



# Thoughts of playing cricket seem a long way off!

There are few (if any) members of our club that were alive, and most probably none that remember, when our country was in so much strife. Indeed the entire world is in a battle to control Coronavirus. Unprecedented times indeed.

Rather than leading this newsletter with cricket related items, our thoughts must go to the hugely dedicated and extremely brave NHS staff who are battling against all odds to keep us safe. A number of our members are actively involved and our thoughts and prayers are with them to stay safe.

## So how can we help the brave NHS staff?

Simon Jeffrey and Tam Pendrey have set up a donation drop off point at the pavilion for local residents to donate items the NHS front-line staff are desperate for.



Our members and friends have already supported this brilliant cause. And whilst many people are off work, or

working from home, what better way to use your spare time but to help the NHS workers? You and your children can help too!

## So what do the NHS staff need to help their efforts and what can we do to show our appreciation?

### You can donate:

- chocolate bars and sweets
- energy /protein bars
- toiletries and much, much more

### ... AND YOUR CHILDREN CAN GET INVOLVED!

We also know that the NHS staff really like notes, letters and pictures showing how appreciative we are of their great work.

- kids paint or draw colour posters with thank you messages

and don't forget to put a reference to Matching Green Cricket Club on your posters! Adding photographs of your children or family is also a great idea. Be as creative and as colourful as you can ... and let your imaginations run wild!

## IMPORTANT

**Only take you donations and messages of appreciation to the pavilion, or one of the other collection boxes, during your daily exercise. And remember... maintain a social distance of more than 2m from anyone outside your household, wherever you go – Exercise alone or with members of your own household – Gatherings of more than two in parks or other public spaces have been banned (ruling out most team sports) – Take hygiene precautions when you are outside, and wash your hands as soon as you are back indoors – Stay local and use open spaces near to your home where possible - do not travel unnecessarily.**

**AND MOST IMPORTANTLY – KEEP YOURSELF AND YOUR FAMILY SAFE.**

# A word from the "Lord"

## Welcome to the new cricket season

What a difference 12 months makes? We were all incredibly spoilt last year by England and in particular Ben Stokes's exploits. Twelve months on, the world as we know it, has been shocked and peoples' lives and futures turned upside down by the outbreak of Coronavirus. After seven weeks of lockdown, which has coincided with seven weeks of unending sunshine, I am sure everyone is desperate, as I am to play some cricket. The Club should by now be into its second week of League Games, and the Colts would be filling the Green on Friday evenings to train for their Sunday morning matches.

I remain optimistic that we will play cricket this season. As soon as I know any news of when, I will let players, parents and other members know. In the meantime, some of the restrictions on playing sport have been eased, so household members can train. Our nets and outfield are available to members to train and practice one on one, in Household groups.

This season was set to see the start of a new local cricket league, The Herts & Essex Border League which supersedes the Herts and Essex Cricket League. By the end of last season many clubs did not want to continue travelling into North London to play in a local village league. The new league has been established with the primary intention of re-establishing club cricket within a radius of 16 miles of Bishops Stortford, with an emphasis on playing competitive cricket, allied to traditional village hospitality.

Not only were we to be playing in a new league, but we also have a new First team captain Riz Akram. Riz has played for Matching for the past two years. He is a fantastic player and great motivator. He has already made his mark by spending the lockdown period speaking to, and encouraging senior players and colts alike, to train in their back gardens, post their training videos on-line, along with getting involved in the weekly on-line Quiz. His enthusiasm is helping with Club morale at this difficult time. Riz is itching to get playing cricket and I have the upmost confidence that he will continue our on-field success in the new league.



The Club have some very promising youngsters coming through the ranks such as, Max Hunt, Will Cutlan Smyth, Olly Hartnell, Lorcan Neville, Ollie Hutley, Max Smith, Charlie Bennett and Rory Kenny. All will benefit greatly from Riz's cricketing in-sight, coaching and Captaincy. I hope they all enjoy and continue to play their cricket for Matching.

I cannot mention Riz, without thanking Paul Dawson. Paul has moved on to play for Willingale. He was our first team captain for the last 10 years and under his stewardship and excellent captaincy, our First team won Division 2 along with winning Division one three years out of four. This is a record that the Club is very proud of.

As anyone who has been on the Green in the last six months will know, we have re-laid the outfield. The succession of dry summers had wreaked havoc on the grass to the point that it was uneven and dangerous. We are now starting to see the green shoots thanks

to the hard work of John Kenny and his lads. I am sure the outfield will be perfection, in time for when cricket starts later this year. On behalf of the Club I would like to thank John for his hard work, the Parish Council and all the Villagers for their cooperation and understanding over the last six months, which has helped us to repair and the outfield.

Unfortunately, with the lockdown in place and social distancing as the norm, we will not be able to fulfil our usual fundraising events. However, we have proposed that when we do come out of lockdown the Club will host a cricket match to raise funds for the brave staff of Princess Alexandra Hospital NHS trust.

I am optimistic that cricket will return later this Summer, in some form or other. Until Cricket returns, please get as much practice and exercise in as possible. Don't forget our online quiz every Thursday night and our outdoor nets are available to members.

