

# U's NEWS

Issue 6 – November 2019



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**THE NEWSLETTER OF UPMINSTER CRICKET CLUB**

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# Welcome

Welcome to the end of season issue of the U's news.

Well, what a summer of cricket we have experienced! It was unbelievable to witness success at International level; county level and to a certain degree for Upminster at club level. I don't think we will ever repeat such a summer of drama, controversy, emotion and jubilation at the professional level and indeed over the course of the season, the numerous elevens at Upminster CC encountered similar experiences.

I don't think anyone watching will ever forget the thrilling and controversial end to the World Cup final on Sunday 14th July; nor the England victory in the Ashes Test at Headingly, both victories masterminded by the genius that is Ben Stokes. I personally will never forget the atmosphere in our club house while we watched this stunning victory, delaying the Windmill Whack final, as none of the players or officials wanted to miss out on what was an unexpected win. It was a shame England could not go on to win the little urn back, but it truly was an intriguing series.

Arguably the greatest success story of the season was our home county winning the domestic double. To achieve this level of success seems incomprehensible and it is refreshing to see a lot of Essex's squad have come through the Essex League, which is indicative that our league is very strong and well managed. Despite having crucial games towards the end of the season, virtually all of the Essex squad came to Upminster Park on Sunday 7th September and played their part in what was one of the most successful Benefit Matches in recent years. Thanks and congratulations must go to all of the Essex squad and it is so good to see that such a close squad and great bunch of blokes have had the success that they deserve.

Upminster's season was mixed, although there was success and some excellent performances during the season, that will be detailed in the season's review. In brief, the 1st XI maintained their Division 1 status and the 2nd XI were relegated on the last day of the season; however the 3rd XI retained the 3rd XI Premier Division Crown; the 4th XI were the highest placed 4th XI in the league and the 5th XI finished in a creditable fourth in their division. There was also success at Junior levels and with the Ladies Team and it is an exciting time for Upminster Cricket Club at the moment. Congratulations must also go to the Kushoom Bugh Tigers, who were crowned Windmill Whack champions (report below).

Overall, it was a memorable and enjoyable summer of cricket and our club would not be able to function without the committee and members who give up a significant amount of their spare time in working to facilitate cricket to all. You know who you are and thank you for your efforts and ongoing support. We must also mention all of our sponsors, without who support the club would not be able to provide and maintain the facilities needed to offer cricket to all. Thank you all for your ongoing support and generosity.

Let's hope the World Cup success, Essex's double heroics, combined with the exhilarating performances of Ben Stokes and others will inspire generations to come and be the catalyst for more people to start playing this wonderful game of ours.

Winter well and look forward to seeing you all next season

*Bobby*

Bobby Mack



# Club Captain



The 2019 season drew to a close with the 1st XI retaining their Division One status by the narrowest of margins, with just a 2 point cushion over local rivals Gidea Park & Romford who drop into Division Two.

Without doubt the stand out performer of the season was Shabhaz Butt who led the way with the bat falling just short of 1,000 league runs for the season. His 977 runs at an average of 61.06 was head and shoulders above the next leading candidates, with solid performances from James Evans (420 runs) and Terry Wyatt (380).

With the ball, the story of the season was a struggle to contain sides to less than 5 runs per over with wickets being hard to come by. Louis Pickering was the top wicket taker with 30 wickets, supported by a couple of veterans in John Curtis with 20 wickets, and my ageing left arm spinners picking up 18 wickets.

In the penultimate game of the season, it was a crucial match winning maiden league hundred from James Evans (102) that saw the U's to a crucial win, chasing down 265 against a Fives & Heronians team still in the hunt for promotion.

The team did have glimpses of showing what they are capable of during the course of the season as we comfortably beat both of the sides who eventually secured promotion, including a 180 run thumping of eventual league winners Colchester. It is hoped that the team can build on this next season, and that vital experience gained by the likes of Tom Daniels and Louis Pickering will see the team starting from a strong base in 2020.

As the team look forward, it is pleasing to see Alan Ison returning to the team in 2020 and taking over as captain after a successful debut captaincy season in 2017. Alan will be keen to get back in the hotseat, and everyone in the team wishes him well. He will be supported by James Aggio-Brew as vice-captain who returned from a stint in Birmingham during the 2019 season. Both Alan and James have some great positive ideas for the future and I naturally wish them well next summer.

From my own perspective it has been a real (if somewhat unexpected) pleasure having the opportunity to skipper the side for the last season and a half, and whilst it hasn't been without its challenges I am pleased the team dug in to ensure we continue to play Division One cricket next season.

