U's NEWS

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THE NEWSLETTER OF UPMINSTER CRICKET CLUB

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Welcome

Firstly, a warm welcome to the first U's News of 2019!

The feedback that we've received since launching the newsletter in 2018 has been very positive, so we're glad that it's been well received and that people are glad to have the latest club news in this format. Our intention for 2019 is to issue this as a print edition, as well as online, to ensure it reaches as many of our membership as possible.

The first change for 2019 is this welcome page though. With our Chairman Ollie Peck taking up the role of 1st XI captain this season, the editorial team decided that two pages from Ollie would be too much for most of our readers! You'll be hearing from various members of the committee on this page for the rest of the year...

The winter months tend to be the busiest time of the year for our committee members, with much to address before the new season starts. As well as the AGM in December, we've been busy with colts winter training, end of season ground works, pavilion re-development, financial budgets, clubmark accreditation, and planning the 2019 social scene (to name a few!). More of these items later in the newsletter.

Thanks for taking the time to read the latest news, we hope it's ten minutes well spent for you to stay in touch. If you've any ideas for future editions, any feedback, or indeed any questions about what's happening at the club in general, then please just let me or another committee member know.

Look forward to seeing you all over the coming months.

Banno

Rob Bannister
Vice Chairman

Club Captain

After a positive finish to the 2018 season myself and the rest of the 1st XI are looking forward to the 2019 with a very positive outlook. Whilst the first half of last season was a frustrating one, it was encouraging to see the way the squad reacted in the second half of the campaign, producing one or two memorable results along the way.

The performances of Kiran Kullar were a highlight of last summer, and I was delighted to hear in recent days that Kiran has been selected for the Essex U17 squad for 2019. Kiran has made great progress since joining the Club in 2016 and I very much look forward to working with him this season and seeing him develop further.

In recent weeks we have also learned that Louis Pickering will be leaving us ahead of the start of the season, to play for Bickley Park in the Kent Premier League. Louis has been representing the Kent Academy over the last two seasons and the move makes sense to help him continue his progression. I am sure I speak for everyone at the Club when I wish Louis all the very best, both with Bickley Park and with Kent. Louis knows that whatever happens he will always be welcome at Upminster, both on and off the pitch, and I know all Upminster members will keep a keen eye on his progress.

Pre Season training has been going well and attendance has been good from members of all sides, including the 1st XI. I hope this is a sign of things to come for the next few months as it's important for us to be well prepared each week if we are going to achieve our aims this Summer.

Fixtures for the SNEL campaign were released earlier this month and we now know who we will be facing and when in 2019. We start off with a trip to Woodford Wells, which is always a great place to play, and then face a tough home game with Shenfield. I expect Shenfield, under the leadership of Roy Smith, to be a force this season, so these two games will give us a good indication of where we are at. The cup draws could have been a little kinder for us, as we will be on the road in all four competitions, and will also face away trips in three of these should we progress beyond the first hurdle. However, it is always nice to visit new grounds and face new opposition and I am looking forward to travelling to Banstead and Roebucks in April and May for two of our cup contests.

For those members who don't play themselves on Saturdays, and for any colts parents or friends of the club who are at a loose end at the weekend, it would be great to see you at Upminster Park for a drink and to support the side this summer, so please check the fixture list and try to come along to a game or two.

I wish all of our sides the best of luck for 2019 and hope the sun shines on us as it did in 2018.

Best Wishes.

Ollie

Ollie Peck
1st XI Captain

A WORD FROM OUR SPONSORS

Happy New Year to all UCC members. The festive season seems a long time ago and we ourselves are in our busiest month preparing and filing Tax Returns before the 31st January 2019 deadline.

We would like to give members some insight to their entitlement to the state pension. This is contingent on having sufficient "qualifying years". These are tax years for which you have a paid a minimum level of NIC or received NIC credits.

People who reach the state pension age on or after 6 April 2016 need 35 qualifying years in order to receive the full single-tier state pension – set at £164.35 per week for 2018/19. Those with less than 35 qualifying years, but at least ten qualifying years, will receive a reduced state pension, reflecting the number of qualifying years. Anyone who has less than ten qualifying years is not eligible for the new state pension.

Where a person reached state pension age between 6 April 2010 and 5 April 2016, they only needed 30 qualifying years for the basic state pension (set at £125.95 for 2018/19). However, they may also receive the earnings-related second state pension (S2P).