**Stay safe and I hope to see you on the Green later this year.**

SIMON HARTNELL  
Chairman

# MGCC News...

## New League

After HECL disbanded at the end of last season, the new league has been formed and will be known as the Tees Herts & Essex Border League (HEBL). 36 teams make up four divisions. A new committee, with lots of fresh ideas, is meeting regularly and, in normal circumstances, we were ready to start the first Saturday in May.

We will be in the Premier division. Our opponents will be Nazeing Common 1st XI, Hatfield Heath, Little Hallingbury, Farnham, North Weald, Stansted Hall & Elsenham 1st XI, Potter Street & Church Langley, Thorley 1st XI and Bishop's Stortford 3rd XI.

See the great new website [www.hebl.org.uk](http://www.hebl.org.uk) for all the fixtures and news.

## New President elected

It was the easiest decision the committee have had to make for a while in recommending Rob Leamon to be the Club's new President. After a unanimous vote in favour at the AGM I'm pleased to report Rob has accepted the role with delight. He'd previously said that to be President "you had to be old"! He's clearly accepted that fact now that he is 60+ now! Well done Rob!

## Welcome new Committee members

At our AGM in March it was great to see some new blood join the committee. We welcome Riz Akram as our 1st XI captain, Steph Galley as lead Club Welfare Officer and Jason Green as an extra member on the committee.

Despite the lockdown, the committee have been meeting regularly (most recently remotely) and we are working hard to have everything in place for when we are actually able to start playing.

## Janet Hartnell – Life Member

At the Club's AGM, Janet Hartnell was deservedly recommended for the honour of Life Member. I'm delighted to say she accepted with her usual grace and was keen to point out that she accepted the position in honour of William, our past President.

## Thanks to Max Hunt

Max has kindly offered to take over control of the Club's social media activity. If you'd like to help him, or contribute please drop him a text on 07532 321444.

## And on a more serious note...

Unfortunately Rob Leamon's wife, Shelia suffered a heart attack late in March. Rob says it was the shock of him being made President!! Typical Rob, making a joke in this worrying time! Thankfully, Shelia is recovering well.

On a much sadder note we do have to report the passing of Steve Byford's mother Annie. Although not seen at the club for many years, Annie still requested regular news from the club and looked forward to receiving her fixture card in the post every season. Our love and thoughts go out to Steve and Ann.

George Deller's father, Johnny, also passed away in April. Our thoughts are also with George and Denise.

On a brighter note we are delighted to see Marie Dariel from Maple House, making a recovery from her major surgery earlier in the year. Marie will have to endure much ongoing treatment so we send her, Declan and the boys our love and hope for more positive news soon.

## May Day (VE Day) festival and Classic & Sports Car Show cancelled

Two of the Club's major fundraisers have had to be cancelled due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

## New mower purchased

Despite the current financial difficulties, the committee were recently offered a second-hand strip mower for a very reasonable price. The offer was too good to resist and the purchase was made. It's a



superb Baroness LM56GF fitted with a verticutting reel. A proper machine (!! ) and should see us good for the next 20 years, so a sound investment. **Lem is delighted with his new toy. Enough said!!**

## £10,000 Covid-19 grant

The Club's finances have been boosted by the government's Small Business Grant. Oddy gratefully received a cheque for £10,000 which enables us to continue to maintain the club for the year. With no other significant income likely this is a huge relief.

# Outfield renovation work

**If you've been to the Green recently you will have seen the huge amount of work that has been done to improve the outfield.**

The work started in October when John Kenney sprayed the whole area to kill off the existing growth, weeds, moss the lot! After two weeks, John then stoneburied, planed and raked the whole area which smoothed out some of the lumps and bumps, yet retained the character of the landscape. All this whilst dodging the terrible weather we had at the time. There was a real fear that we wouldn't get the new seed in the ground soon enough, before the cold weather took a hold.

In a break in the rainy weather, John then seeded the whole area and, dodging more showers, lightly rolled the outfield. We then all crossed our fingers for germination.

We need not have worried as the seed soon began to take. The ropes around the Green, keeping everyone off, were well respected, apart from the crows, who enjoyed pulling up tufts of dead grass making quite a mess.

By the end of November there was a green haze of newly germinated grass beginning to show.

There was nothing much to do now but wait. With the winter months particularly wet, there was a fear that the water lying around would hamper growth. Plans were even being made to play the first few games of the season away from home.

Eventually, on the 21st March, John felt it was just about dry enough to do a first cut. Even at this stage we were able to get a good idea on how great the outfield would eventually be.

Also, about this time, we realised that the likelihood of cricket being played in April/May/June or even later was remote so the pressure lifted.

However, Covid-19 has not stopped the work. Incredibly it hasn't rained (significantly) since the virus lockdown. We

now find ourselves having to get in extra irrigation to keep the new grass healthy.

On 16th and 17th April, John and Rory raked off all the mess the crows had made (ably assisted by Weave during his many walks around the Green). They repaired a few pesky mole-hills and set about top-dressing a few areas. An area of particular concern was where we unearthed a huge ground spike which was well entrenched in a concrete block in the ground. Thoughts were it was possibly an anchor point for a barrage balloon during the 2nd World War. It was so big it had to stay in the ground but John managed to bend it down enough so it wouldn't cause a problem.