I would like to thank a number of people who have helped the team this year. Particularly Dave Middlemiss who has done a great job scoring for us, and also to his deputy Christian Pickering who has stood in during his occasional absence. Also in particular I would like to thank Freddy, Shabhaz, Louis, Shaf, Nicky, Tom and Fester, all of whom committed to playing at least 15 of the 17 league games we played.

2020 will be a great challenge for the First XI, and I'm sure all those who play in it will be looking forward to getting us back to the top half of the table where we want to be competing.

## Ollie

Ollie Peck  
1st XI Captain





# A WORD FROM OUR SPONSORS

## Check if you have unused annual allowances on your pension savings

We congratulate all the teams of UCC on another successful year, and thank everyone for such a wonderful day at the Benefit Match once more. This seems such a long time ago now that summer is truly over!

We thought we would provide some insight into the pension allowance that is proving to affect quite a few people and hope that it provides some useful information.

Taxpayers are allowed to pay up to £40,000 into a pension scheme, but this limit includes both your own and your employer's contribution. The limit however can be reduced to as little as £10,000 if your total income goes over HMRC stated limits (see notes below).

Your annual allowance is the limit on the amount of pension savings that can be made to all your pension schemes in a tax year before you have to pay tax on them.

You will not be taxed on pension savings over your annual allowance if you have enough unused annual allowance from previous years to carry forward. You can carry forward unused allowance from the 3 previous tax years.

This annual allowance only applies to pension savings made to your UK registered pension schemes, or to overseas schemes where either you or your employer qualifies for UK tax relief.

If your 'adjusted income' is over £150,000 and your 'threshold income' is over £110,000, you'll need to work out your reduced annual allowance.

You have unused annual allowance if your pension savings were less than your annual allowance for the tax year.

You can ask each of your pension providers for details of your pension savings for each scheme if they've not already sent them to you.

If you had unused allowance from the 2015 to 2016 tax year, you need to check if you had a different allowance for that tax year.

The annual allowance rules for the 2015 to 2016 tax year were different. The annual allowance for 6 April 2015 to 8 July 2015 (known as the 'pre-alignment tax year') was £80,000. This allowance was available against pension savings made in pension input periods ending in that tax year.

You can carry forward unused annual allowances from the 3 previous tax years. You do not need to report this to HMRC.

If your pension savings are more than your annual allowance for the tax year, and you do not have unused annual allowances from the 3 previous tax years to cover the difference, then there is a pension charge and tax is due on this amount.

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

Esin Hunter



# On the Field

There were times when the 2019 season felt like a struggle for many of our senior sides, but in the end it turned out to be relatively successful for the club as a whole. But for one result away from the club on the last day of the season we would have seen all sides maintain their divisional status for the 2020 season, but as it was the 2nd XI suffered relegation in cruel fashion.

It is clear that at the top end of the club there is a lack of depth in quality players at the moment, but the results of the lower elevens, combined with a number of promising youngsters coming through the system gives hope that the next few years will see that situation change.

The 1st XI started slowly again, and had to wait for the limited overs games to come around before finding any form. A positive few weeks in mid season looked to have eased any relegation fears, but a further batch of poor results in August meant the fight for survival went to the last day of the season and was out of their hands. Fortunately a ten wicket loss at Colchester was strangely enough to ensure survival. Shahbaz led the way with the bat with over 1,000 runs, James Evans had his best season for the club and Terry Wyatt rolled back the years on a number of occasions to play some match winning innings. With the ball Louis Pickering had his best season yet, John Curtis was as consistent as always and the spinners (to many to list) picked up some crucial wickets. It was also great to see Tom Daniels break into the side and nail down his place and to see the likes of Billy Wright and Scott Fisher rewarded for their performances in the 2nd XI by getting opportunities at 1st Team level.

For the 2nd XI the season ended in heartache as a thrilling last day win over Chelmsford, which also cost Chelmsford the title and handed it to Hornchurch, was not enough to save Billy Wright's side. It is always said the table doesn't lie at the end of the season, but there is a lot to suggest the 2nd XI were not one of the worst two sides in the division. Two wins over Chelmsford, a fine victory over Shenfield and seven draws from nine in the timed games shows that the side was more than capable of mixing it with the big boys, but inconsistency, mixed availability and a little bit of bad luck were costly. Josh Lamont showed his abilities with bat and ball and the performances of fellow youngsters Sam Twine, Ellis Pickering and Will Frost bodes well for 2020.

