup
Sun, 2 August	Sunday XI v. Tillingham	Home	1pm	Friendly
Sat, 8 August	1st XI v. Thorley 1st XI	Home	1pm	HEBL Prem Division
Sun, 9 August	Sunday XI v. High Roding	Home	1pm	Friendly
Mon, 10 August	West Essex CB under 13s	Home	11am	District match
Tue, 11 August	1st XI v. Rickling Ramblers or	Home	5.30pm	Boardman's Davies Cup
Sat, 15 August	1st XI v. Farnham	Away	1pm	HEBL Prem Division
Sun, 16 August	Sunday XI v. Nazeing Common	Home	1pm	Friendly
Sat, 22 August	1st XI v. North Weald	Home	1pm	HEBL Prem Division
Sun, 23 August	Sunday XI v. Springfield	Away	1pm	Friendly
Sat, 29 August	1st XI v. Stansted Hall & Elsenham 1st XI	Away	1pm	HEBL Prem Division
Sun, 30 August	Sunday XI v. Terry Dewhurst Memorial Game	Home	1pm	Friendly

September

Sat, 5 Sept	1st XI v. Potter Street	Home	1pm	Friendly
Sun, 6th Sept	Sunday XI v. Stansted Hall & Elsenham	Home	1pm	Friendly
Sat, 12 Sep	1st XI v. Little Hallingbury	Away	1pm	Friendly
Sun, 13 Sep	Sunday XI v. Tillingham	Away	1pm	Friendly

Some more fixtures may be arranged in September depending on the weather and availability. Please keep an eye on the website for further details.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE NOW DUE

Despite receiving a Government 'Small Business Grant' during this Covid-19 period, our finances for the year will almost certainly take a big hit. The loss of match fees, sponsorship and income from the Annual Car Show and May Day festival will hurt us hard. We therefore ask we ask you to pay your annual subscription as soon as possible.

We know times are hard and have therefore agreed to charge members half their usual sub. **Having said that, if you can afford to donate a little more to the club we would be very grateful.**

2020 SUBSCRIPTIONS:

Players – Seniors £60

Players – Juniors £30
including family social membership

Social members £10
MINIMUM DONATION

WAYS TO PAY:

We are developing a cashless payment app for senior players so they can pay subs and match fees via that.

Other subs can be paid online direct to our NatWest account:
Sort code: 60-18-10 Account no 16568354

or directly to our PayPal account [paypal.me/matchinggreenc](https://www.paypal.me/matchinggreenc)

We can also take card payments in the pavilion. Please see Martin Figg.

MGCC News...

HEBL Handbook

The new 2020 Tees Herts & Essex Border League handbook is available as a download from our website.



Rt Hon Robert Halfon MP lends his support

We are grateful to Robert for his support for the restart of cricket and his ongoing support for our club. **Robert will be attending our game on The Green against Potter Street & Church Langley on Saturday 5th September.**

Get well Shelia

Our President's better half, Shelia, has been unwell recently and is now recovering at home. **We all send our love and wish her a speedy recovery.**

Greeny gives us all a shock!

It was a huge shock to us all to hear that Jason Green had had a heart attack at work recently. Things were touch and go for a few hours, but we are thankful that he has made a speedy recovery and he is looking forward to playing again soon. Phew!

New benches

The new 'dedicated' benches in memory of William Hartnell and Jeanette Bailes, have been delivered to Parvilles where Juliette and Richard are storing them for safe-keeping. We will get them to The Green as soon as we can make a proper hand over and dedication.

NHS 'Thank you' match

The committee, after consulting management at Princess Alexandra Hospital in Harlow, have decided to postpone the planned NHS match until next season. We want plenty of time to plan a great community event and with this shortened season we just felt it was too much of a rush this year.

Willoughby 'mini tour'

Again, Covid -19 has upset more plans with our planned visit to Willoughby CC (Rugby) for the Dick Anderson Memorial match postponed this year. We plan to go next year and hopefully make a full weekend of it with a couple of matches in the Rugby area.