At the same time Phil Maule came over to vertidrain the outfield (basically deep spiking). John then overseeded with the seed left over from the initial sowing. Phil followed up with a liquid fertiliser.

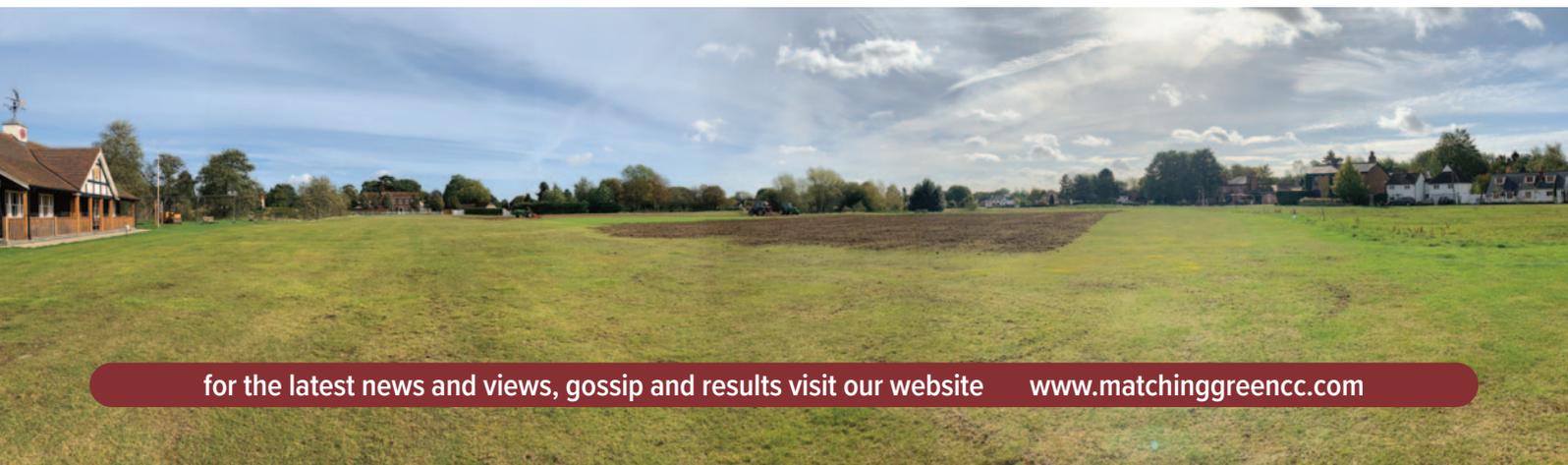
The results are clear to be seen and with some nice persistent light rain (at night of course) the new outfield and 24/7 artificial irrigation, the grass carpet should be resplendent.

Next on the plan is to heavy roll with Michael Scantlebury's field roller, and we thank Michael for the loan of that when it does happen.

The committee would like to thank lots of people for their efforts so far. The Parish Council have been very supportive. The whole community have respected our signs and ropes and kept off the area. Phil has been at hand when needed with advice and extra machinery for fertilising.

Our main thanks must go to John Kenney. Had John not offered to help in the way he has we probably would not have undertaken the project due to the huge cost involved. John has taken great pride in his amazing work and will see it through to the end. So when you see John around, please thank him personally for his efforts.

**The panoramic view of the outfield at the start of the renovation work last October**





Stone burying & raking – 10th October 2019



Ready to seed – 13th October 2019



First signs of life – 9th November 2019



Greening up – 23rd November 2019



First cut – 21st March 2020



Second cut – 15th April 2020



Vertidrainage – 17th April 2020



Overseeding – 17th April 2020

# For the URGENT ATTENTION Members & friends of Matching Green CC

In these challenging times, our brave and dedicated front-line NHS critical care staff are doing an amazing job. **But they still need our help!** Whilst we sit at home with time on our hands, let's all do something that can **REALLY MAKE A DIFFERENCE...**

## PLEASE DONATE...

- Felt tips & adult colouring books
- Mens' and ladies socks
- Hair ties/scrunchies
- Toothpaste & toothbrushes
- Crisps and savoury snacks
- Cereal Bars
- Boxes of Cereal
- Sweets, snacks & cakes
- Mens' and ladies toiletries (shampoo, conditioner, shower gel, deodorant, shaving gel, hand cream, moisturising cream, mouthwash, facial wipes, lip balm, foot cream)
- Sanitary products
- Earplugs
- Cans and cartons of drink
- Bottles of soft drink
- Hot chocolate sachets
- Fruit tea
- New hairbrushes & combs
- Calculators
- Phone chargers
- Pillows with a plastic, water resistant cover
- Pot Noodles
- Tweezers (new and in packs)

## IMPORTANT

**Please ensure all items are new and unopened where applicable.**

## CHILDREN CAN ALSO...

- Write thank you cards and letters of appreciation to the critical care staff
- Draw or paint rainbow pictures



**DRAW OR PAINT A RAINBOW POSTER ...  
BE AS CREATIVE AS YOU LIKE.**

**INCLUDE PICTURES OF YOURSELF IF YOU LIKE...  
AND MAKE SURE YOU MENTION  
MATCHING GREEN CRICKET CLUB**

Please leave your donations and messages to nurses in one of our collection boxes.