After finally claiming their first Premier Division title in 2018 the 3rd XI retained their crown after an excellent season. Ollie White took on the role of skipper and proved an inspired choice as he marshalled his troops to the top of the table once more. By the halfway point of the season the destiny of the title had turned into a two horse race between Upminster and Brentwood, and going into the final day Brentwood had the edge. However, Brentwood only picked up 20 points for their victory over Loughton while White's side claimed the maximum 25 against Harlow to finish top by a single point. The traditional values of the 3rd XI were once again seen during the season. Some experienced old heads, some promising youngsters, plenty of laughs, a few beers after the game and some hard fought competitive cricket is a combination which works at this level, and will hopefully continue for years to come. Mark D'Cruz picked up the Bowler of the Year award for his efforts in 2019 and Rob Mack was nominated for the Batsman of the Year award after another consistent Year.



While they "only" came third in the table, the 4th XI were confirmed as the best 4th XI in the County after a brilliant season. Having only stayed up on the last day of the 2018 season Stewart Hammond's side showed remarkable consistency to secure third place in the 3rd XI Division One table. It is the highest ever finish for the Club's 4th XI and the second highest finished ever by a 4th XI in the SNEI. Ian Munn and Gary Carr led the way with the bat while Kevin Roome, Ryan Brown and Karim Govani were consistent with the ball. As with all of the Club's lower elevens, there were some excellent individual performances from youngsters like Harvey Daniels, Callum Berry and Nathan Brown and these lads should be looking to push themselves up the sides over the next two seasons.

The 5th XI also had a consistent season and a final position of fourth place was a satisfactory one for Alex Bottoms and his side. When availability is up and down it is the lower sides who suffer most and Alex should take huge credit for overcoming this to foster a great team spirit and lead his side into the top half of the table. Rafe Smallman and Alex Ward starred with the bat while Aalok Latey performed well with the ball and was nominated for the Bowler of the Year award. Alex will be moving away this winter and will

not be around in 2020, but we hope he returns to the club in 2021 as he will be sorely missed.

Availability meant the 6th XI were limited to three friendly appearances in 2019 but we must thank Ray Calder, Don Triggs and Ian Twine for getting sides out on these weeks, and Nicky Ison for finding suitable fixtures. The 2020 season will see the 6th XI return to more regular action, with a side entered into the Shepherd Neame League structure once again.

# Sponsorship

Well, that season flashed by in the blink of an eye!

Firstly a massive thank you to all our club sponsors: whether large, small or individual contributions, they are all invaluable to the club and very much appreciated.

September saw yet another successful annual Benefit Match, with the great weather bringing out one of the largest crowds for several years. This day gives the club a great opportunity to say thank you to our sponsors, with a bit of wining and dining, for their support throughout the season. If you fancy being part of this for the next Benefit game, we are always looking to take on new sponsors. With several different levels of financial commitment, there should be a package that suits you.

## PLAYER SPONSORSHIPS

Once again, a massive thank you to all the player sponsors for the season. All funds raised by this initiative are ring fenced for improvements in the training facilities and the Pavilion Fund.

Congratulations again to James Rochford, who won 2020 season fees for one and Karim Govani who won a signed England cricket cap.

More info next year, as we will be running this initiative again next season.

## UCC 200 CLUB

Again, a great response from everyone. Thank you.

With participation up, this is another great form of revenue for the club.

Huge congratulations to Shafiq Rahman who won the **£1170 BIG DRAW** at the annual Dinner & Dance.

With monthly prizes, I'm looking forward to seeing more people signing up.

For more info on any of the above, please don't hesitate to contact me, or any member of the committee.

Stu Horsley                      07553 787971  
E-MAIL: [sponsorship@upminstercc.co.uk](mailto:sponsorship@upminstercc.co.uk)





2019 BATSMAN OF THE YEAR

*James Evans*



## SPOTLIGHT ON

# Oliver White



*Q: Hello Oliver, congratulations on winning the 3rd XI Premier League, how did it feel to get over the line on the final day?*

OW: Unbelievable 18 weeks, 300 odd points and it comes down to a single point! You can't write stuff like that and it proves there's a place for timed cricket, as these games create great unpredictability. It certainly gives you a buzz when you're captaining, and trying to stay one step ahead of the opposition.