QUALIFYING YEARS - There are various ways to build up qualifying years. The main way is via the payment National Insurance contributions. There are three classes of contributions that build pension entitlement:

- Class 1 for employees;
- Class 2 for the self-employed; and
- Class 3, which are voluntary contributions.

Employees need earnings at least equal to the lower earnings limit (£116 per week for 2018/19, rising to £118 per week for 2019/20), so they can build up a qualifying year. Those with earnings between the lower earnings limit and the primary threshold (£162 per week for 2018/19, £166 per week for 2019/20), can get a qualifying year for free, as they are deemed to have paid notional contributions.

The self-employed must pay Class 2 contributions to build up their state pension entitlement, payable at £2.95 per week for 2018/19 (rising to £3 per week for 2019/20) where earnings exceed the small profits threshold (£6,205 for 2018/19, £6,365 for 2019/10).

A full year's contributions must be paid for a year to be a qualifying year. If contributions are only paid for part a year, the year does not count. However, all is not lost – Class 3 contributions can be paid voluntarily for the missing weeks to turn a non-qualifying year into a qualifying year or to increase the number of qualifying years. They cost £14.65 per week for 2018/19, rising to £15 per week for 2019/20.

CONTRACTING-OUT COMPLICATIONS - The position may become complicated if a person contracted out before 6 April 2016. Full rate contributions were not paid in a contracted out year and this is reflected as a deduction when working out the starting amount. Thus a person who has worked for 20 years, but contracted out for some, may not have a starting value equivalent to 20 qualifying years.

CHECK OUT YOUR SITUATION - Checking your state pension forecast can be done easily online on the gov.uk website. The tool will tell you what you will get now on current rates and also what you will get at your state pension date (again at current rates) on the assumption that x more years are paid by that date. A state pension forecast can also be requested by post by completing form BR19.

HMRC do make mistakes and if the forecast is not what you were expecting, query it.

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

Esin Hunter

AGM

The Annual General Meeting took place on Sunday 2 December, with the new morning slot proving to be a popular change to tradition. As usual, there was a packed agenda with reports from the 2018 season followed by the election of officers for 2019, and extensive updates on the pavilion development project and other plans for the coming season.

Ollie Peck will take charge of the 1st XI for a third stint, while Billy Wright will lead the 2nd team having done an excellent job in the later part of the 2018 campaign. Josh Lamont has moved up to act as Wright's vice-captain and so young Ollie White will captain the 3rd XI with assistance from Steve Limn.

Old hand Stewart Hammond will lead the 4th XI after pulling off the great escape last season, and he will be assisted by Kevin Roome. Alex Bottoms returns as 5th XI skipper with Dave Brown as his vice-captain, and Ray Calder will captain the 6th XI when they are in friendly action. We are sure all members will fully support their captains on and off the field during the season.

Everyone will be aware of the problems we had fielding six league sides in 2018 and we hope by moving to five league sides for the coming campaign we will alleviate the majority of these issues. This will also enable our new Chairman of Selectors, Karim Govani, to ensure sides are picked to only include fully paid up members, with guest players only being selected in the lowest side playing that day. This should allow for more consistent and stable selection during the 2019 season.

SUBS DISCOUNT

Note that playing subscriptions are now due, and are discounted by £25 for adult members if paid by 30 April 2019. Full details are available on the website (https://secure.pitchero.com/clubs/upminstercricketclub/payments), where you can set up your payment, please speak to Andrew Berry/Mark Schofield for moredetails on how to pay.

ABOUT OUR Sponsors

Two new committee members for 2019 are Matt Chapman and Stu Horsley, who will jointly be taking on the Sponsorship Secretary role. With no time to waste, they have already been busy organising for the year ahead....

During 2019, we will seek to further embrace the modern electronic era to the club, and ensure all members are signed on and up-dating their membership online. We will continue to use the 'Pitchero Club' app to up-date you with news and offers from our sponsors, but more importantly manage our memebership database accurately and effectively.

Following the introduction of club membership cards in 2018, we will use these again in 2019 for all members and Colt parents, which we hope will be used in conjunction with an ever increasing number of local sponsors and club supporters, to provide you with discounts and deals as an Upminster CC member.

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 sponsorship options and levels, with varying benefits to the sponsors.

Following the success of the Colt Friday night training sessions, with delicious food being provided by two of our sponsors – Healthy Roots and Kushoom 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.

Likewise, if you would like any further information on 'Match Day Sponsors', 'Match Ball Sponsors', or simply, individual or anonymous pledges of any value, please contact us, or any Committee member.