1. Matching Green CC pavilion
2. Woodbine Cottage, White Roding
3. The Telephone Kiosk, MORETON

We will take all the donations to front-line critical care staff at Princess Alexandra Hospital in Harlow.

If you would prefer to donate a small amount of money, you can do so by going on-line and donating via PayPal at [paypal.me/matchinggreenc](https://paypal.me/matchinggreenc)

Please add a note saying the money is for buying goods for the **NHS critical care staff at PAH**. We'll make sure the money is wisely spent and the goods get to the front-line as soon as possible.

**Thank you!**

**MOST IMPORTANTLY... Please make sure you and your family STAY SAFE.**



# NHS APPEAL UPDATE



**Our NHS Appeal to support the amazing, brave Critical Care staff at Princess Alexandra Hospital, Harlow, has started really well with members and friends of the Club donating lots of goodies and cash.**

Cash donations to the Club's PayPal account have amounted to over £1100. With the money raised we have already TWICE bought pizzas for over 70 Critical Care staff at the end of their shift. We've also purchased 120 pairs of sports socks, mobile telephone charging banks, mobile charging accessories and hands-free phones for patients to ring their loved ones. We've created and printed adult colouring books and printed colourful posters that now adorn the walls of the wards to brighten everything up.

There remains a healthy balance in the account that we will use to purchase more items as and when they are needed.

One thing we understand the staff really like is letters and pictures from children showing or appreciation of the great work being done at the hospital.

Rupert Finch has shown the way with his decorated goodies box, which his Mum filled with toiletries. A really lovely thought.



**So here's the challenge for our Junior members.** Why not follow Rupert's effort and create your own picture? We'll make sure they get to the right place in the hospital. We know the messages really do help keep up the morale of the nurses and doctors and keep the wards looking bright and cheerful. Don't forget to put the cricket club logo on your work!

**The appeal is still open so if you can donate any of the items listed on the poster, please drop them into one of the collection boxes.**



**Thank you!**

**Just some of the goods donated by our members and friends**



Loads of Crayola colouring books, pens, pencils and crayons generously donated by Vivid Toy Group



Generously donated by Roberto at The Chequers



## JUNIOR MEMBERS CHALLENGE

Draw or paint a rainbow picture or poster saying thanks for our brave NHS staff. Make it as colourful and bright as you can. Get your parents to leave your picture in one of the collection boxes and we'll make sure it goes to the hospital. Don't forget to mention MGCC in some way, and of course your name and age. **Take a picture, like Rupert did, and we'll put it in our next newsletter!**



## *To the cricket family...*

Today the England men's Test team should be completing their tour of Sri Lanka.

Today our team-mates and fellow pros should be entering the final phases of their pre-season preparations ahead of the start of the County season.

Today cricket fans across the United Kingdom should be itching to get in the nets ahead of their club campaigns, dreaming of match-winning displays, looking forward to playing with their mates or simply watching the game we love at their local ground.

But today is very different. The coronavirus pandemic has put life and cricket as we all know it on hold, sharpening our perspective and shining the spotlight on true heroes.

As England players we've tasted some desperate days and enjoyed exhilarating highs and tried to stay grounded throughout. But over the last few weeks I'm sure that many of you, like us, have experienced intense emotions as the pandemic has spread. Perhaps you have lost a loved one, fear for someone who is ill or are sick yourself. Perhaps you are worried about families and friends and are anxious about what the future holds.

Never has teamwork been more important in our society. Social distancing may mean that we can't come together in a physical sense, but our strength lies in our communities coming together to help one another. We've heard so many incredible stories of people doing that – in our local area and the country beyond – and it fills us both with pride.

In our positions as England captain we've witnessed events that have had entire stadiums on their feet, but this pandemic has shown us who deserves the loudest cheers.

To all those working on the frontline to assist the greatest in need, all those co-ordinating and delivering the supply of life's essentials and all those as yet unsung heroes, we salute you.

Our team-mates and we have been incredibly lucky to have amazing support over the years – not only from fans at every ground we play at but from those following us from all around the world and it has made a real difference.

Now we truly hope that everyone tackling this pandemic head-on gets all the support they need. If anything good can come out of this, it is a reminder of the very best in human nature.

Over the past few weeks, we've been fortunate enough to spend more time with family – time we cherish and will look back on with fondness once the cricket calendar stirs into life again. And it will.

None of us knows when as yet and at times that feels incredibly frustrating – there's nothing we'd like more than to get back out on the field and win for our fans – but the bigger picture quickly puts those feelings firmly in perspective.

So, until that day comes, keep shadow batting, practising your action and working on your fitness and skills – and above all stay strong and united.

Kindest regards



Joe Root  
England Men's Test Captain



Heather Knight  
England Women's Captain

**#StayHomeSaveLives**

# So when will cricket matches start again?

## The honest answer to the question is “we don’t know”!

An announcement from the ECB in April said that there would be no professional cricket before 1st June.

It is likely the professional game will restart before recreational cricket is given the all clear. Putting it in simple terms, the game is losing £millions!