*Q: What was the key moment that changed your season?*

OW: Definitely the game away to Wanstead mid-season, due to the fact we were completely out of the game with them 140/2 chasing 180. The way we turned it around and forced a win from nowhere gave us the belief we could win from any position, as we did similarly in the Hornchurch game a few weeks later.

*Q: Who was your player of the season?*

OW: Difficult one this with the fact we used 30 players throughout the league season – would be unfair to pick one player when 5 or 6 players turned in match winning performances. Dan Simpson, Bobby Mack and Grumpy are just a few who won us games, but shows it was a team effort which was what made the season so great.

*Q: Captaincy was relatively new to you, how did you feel you did in your first year?*

OW: I'm definitely pleased with how it went, it's hard captaining for the first time. The best way to learn is making mistakes – it's impossible to nail it first time, as you haven't had a chance to mess up. However after a year when I made plenty of errors I feel I've come a long way from the first game and can only do a better job next year.

*Q: What areas will you be looking to improve on for next year?*

OW: Just a bit more consistency across the board. We had a great year but the team was never settled which has always been a problem at our club. It hurts the teams below when you have to call up 5 players from the 4s, and it's definitely an area we can improve on and hopefully it will help the results of the teams all across the club.

*Q: Who produced the best tea this year for the 3rd XI?*

OW: I remember Bezza's being good, but I think Bobby set a high bar in the first game which no one managed to beat so have to go with him.

*Q: You're taking part in an Escape Room, which 3 Upminster CC members would you want in there with you?*

OW: I'd take Bobby & Munsy any day – always up for a challenge those two and have the resourcefulness to solve them more often than not. Third one, I'd take Dave Frost for the picnic he'll no doubt bring. Might feel peckish delegating tasks to the other two.

*Q: And who is the better captain, you or your big brother Rob?*

OW: How many league titles has he won as captain??

**Thank you to Oliver for his time in answering our questions.**



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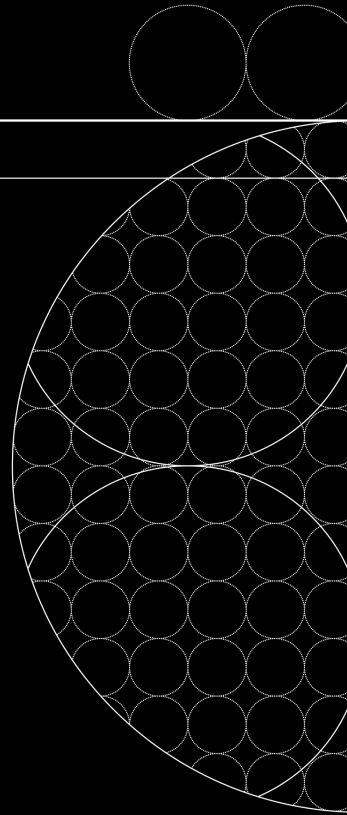
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# Social Scene

The end of the season culminated with the Upminster CC Dinner & Dance on Saturday 5th October at De Rougemont Manor, Warley. The evening was enjoyed by nearly 130 club members and colt parents with dancing and merriment into the early hours. In total, the evening raised an incredible £1,730 so thank you to all those who supported the event by either attending or buying raffle tickets/donating a raffle prize.



The annual UCC Golf Day at Upminster Golf Club followed on Friday 11th October, and was another great day despite the damp autumnal weather. A total of 16 golfers took to the course, with Terry Wyatt taking the honours in the individual stapleford competition.

The final event of the year will be the Curry Lunch taking place on Sunday 8 December. If you'd like to attend this function, and kick start the Christmas festivities, then please contact Bobby Mack to secure your place.

It's been a very successful social season this year incorporating a Music Quiz, Race Night, Cocktail Evening and Colour Wine Party! Ideas for new events for next season are very welcome - so please contact us if anything to mind!



# WINDMILL WHACK 4

A glorious August Bank Holiday weekend was once again the backdrop for the finale of the Windmill Whack competition, with the Kushoom Bugh Tigers claiming the WW IV title as the sun set on the Sunday evening after an excellent day's cricket. The Tigers kept their nerve as their experienced side proved to have a little to much know how for the Apple Finance Firebirds and their array of star players and young starlets.

An excellent half century from the visiting Matt Tigg put them in a strong position, although his retirement and a cluster of quick wickets left the innings in the balance until veteran Pete Thompson showcased his classy batting with a delightful 61 from 43 balls, stroking ten boundaries in the process. The Tigers posted a very competitive 179-9, with Ellis Pickering claiming 3-37 for the Birds for whom Aalok Latey and Joe Ellis Grewal also returned tidy figures.