Two Sunday teams for the first time, maybe since 1830!!

This Sunday we have two teams out. The 1st XI go over to Hordon-on-the-Hill for the regional semi-final of The Cricketer National Village Cup. The 2nd XI will be hosting our friends from Tillingham. Please make your way out to either game and support the team.

The Cricketer National Village Cup

This Sunday away to Horndon-on-the-Hill. They run 4 Saturday sides that play in the Essex Shepherd Neame League. It should be a good test for our lads!

If you're planning to drive over, the postcode for their ground is **SS17 8NR**.

It's only a short drive, approx 31 miles from The Green. Make your way to Brentwood. At Wilson's Corner, Brentwood head towards the A13 down the A128. When you reach Orsett, just before the A13, turn left into Orsett Road. The ground is about a mile on the left just before you hit the village.

New Corporate Partnership required

After a change in management, our longstanding club sponsor Forest Vets decided in 2019 they could no longer support our club. We therefore have a vacancy for a new headline corporate partner.

Matching Green CC is a thriving village community cricket club with over 200 active playing and social members based in stunning, rural west Essex.

Teaming up with Matching Green Cricket Club can bring a business big benefits.

- Your company logo on all our match-play kit
- Access to our club membership for promotions
- Corporate match opportunities at our stunning ground
- Exposure through the club website, social media and local press
- Exposure in the area through our membership to the new local cricket league (Herts & Essex Border league) **and much more...**

If you or your company would like to share in our vision for a **local Community Partnership Hub**, please contact the club Secretary, Martin Figg on 07540 636488 or email martin@matchinggreenc.com

NEW KIT FOR 2020

Riz has been working hard with a new kit supplier and we're delighted to reveal our new Grey Nicholls match and training kit. The kit can be ordered direct from Fenton Sports via the link on our website.

We are also planning some more 'unbranded' kit including new junior training shirts, polo shirts and umbrellas!! These will be available from the start of the 2021 season.



**Order direct from
Fenton Sports
via the
Club Shop link
on our website.**

<https://www.fentonsportsonline.com/collections/matching-green-cc>

Owais Shah brings out the very best in our Juniors

We have the great pleasure in welcoming ex-England, Essex and Middlesex legend Owais Shah to The Green during July and August. He's spending 2 hours each week coaching our under-16 group. His expert knowledge and advice is already paying off with our youngsters playing pivotal roles in both our victories last weekend.

Former England international and Essex star Owais Shah has been passing on some top tips to our clutch of talented youngsters.

Development of junior cricketers has been a feature of our club for a number of years and under-16s now feature heavily in our senior sides.

All the teenagers are set to develop their skills even further thanks to the training sessions under the watchful eye of Owais. He's also offering 1 to 1 sessions for both juniors and seniors.

The former Essex and Middlesex middle-order batsman,

who also bowled off-spin, represented England in six Tests, 71 one-day internationals and 17 T20 internationals between 2001 and 2009.

Funding from The Jack Petchey Foundation has helped us finance the expert tuition. Owais has certainly been impressed with what he has seen.

With some extra funds having recently been agreed with The Derek Shuttleworth Trust we can expect to see Owais around a lot more this season.

Our thanks go to both The Jack Petchey Foundation and The Derek Shuttleworth Trust for their continued support.

If you'd like a 1-2-1 session with Owais (Juniors or Seniors) on a Thursday evening in August please ring Riz on 07904 278617.



From left to right, George Liversidge, Charlie Bennett, Max Smith, Lorcan Neville, Owais, Jack Porter, Ollie Hutley, Olly Hartnell, William Cutlan-Smyth.





Please follow the club on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter



Youngsters shaping up under Shah

Michael Vaughton
sport@stortfordindie.co.uk

Former England international Ovais Shah has been passing on some top tips to Matching Green's clutch of talented youngsters.