The ECB has invested heavily in the new **Hundred tournament** (due to start in July). The hope was to attract a new, younger audience of boys and girls. **This has now been cancelled until 2021.**

## Recreational cricket

Recreation cricket in Essex, Herts, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire will have a joined up approach to re-starting. All leagues and friendly fixtures will restart on the same weekend across the counties. We can only hope that will be as soon as possible.

At Essex Cricket, a forum has been formed called the Adult Participation Group (APG). The group is chaired by Tom Clarke, Chairman to the Shepherd Neame Essex Cricket League.

The APG’s members are from every one of the 29 leagues currently in operation in Essex. The APG will make the final decision as to when cricket may start in Essex, based on the guidance coming back from the Government and ECB. This we ensure a ‘joined-up approach’ to recreational cricket restarting.

The APG is well represented by HEBL with both our Secretary, Martin and the league Chairman, David Brown from Stansted Hall and Elsenham CC, attending the meetings.

Despite the lock-down restrictions beginning to loosen this week, it’s very unlikely there will be any recreational cricket before August.

The APG have plans for all scenarios. For instance a decision has already been made that there would be no promotion and relegation for any leagues in Essex. It’s fair to say this has now become a UK wide situation.

**Everyone is desperate to train, play and watch cricket so all we can do is keep our fingers crossed and hope. We will be ready whenever the time comes!**

## ECB update on the recreational game – 12 May 2020

**ECB update on recreational cricket and COVID-19 following the UK government's changes affecting sport and physical activity, which take effect from Wednesday 13 May.**



“We are aware that the UK Government has announced changes that affect sport and physical activity in England, which are due to come into effect on Wednesday 13 May.

“We are expecting to receive further clarity from the UK government in the coming days and in turn we will share greater detail and guidelines with the game as soon as we are able.

“Our priority is to support our colleagues and clubs across the game to deliver elements of outdoor cricket in a responsible way that does not compromise safety.

“We completely understand the level of patience that recreational players have had to demonstrate so far, and know that most will be desperate to return to the nets to practice. We ask for a little more time to plan out the best way to deliver this opportunity to everyone as safely as possible.

“The health and wellbeing of everyone in cricket remains our No.1 priority. We will share further updates towards the end of the week along with a support plan for our clubs to follow.”

# ECB update on the recreational game – 15 May

**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.**

Our committee will be discuss the detailed document which accompanied this over the coming days and will work out how we can restart training for seniors to begin with.

Our net is open all the time to everyone, so please make use of it as a family, or in pairs and please heed the advice below.

## USING OUTDOOR CRICKET FACILITIES DURING LOCKDOWN IN ENGLAND



Do not use the facility if you, or a member of your household has symptoms of coronavirus however mild - observe government advice.



Maximum two people using a net unless everyone is from the same household.



Wash your hands thoroughly before and after using the facility. Do not touch your face.



No indoor activity is permitted.



Observe social distancing rules at all times.



Adjacent nets not to be used (but every other net is ok, if users maintain social distance).



Usage should be booked with the club. No unauthorised use.



Use your own equipment if possible. No saliva or sweat should come into contact with the ball at any time.



Please maintain 10 minutes between bookings.

# So what can you do in the meantime?

**Riz Akram, the new 1st Team Captain, has been in regular contact with the senior squad of players during lock-down. He has been recommending a regular fitness programme to keep basic fitness levels as high as possible.**

The more creative have been following training drills on social media. There are plenty of drills you can do in the back garden, even if you are not fortunate enough to have a cricket net.

With lock-down beginning to loosen, Riz has plans to run one-to-one nets for those interested.

If you'd like to discuss anything with Riz he'll be pleased to hear from you. Give him a ring on 07904 278617.

On the following pages there are plenty of ideas for both juniors and seniors on how to stay fit and to practice your cricket skills.

For Juniors, have a look at the **Chance to Shine Cricket Challenge** and of course, **Joe Wicks Keeping Fit for Kids**.

There's also details of **Durant Cricket's new innovative coaching nets** for small gardens, for both adults and children. NOTE FOR PARENTS: if you buy one of these nets please speak to Riz or Head Coach Sam who will help you device drills to get the most from this equipment.



## Meet our new 1st XI captain Rizwan Akram

Riz has been a member of the club for a couple of years having been introduced to us via our indoor team.

After a glittering career as a junior, Riz had fallen out of love with cricket and was happy just watching matches. But after a winter season of playing indoors for us at HECC Cricket, Lordy suggested he came over in the Summer to give it a go. He loved it, and he was convinced to play more regularly in our Saturday league team.

Riz is from a cricketing family. His brothers, Adnan and Arfan are both excellent club cricketers. As a junior Riz represented Essex from the age of 11 and eventually managed to play a few games for Essex 2nd XI. He also played a few games for Leicestershire and Surrey 2nd XIs before deciding to settle for amateur cricket back in Essex.

Riz played for leading Essex side South Woodford for a number of years including skippering them to a 20/20 trophy win and promotion in the same year, a time during which he skippered current Essex player Nick Browne.

After some time away from the game, Riz was encouraged to play again and we are fortunate to have him with us. He was attracted to Matching Green because of our stunning ground and facilities and the friendly, safe family environment we offer.

He sees a talented squad of players and is excited to skipper the team and try and get the best out of each player.