Sponsorship Secretaries - Stu Horsley (07553 787971), Matt Chapman (07818 031925) - sponsorship@upminstercc.co.uk

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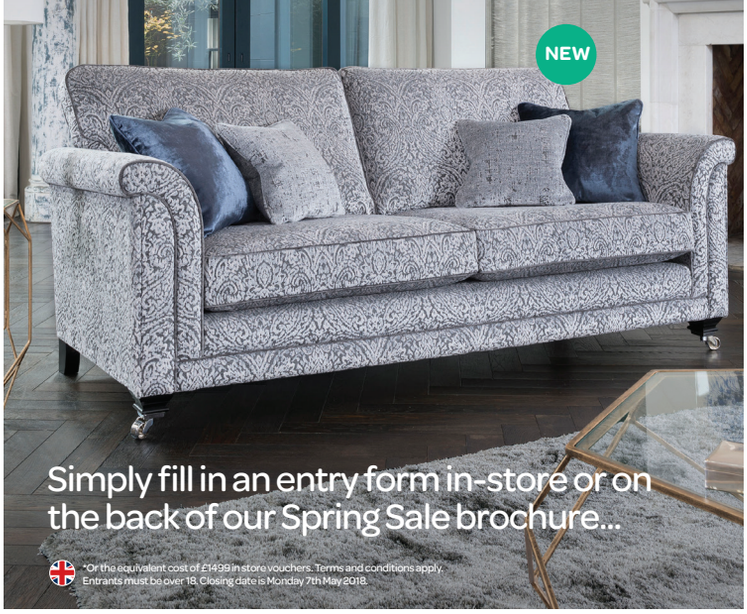

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SPOTLIGHT ON

Freddie Butt

Our popular feature on UCC players and members continues....this month we catch up with our energetic coach and 1st XI batsman/keeper Freddie Butt. Freddie took time out from his busy schedule to talk to us about his experiences so far and the future talent for Upminster Cricket Club.

Hi Freddie, you've been playing for Upminster CC for six seasons now, what has been your favourite moment?

It's been an amazing six years at Upminster and it's very difficult to pick one moment but playing in Alastair Cook's benefit day was a very special occasion. To see such a massive crowd come out and support our club event, and for us to host the England captain, was something we were all rightly proud of.

What is your favourite part of our club?

The main nets are a fantastic facility. It's rare to have 3 big lanes in a public park and it's fabulous to see them so well used almost every day throughout the season, and even in the winter months.

During your time at Upminster CC, you've been involved in the coaching set up, who has been the best colt you've coached during that time?

Ross Taylor is a great talent, and Lewis Munn and Harvey Daniels are very promising players. The club is blessed with some fabulous young players actually, so it all bodes well for the future. We've seen numerous young players earning their positions in the higher XI's and there's an exicting pipeline in the Colts section right now.

What could we do to improve our coaching set up?

The netting surface in all the nets could do with a revamp and refresh, and it's great to see that this in the plans for future investment. It's an expensive exercise to do this, and it will make a big difference for our training facilities.

What piece of cricketing knowledge do you like to pass onto a youngster?

For the players to have self-belief in their ability and to trust their instinct. I always try and ensure coaching is fun and players should be relaxed and happy when they play.

You've had a few clubs over the years, which of your old teammates would you like to see at Upminster CC?

Tom Oakley from Brentwood CC – he's a young all-rounder, local lad, and would add a lot to club.

And who are the best players you've played with or against?

I played with Varun Chopra at Ilford, and he was very focussed on his cricket no matter if it was a club game or a county match. He's also a very friendly and down to earth guy. Viv Paver from Hutton stands out as an opponent – a couple of innings from him really stand out and he's a special talent in my opinion.

Which three members of Upminster CC would you like to go for a curry with?

Billy Wright, Paul Middlemiss and Oliver Peck – three impressive appetites there!!

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

WINDMILL WHACK 4

The fourth edition of the Windmill Whack will be launched this Year on Tuesday 19th March with the Draft Night at the Club. The first three years of the competition have seen the majority of players representing their original franchises, but 2019 will see a shake up as all players (except the designated captains) will be available for any of our five sides.

The 2018 competition saw our third different winner, with the Root 66ers finally fulfilling their potential and claiming the honours after a low scoring, but exciting, finale against the Govani Maestros. Their name joins that of previous winners, the Hunter Hurricanes and the Chairman's Choice on the famous trophy!!!