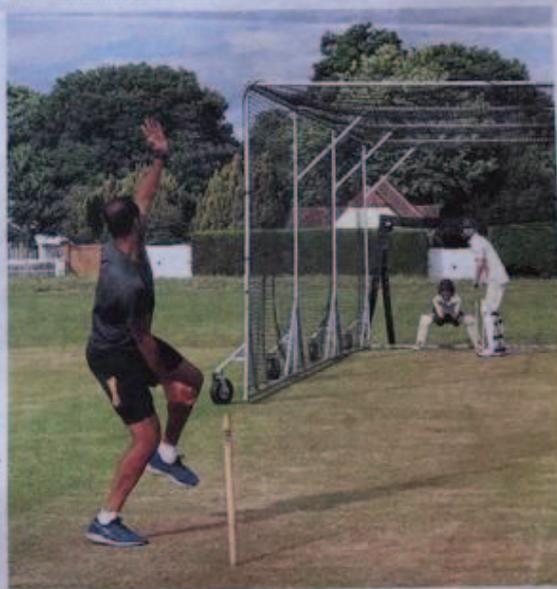
Development of junior cricketers has been a feature of the village club for a number of years, with under-16s featuring heavily in the first-team squad this season.

And the teenagers are set to develop their skills even further thanks to some training sessions under the watchful eye of Shah, who has taken on the role as the

development squad's head coach. The former Essex, Middlesex and Hampshire middle-order batsman, who also bowled off-spin, represented England in six Tests, 71 one-day internationals and 17 T20 internationals between 2001 and 2009.

Funding from the Jack Petchey Foundation has helped the club finance the expert tuition and Shah, now 41, has been impressed with what he has seen.

The youngsters have been training well, despite the recent restrictions imposed by the coronavirus pandemic, and have learned several valuable lessons that should stand them in good stead for the future.



Matching Green youngsters being put through their paces by development squad head coach and former England international Ovais Shah



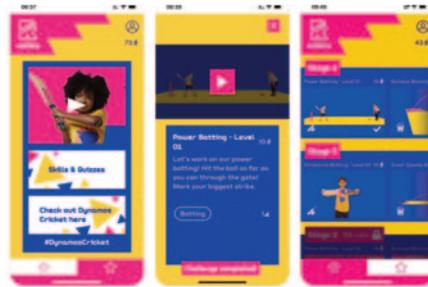


Dynamos Cricket app

for children 8+ years

Lots of ways for children to get active, learn new skills and keep the family entertained.

for iOS and Android devices



Durantcricket
SPECIALIST CRICKET EQUIPMENT

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01572 822 013
enquiries@durantcricket.co.uk

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Due in stock soon is an affordable pop up cricket net, perfect for the back garden.

THE V™ PRO
THE ULTIMATE TRAINING NET
SUITABLE FOR INDOOR/OUTDOOR USE

FAST TRACK BATTING SKILLS
HOURS OF FUN!

If you ring DurantCricket, please mention Matching Green Cricket Club

FREE FAST BOWLING COACHING VIDEOS FOR 1 MONTH

During the lockdown, Ian Pont's UPF are offering a 1-month trial FREE for new customers to their **world-class fast bowling coaching videos**.

You may already know how amazing the coaching videos are at **UPFCricket.com**, but they just got a whole lot better! **Just visit UPFCricket.com to see more.** It's now FREE for a month to see world-class fast bowling coaching videos.

Please mention MGCC if you speak to Ian

A safe return to recreational cricket – July

The guidance we receive on how and when to restart cricket activities changes on a daily basis. As the lock-down begins to loosen, the latest news is highlighted in the image below.