He is looking forward to sharing his experiences in cricket, especially with the juniors at the club and he sees a very bright future in the game for a number of our youngsters. Riz is really looking forward to working with them and helping them improve their game, both for their own benefit and for the benefit of our club.

**We wish Riz good luck for when we do actually start playing.**

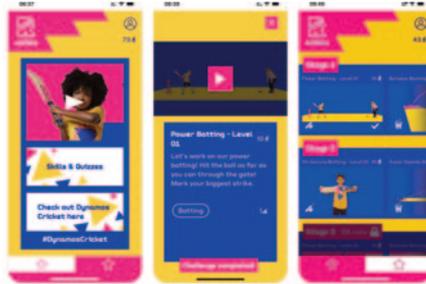


## Dynamos Cricket app

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

[www.durantcricket.co.uk](http://www.durantcricket.co.uk)  
**01572 822 013**  
[enquiries@durantcricket.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@durantcricket.co.uk)

**Coming Soon –  
An Affordable Back Garden Cricket Net!**  
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

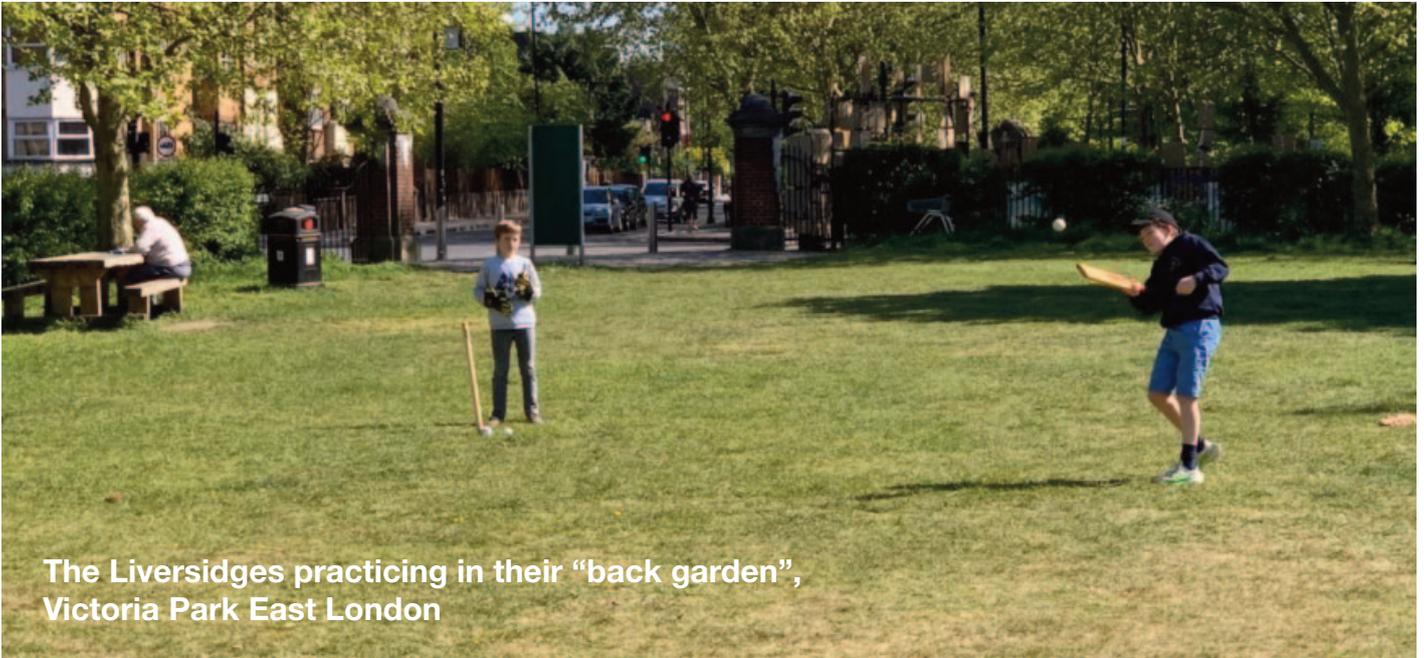


Please mention MGCC if you speak to Ian

## 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](http://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.



The Liversidges practicing in their "back garden",  
Victoria Park East London

# JUNIOR MEMBERS CHALLENGES

## Keepy Upees

How many times can you bounce a tennis ball on your bat in one go?

Make it a bit harder by using the edge of your bat!!

## Wall Catches

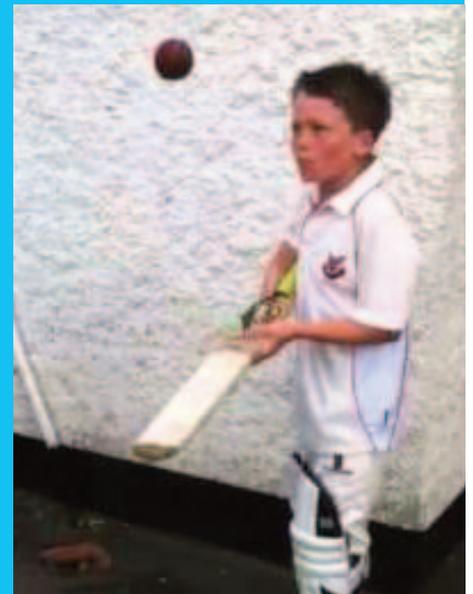
Stand 6 feet away from a wall. Throw a tennis ball against the wall and catch it.