Last year was arguably the most open tournament so far, with the Kushoom Bugh Tigers making it to Finals Day for the first time, the Maestros making their first Grand Final and the Apple Finance Firebirds defying the odds and challenging for the first time. The two dominant Teams of WWI and WWII, the Hunters and the Choice, both struggled to live up to expectations and were never in the running for honours.

For 2019, as well as a redraft of players we will also be moving to five franchises with the Chairman's Choice not competing this term (please note this is not due to the embarrassing performances under captain Rob Bannister last Year). We will also see new kits launched for the next three seasons so please keep an eye on the website for details on how to purchase these (samples will be available at the Draft Night).

The first Draft Night in 2016 was a brilliant occasion, and it would be great to replicate that on 19th March so do please make every effort to attend. Everyone playing in the competition is encouraged to be there and it would also be great to see other members, Vice Presidents and colts parents in attendance. The bar will be open from 7.30pm with the first picks being made from 7.45pm.

200 CLUB

Following the success of the UCC 100 Club, we are pushing to convert this to a double century in 2019. If we can achieve this, we would be raising an invaluable £5,000 each year for the club funds in order to support the pavilion development plans.

Here's how it works:

- The cost for a number is £50 per annum – paid in two instalments of £25 on 1st July & 1st January (the majority of players have a Direct Debit set up).
- A monthly draw, with a chance to win up to £2000 on the bumper draw held at the Dinner & Dance.
- With 200 members, the monthly draws would be 10x £200, 1x £1000 & 1x £2000, over the year. (Winnings 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.

The latest lucky winners are: NOVEMBER: Elaine Brown DECEMBER: Paul Middlemiss

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HOUSE & GROUNDS

This winter, there has been an unprecedented amount of work undertaken on all three playing surfaces that the club use. The club has committed a significant amount of money into developing and improving all three squares and the work started on 17th September2018, when the tractors and machinery came down to Upminster Park and took several inches from the top of the square. In the days that followed, the square was treated, dressed and re-seeded and left for mother nature to take her course. Also in September, our out-grounds at Coopers and Campion schools were scarified, dressed and seeded and left for the winter.

At the start of December, the club commissioned a company based in the west country to 'deep drill', or 'aerate', all three squares. The aerating process is aimed at making a major contribution towards the square's ability to withstand the demands of an intense playing season and difficult summer weather. The Deep Drill will encourage deeper rooting, resulting in healthy grass growth and a stronger soil structure which will withstand divoting and give the ball good pace and bounce. The machine gently removed soil from the holes, relieving compaction and encouraging deeper rooting, with the aim of significantly improving all three playing surfaces.

It is anticipated that due to the degree of work that has been undertaken on the square, there will be a 'bedding in' period, although it is hoped that improvements will be noticeable sooner rather than later. The wire fencing that was erected around the main square appears to have afforded excellent protection to the playing surface, allowing the earth to settle and the grass to grow. In the coming months, the committee and myself will be liaising with our groundsman, Mark Severn, in planning the pre-season works on all three squares, so in due course, I shall be looking for assistance from our membership to assist with some of these tasks. As you will see from the photo, the square at HQ looks fantastic at the moment, as do the squares at Coopers and Campion schools.

The 2019 season should be an exciting one and hopefully the hard work that has been completed this closed season will benefit all members of Upminster Cricket Club.

Bobby

Bobby Mack
House & Grounds Secretary

Pavilion Redevelopment Project

One of the main updates at the AGM was in relation to the redevelopment plans for the pavilion, and Chairman Ollie Peck was able to bring the audience up to date with the latest news.

The working party, including representatives from Upminster Hockey Club and our appointed architects, met with the ECB (England Cricket Board) and the ECCB (Essex County Cricket Board) to walk through the planned design. It was a very encouraging meeting with both bodies very supportive and hopeful of providing financial support for the project, although the current design needs amendment in order to be compliant with the regulations for funding.

The main areas that require attention are for the changing rooms to be much larger (minimum of 25m2), for an additional third 'flexible' changing area to be incorporated, and for each to have their own toilets as well as shower area.

As a result, we have been working with the architects to produce a new design to comply with all requirements. The changes mean that we will need a slightly larger area, and so requires a revised application to Havering Council in respect of the lease and planning permission. So lots of activity happening with these plans, and lots more to do – we will keep you updated as these things develop.