PLAN FOR SOCIALLY DISTANCED CRICKET MATCHES IN ENGLAND



Undergo a personal symptom check at home prior to matches. Stay at home and do not take part if you demonstrate any COVID-19 symptoms



Use own equipment throughout where possible and clean bat when leaving field of play



No sweat or saliva is to be applied to the ball at any time. Hands and the ball should be cleaned at all breaks in play and every 6 overs



Players to remain socially distanced at all times (wicket keepers and slip fielders at 1m+)



Use of the clubhouse, changing rooms and toilets should adhere to the latest UK Government advice



Keep a record of all those in attendance at each session, including contact details



Social distancing should be maintained during wicket celebrations and drinks breaks



Batters are to run in distinct marked running lines to ensure they are not within 2m of the bowler or other batter

Groups limited to a maximum of 30 participants, including coaches and officials

Until we are allowed a full and open return to cricket, the following guidance should be followed by players, volunteers, spectators, parents and visitors to Matching Green Cricket Club

COVID-19 PLAN FOR JUNIOR & OPEN-AGE CRICKET

APPLICABLE TO PLAYERS, VOLUNTEERS, SPECTATORS, PARENTS, CLUBS, COACHES & OFFICIALS IN ENGLAND



This document provides measures that should be taken by players, clubs, and officials before, during and after all cricket activity. The document should be read in conjunction with latest UK Government guidance and if required, the full ECB Return to Cricket Plan for Step 4.

For all activity, UK Government social distancing guidance should be adhered to at all times. This document refers to current **plan for England** and could change in response to the current COVID-19 Alert Level or other UK Government advice.



BEFORE ACTIVITY

- Check for symptoms of COVID-19. If you are symptomatic and/or living in a household with a possible COVID-19 infection you should remain at home and follow UK Government guidance.
- Follow UK Government guidance on shielding and protecting people who are clinically extremely vulnerable from COVID-19 if it applies to you.
- Personal hygiene measures should be carried out at home before and after cricket activity.
- Bring your own hand sanitiser where possible and practice strong hand hygiene at all times.
- Follow UK Government guidance on public transport or car sharing.
- Use of the clubhouse, changing rooms and toilets should adhere to the latest UK Government advice.
- For advice on reducing the risk of infection when outside your home please visit the 'Staying Safe Outside Your Home' pages on gov.uk.
- Club representatives should ensure that the facility is compliant with current UK Government legislation including legislation and guidance related to COVID-19. A risk assessment should have been completed and risk mitigation measures put in place and monitored.
- During all cricket, an attendance register is required with which includes contact details for contact tracing if required.
- Any participants who have been asked to isolate by NHS Test and Trace must not exercise outside of their own home or garden and must not exercise with others.
- Clubs should strictly limit the time spent congregating at a venue before activity begins. Meet-up times should reflect this. Participants should arrive changed and ready to begin if possible.



DURING ACTIVITY

- Groups limited to a maximum of 30 participants, including coaches and/or officials.
 - Participants enter the site and prepare whilst maintaining social distancing.
 - Limit the sharing of equipment, but if you do share, practise strict hand hygiene.
 - No sweat or saliva is to be applied to the ball at any time.
 - Hand sanitizer to be used at all breaks in activity and prior to any food or drinks.
 - Cricket activity must take place outdoors only.
- Additional advice for match-play:**
- Players to remain socially distanced at all times (wicket keepers & slip fielders at 1m+).
 - Umpires are not to handle the ball at any point of the game, leaving it at the stumps during breaks.
 - Batters to clean their bat when leaving the field of play.
 - A 'hygiene break' should take place every six overs or every 20 minutes and should include hand sanitisation and the cleaning of the ball.
 - Bowlers should not hand anything to the umpire.
 - Only one official allowed inside the scorers' box.
 - Social distancing must always be maintained including during celebrations and breaks.
 - The ball must be immediately returned to the bowler, not passed between players.
 - Batters are to run in distinct running lines to ensure they are not within 2m of the bowler or other batter. Lanes to be marked on the square.
 - In line with current UK Government guidance, clubs should not prepare food for participants. Individuals should bring their own food and drink for 'teas' or practice. Water bottles or other refreshment containers should not be shared.