Make it harder by getting closer to the wall. Test your reflexes.

Make it even harder by asking your Mum or Dad to throw the ball at the wall from behind you. Your reflexes will get much sharper, especially the closer to the wall you get.

Have a look at

<https://www.cricketworld.com/cricket-coach-365-activity-12-catching-rebounds-from-back-wall/63287.htm>  
for more challenging drills to do at home.



# Rain Stops Play (courtesy of Saffron Walden CC)

A guide to staying in touch with cricket, looking after each other and passing the time during Coronavirus lockdown.

## Online resources

### **Chance To Shine Cricket Challenge for children**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1pUilVjuL0I&feature=youtu.be>

Weekly challenges to encourage young people to stay active and build their cricket skills.

### **Weekly cricket challenges for boys and girls by England Ladies player Lydia Greenway**

<https://twitter.com/cricketforgirls/status/1241997972143030272>

More skills-building ideas.

### **Cricket coaching skills for children from Chris Whitworth**

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCiza0JhYfrIW6uDXLRdHrVg>

Coaching in cricket skills for children from the Durham veteran

### **360cricket Inside Edge packs**

<https://www.360cricket.co.uk>

- download a podcast, quizzes, worksheets, appropriate to your child's age. £5 per pack. (We have not yet tried these ourselves but feel some parents may find them useful)

### **Essex Cricket in the Community – fun, games and videos**

<https://www.facebook.com/EssexCCB/>

<https://www.instagram.com/essexcricketcommunity/>

<https://twitter.com/EssexCCB>

### **Active Essex with ideas on helping keep the family fit**

<https://www.activeessex.org/keep-active-at-home/>

### **The Cricketer Quarantine Cup**

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCHYXz42x7pVX1myPReb6M2Q>

Virtual cricket matches (played on PlayStation) between county cricketers, organised by The Cricketer magazine - week nights at 7pm, weekends at 2pm and 5pm

### **Australian Cricket Institute**

<https://australiancricketinstitute.com>

Videos and ideas of ways to practice your skills during lockdown.

### **Joe Wicks – keeping fit for kids**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d3LPrhl0v-w>

### **BBC cricket podcast including downloadable isolation quiz**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p02pcb4w/episodes/downloads>

Especially recommended is the hilarious and rather touching

### **The Pinch Hitter – a NEW online cricket magazine (free, but donations welcome)**

[http://www.thenightwatchman.net/pinch-hitter/issue-2/\\_Contents\\_PH2\\_1.html](http://www.thenightwatchman.net/pinch-hitter/issue-2/_Contents_PH2_1.html)

### **The Laws of Cricket, explained by Stephen Fry**

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLMnF7vW2Mvk50IZFgUE7fddLy4YRjDEYz>

# Recommended books about or featuring cricket

**Beyond a Boundary** by C L R James.

Social commentary and cricket. "What do they know of cricket who only cricket know?"

**Sometimes I Forgot To Laugh** by Peter Roebuck.

An autobiographical account, with views on many other key cricketers, by the player who became the cricketing voice of the Sydney Morning Herald. Other books by Peter Roebuck are also recommended.

**Bring Home The Ashes** by Joe Root and Richard Gibson.

A personal account of Joe Root's climb to stardom, culminating in the 2015 Ashes series.

**Alastair Cook, The Autobiography** by Alastair Cook and Mike Calvin.

One of Britain's most decorated test cricketers gives an inside view of life under pressure.

**Penguins Stopped Play** by Harry Thompson.

A journey round the world with a village cricket team.

**Test Match Special Diary** by Jon Surtees.

An account from the commentary box of the splendid summer of 2019. One of our younger members read this twice in a row and found it absolutely gripping.

**A Lot of Hard Yakka: Triumph and Torment - a County Cricketer's Life** by Simon Hughes

One of several books by the Middlesex and Durham veteran, looking at the ups and downs of the insecure and challenging world of county cricket.

**Another Bloody Tour** by Frances Edmonds

An insider memoir by the wife of Middlesex and England player, Phil Edmonds.

**Cricket On Saturday** by Graham White

A collection of cosy, cricket-related stories. **Cricket at Benfield** by the same author, also comes recommended but you may have to hunt around for it.

## Films and TV

**The Edge** - the 2019 film about the England Cricket Team's battle to reach the top of the rankings between 2009 and 2013, and the toll it took on some of those involved. (suitable for age 15 and over)

**Out of the Ashes** - the story of the Afghan cricket team in their quest to qualify for the World Cup

**The Test** - 8-part series about the Australian team's attempts to rebuild respect and position following the ball-tampering scandal (also on Netflix)

**Ashes Fever** - documentary about the 2005 Ashes

**Backyard Ashes** - an Australian cricket comedy film

**Fire in Babylon** - documentary about the West Indies cricket team in the 1970s and 1980s

**From the Ashes** - documentary about the 1981 Ashes

**Sachin Tendulkar: A Billion Dreams** - biographic documentary about the Little Master

**Warriors** - documentary about Maasai cricket

**Death of a Gentleman** - documentary alleging darker aspects of cricket administration

**M S Dhoni: The Untold Story** - a fictional biopic based on the story of the former Indian captain (Hindi, with English subtitles) (limited availability, watch for prices!)