In addition to this, and to the work that has been undertaken on the squares over the winter, the club is also currently exploring options to enlarge and improve the net facilities to the left-hand side of the clubhouse. We are planning to re-position the net cage, which will incorporate three lanes of nets and enable us to subsequently replace the three storage containers with a purpose build structure. At present we are negotiating with the installation company and will provide further updates as things develop!

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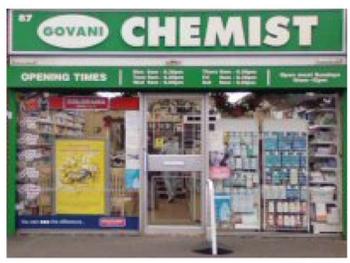

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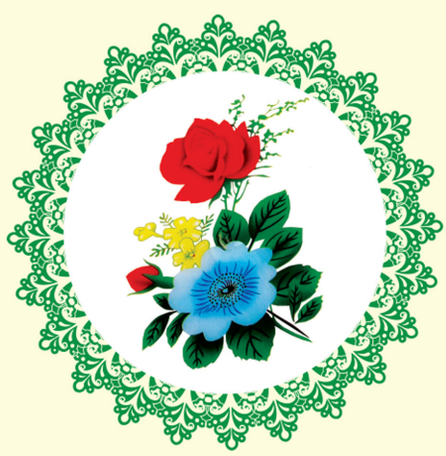

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On the Field

The days of the close season being a quiet time of Year are long gone at Upminster, and probably at other clubs too, with the winter months now filled up with indoor cricket, training, and plenty of administration ahead of the summer programme.

The winter has also seen a busy indoor league programme, with over 20 different players representing our two sides, the Hunters and the Tandoori Boys. The Hunters made a slow start to the Riverside League campaign but have gained some momentum in recent weeks, including a win over previously unbeaten Wickford. They ended the first section of the season in second place, and will be hoping to better last year's runners spot as the season reaches it's climax.

The Tandoori Boys have also exceeded expectations with the young side (with a few obvious exceptions!) also finishing in the top half of their division ahead of the mid-season cut. The highlight of their campaign was a one wicket win over Galleywood with Ryan Brown and Nathan Bright holding their nerve to secure the victory.

The Hunters also faced a strong Matching Green side in the County Play-Off Match recently, with the winners progressing to the County Final. Unfortunately Green proved too good in a high scoring contest and moved through to face Old Brentwoods in the Final.

Training has begun for all senior players, and junior players who will be playing senior cricket in 2019, and attendance so far has been excellent. The sessions are taking place at Coopers School from 7.30pm to 9.30pm on Wednesdays or Thursdays each week (please check the website to see what day sessions are each week). Please do make every effort to attend and get yourself into form ahead of the start of the campaign.

The Club will be involved in many cup competitions in 2019, and the draws for all of these have now been made. In the League Cup we will visit Harold Wood in late April, with the winners likely to face a trip to Premier Division Brentwood in round 2. Roebucks CC will provide the first round opposition in the National Cup, with a local derby against Hornchurch on the cards if Upminster can progress to the second round, while Ollie Peck's side will travel to Banstead in the Conference Cup with the winners progressing to the next round to face Bexley. And in the Dukes Essex T20 we will face Southend on Sea on Monday 27th May, with the winners then playing Hadleigh or Harold Wood later in the day.

PLAYER SPONSORS

Many thanks for all those who sponsored players in 2018. We're delighted to confirm that we will be offering a similar Player Sponsorship package for next season – please contact Stuart Horsley, Matt Chapman or any member of the committee if you'd like to reserve your favourite player for 2019!

As well as seeing your name in lights in the 2019 newsletters, on the website and in the pavilion, the sponsor with receive:

- Two hours of free private cricket coaching from our Level 2 coaches (for the person of your choice)
- Entry into an end of season raffle (prize to be announced soon)

All this is yours for just £100, and don't forget you can sponsor as many players as you like!

Social Scene

Some of the most serious planning during the winter is focussed on ensuring that the social calendar for the year is as busy as ever. As well as the usual favourites (see below for dates!), there will be a host of activities at the club throughout the season, and we understand Dave Brown already has his head down producing the questions for the 2019 Quiz Night!

Please do come down and support these events as often as you can – many of last years events were a great mix of all of members and we hope this year will be the same. A full schedule of events will be available before the start of the season, and will be available in the next edition of U's News and on the website.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Tuesday 19 March: Windmill Whack Draft Night

Friday 5 April: Pre Season Dinner – SOLD OUT!

Saturday 5 October: Dinner & Dance

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