AFTER ACTIVITY

- Participants should exit whilst maintaining social distancing.
- Social gathering after the activity is allowed in line with current UK Government guidelines on hospitality.
- One club representative/volunteer should be responsible for collecting and disinfecting shared equipment.
- Regular cleaning of equipment and the facility should take place, particularly between one group finishing, and the next group starting.
- Clubs should encourage all participants to report any infection of their household to the NHS Test and Trace system following use of the facility to limit the spread of the virus.

Above all, please stay safe!

Scoring and umpiring ...

We are always looking out for volunteers to help with scoring and umpiring, both for junior matches and senior matches. With the help of ECB Association of Cricket Officials (ACO), we can help everyone from novice to senior player to get involved. Please ask anyone on the committee for information.

Scoring Courses

The Basics of Scoring (Online Course)

<https://booking.ecb.co.uk/c/express/501245fd-e917-45e8-827e-f14d10a1d0cb>

This free entry level course is designed to provide you with all the skills needed to start scoring. You don't need any prior knowledge of scoring to participate. The course covers the basics of scoring a game of cricket such as scoring symbols, umpire signals, dismissals and gives a helpful overview of the Laws of the game.

This first step on the Scorers pathway is a free entry level book scoring course for everyone, including beginners and kids*. You will cover topics such as the score-sheet, signals, dismissals and scoring symbols. By completing this course you will increase your confidence to score at club level so why not sign up today and give it a try!



FREE Umpiring Course

Basics of Umpiring (FREE online Course)

The ECB have launched an initiative to help anyone to complete an Introductory On-Line course on Umpiring and I encourage you to have a look and give it a go!

I am sure many of our members have a little extra time on their hands at the moment, so why not give it a go?! It's on-line so you can do it at home in your own leisure time... AND IT'S FREE!!

First-class Umpire, Neil Bainton (from Essex) is supporting the new opportunities for becoming an umpire and said: "I'm sure there's many players who have thought that they've been on the end of a rough decision. The opportunities for people to take the first stage of the ECB's umpiring course is fantastic and I'm sure it will be chance to come and see if the umpire was actually correct! The online umpires course is open to anyone who would like to take an interest in the role on whatever level, and you never know what it may lead to in the future."

Other reasons for getting involved include:

- Chance for players, volunteers and parents to engage and develop a new skill during the coming lockdown weeks
- Upskill those players who may usually be expected to stand in games with no official umpires
- Create a better understanding of on-field decisions whilst playing and mutual respect for those who already umpire
- Generate more interest for people considering umpiring as a pathway in the future

You can get involved right away by:

1. You can join 13 of our members that have already signed up for the FREE online course at: <https://booking.ecb.co.uk/c/express/d045fbae-56d4-4c46-bde3-12a5ec8d62cd>
2. Select your League on the registration page. Our 'new' league is called **The Herts & Essex Border League**.
3. You will automatically receive a link to access the e-learning portal. This normally take 3-4 hours, but you can complete within your own time with an option to spread over a number of sessions if you wish.
4. **Spread the word!** Encourage others to join you and me in representing MGCC and our league and take up the umpiring challenge!





Club contacts

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Club Welfare Officers

Martin Figg & Rob Leamon

Committee members

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Jason Green 07725 630088

Social media. **Max Hunt** 07532 321444

Our whole club is run by volunteers. If you can offer the club any assistance, we'd be delighted to hear from you. It may be connected to what you do for a living. It may be you are retired and have some time on your hands. You may have a passion for umpiring or scoring. There's always plenty to do in and around the club.

If you'd like to join our great team, we never say no to volunteers!

MGCC WhatsApp groups

We have a number of WhatsApp groups so that members can keep in touch. If you like to be more informed and join a group please let us know.

MGCC Social Media



matchinggreen
cricketclub



matching green
cricket club



@matchinggreenc

MGCC Corporate partners