**Bodyline** - 1984 TV series about the controversial 1933 Ashes series. DVD currently unavailable, this is a link to YouTube where you can find all episodes.

**Howzat! Kerry Packer's War** - an entertaining drama about the World Series Cricket Controversy (2 parts)

## 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.

- Business 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 and social media
- 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@matchinggreencricketclub.com](mailto:martin@matchinggreencricketclub.com)



## MGCC Quiz Nights

With lockdown putting a halt to all usual club activities, Rizs' idea of virtual Quiz Nights have been held for the past three weeks to great success and much fun. If you'd like to be the 15 or so players in future Quiz Nights please let Riz know **07904 278617**.



## 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



@matchinggreencricketclub

Max Hunt has taken over the management of our social media accounts. If you'd like to contribute something, or indeed help Max, please contact him on **07532 321444**



## Cricket on The Green MGCC v. staff from PAH Harlow

Since we've been fundraising for the brave staff at Princess Alexandra Hospital during the Coronavirus pandemic, discussions have been had on how we can celebrate together at the end of the crisis.

Dan Sibley has been leading this and the challenge has been set ... Doctors and Nurses v. MGCC followed by an evening of fun, food and possibly entertainment.

A date can not be confirmed at present so no firm details are available, **BUT PLEASE WATCH THIS SPACE FOR FURTHER DETAILS** of what we hope will be a huge community event.

# 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!

### Club Scorer – How to record a cricket match

The course for anyone wanting scoring on a regular basis and is the only one to comprehensively teach you how to score. This course is suitable for complete beginners and existing scorers who want to fine tune their skills.

## Umpiring Courses

### Basics of Umpiring (Online Course)

Are you required to umpire for 5 or 10 overs at the weekend? Are you confident in the white coat? If not this resource is for you...

The 'Basics of Umpiring Resource' contains the umpiring basics ranging from the key Laws to basic field craft. Use this resource as you wish, view it once or return frequently to refresh your knowledge. This resource is free for you to improve the game day experience for yourselves, your teammates and your opposition!

### Umpire Introductory

This short 2-4 hour standalone course will give any cricket enthusiast curious about becoming an umpire a taste for what the role entails, and outline what lies ahead if you would like to pursue your interest.

### Umpire Stage One

This course is designed to give you an overview of the basic Laws of the game and how to apply them and introduce the principles of field craft and match management. It will give you the tools to enable you to umpire matches at the basic recreational level where there are no independent umpires appointed.

### Develop your skills further

If you'd like to progress past 'Club Scorer' and 'Umpire Stage One' on the pathway, you will need to become an official member of ECB ACO. Please ask a member of the committee. We will help pay for courses so you can become involved.



**WE  
NEED  
YOU!**





# Essex County Cricket Club



**Inside a glorious 6 days in September last year, Essex County Cricket Club became the first team to win both the Vitality Blast and the Specsavers County Championship in the same season. Everyone at MGCC is incredibly proud of their achievement!**

On Saturday 21st September Essex Eagles beat Worcestershire Rapids in the Vitality Blast Final by 4 wickets to win the tournament for the first time in the Club's history. And what a tense final it was with Eagles fans all round Essex sitting on the edge of their seats right up to the final over. Man of the match, Simon Harmer and Ravi Bopara guided the Eagles home with bat in a nery finish, and the pair lifted the trophy in front of a jubilant Essex contingent at Edgbaston.

The following Thursday was the fourth day of the final County Championship match against second placed Somerset at Taunton. Ryan ten Doeschate's men successfully battled through a nervous last day to gain the draw they needed to lift the 2019 title but there were a lot of twists and turns along the way.

Alastair Cook needed to show his resolve and textbook technique on a pitch that took prolific turn from the start of the match. He scored 53 out of 141 in his side's first innings and was unbeaten on 30, when the match ended to leave Essex as Champions, the second time in three years!





# Club contacts

President & Groundsman

**Rob Leamon**

07788 778351

robleamon1@hotmail.co.uk

Chairman & Juniors Co-ordinator

**Simon Hartnell**

07711 422314

srhartnell@aol.com

Secretary and Newsletter Editor

**Martin Figg**

07540 636488

martin@matchinggreenc.com

Treasurer

**Martin Ormondroyd**

07976 626918

martin@croucherneedham.com

Saturday 1st XI Captain

**Rizwan Akram**

07904 278617

Riz@keymembersgroup.com

Social Secretary

**Sara Hartnell**

07703 275776

sahartnell@aol.com

House Chairman

**Simon Jeffrey**

07786 545399

simon@agecctv.co.uk

Club Coach

**Sam Figg**

07738 731609

f17ggy@icloud.com

Lead Club Welfare Officer

**Steph Galley**

07970 881313

stephgriffiths118@hotmail.com

Club Welfare Officers

**Martin Figg & Rob Leamon**

Committee members

**Jack Scantlebury** 07790 761546

**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 Corporate partners