Iron Mike Rath came out all guns blazing as the Birds set about the chase, but Matt Tigg bowled him and Chris Ryan then picked up Sam Twine to put the Tigers in control. Terry Wyatt, who always seems to produce on these big occasions, steadied the ship against with the experienced pair of Russ Savidge and Kevin Roome bowling tidily to keep him and Pickering in check. Wyatt retired after reaching his half century and then the O'Dell brothers ran through the middle order as the Tigers closed in on the title. Kiran Kullar showed some late defiance, but with 18 needed from the last over it was too much, and despite a dropped catch by the younger O'Dell from the last ball of the game, the Tigers got home by ten runs. Thompson was named man of the match for his excellent innings.

Earlier in the day the Birds had proved to strong for the Root 66ers in their lunchtime semi-final. Rath made a brutal 51 not out from 20 balls and with Pickering, Wyatt and Kullar also in the runs the Apple Finance franchise reached 173-9. The Roots then lost two early wickets in reply but Paul St Ratton and Nathan Woods kept their side in the hunt but, despite an imaginative 20 from Dave Brown late on, the Roots were dismissed for 158. Pickering and Ellis Grewal picked up four and three wickets respectively.

Once again, it's been a hugely successful season of Windmill Whack cricket throughout the summer, and it's been great to welcome so many guests and former members of the club on the field joining in the action.

Many thanks to everybody who once again gave their time and efforts to support the competition in a wide variety of ways, whether through organising the matches, umpiring, scoring, BBQing and indeed playing!



# HOUSE & GROUNDS

With so much intrusive work undertaken on the square last winter, groundsman Mark Severn and myself were a little apprehensive as to how the pitch would play this season, however we were both very pleased with the improvement of the playing surface. In fact, after the initial few months of settling down, the pitch appeared to get better and better as the season progressed.

Despite the scale of the work undertaken at the end of last season, it was decided that we would try and lower the table further again this year and three days after the benefit match, the tractors and machinery arrived at Upminster Park and another ten tonnes of soil was 'Koro'd' or shaved from the square.

It is truly amazing just how much soil is removed from the square (below right pic), when it appears that the surface is just being shaved, but interestingly, during the Koroing, crease markings were uncovered, which were assessed as being from the 1970's! (see picture below left).



In addition to a historic crease being uncovered, the machinery unearthed some interesting relics. Not Roman or Medieval, but metal pegs and spikes used to hold down the covers, probably dating back two or three decades!!! Thankfully, this debris did not sabotage the contractor's machinery, otherwise the work could have proved rather expensive!



The main square was shaved, seeded, top-dressed and fenced off, all in one day, which is no mean achievement. Thanks to Chairman Ollie Peck and the always reliable and helpful Brown family, who helped in erecting the fencing.



Three days later, over the weekend of the 14th and 15th September, having been previously deep scarified by Mark Severn, it was time to dress and seed the Coopers and Campion squares and to put the equipment into storage. Coopers was the first ground to be put away for the winter and thanks to John Curtis, Don Triggs, Andy Berry and Ian Twine, the sight screens were secured; covers taken from the frames and square was dressed.

Then, on the Sunday morning, the new sight screens at Campion school were dismantled and put away for the winter and two tonnes of Ongar Loam and seed were distributed onto the playing surface. Thanks to Ray Calder; Scott Fisher, Michael 'Village' Jones and Paul Middlemiss with your assistance.



Thankfully, after everyone's hard work over those few beautiful late summer days in early September, the autumn rain has arrived in earnest and mother nature is working wonderfully well, with all three squares showing signs of growth, pleasing groundsman Mark Severn no end.

I would once again like to thank everyone who has given up their time to help out with the various ground duties and maintenance during the course of the season. Without the help and hard work from club members, it would not be possible, or financially feasible to continue to develop and improve our facilities for all members.

Finally, I would like to wish you an enjoyable winter and I am sure you will agree that the below picture is a fitting image as to bring to a close the season.

*Bobby*

Bobby Mack  
House & Grounds Secretary





# CONGRATULATIONS TO.....

Well done to all of those who scooped the end of season playing awards for their efforts over the course of the season.

**BATSMAN OF THE YEAR – James Evans**

**BOWLER OF THE YEAR – Mark d’Cruz**

**FIELDER OF THE YEAR – Callum Berry**

**COLTS PLAYER OF THE YEAR – Harvey Daniels**

**TEAM OF YEAR – 3rd XI**

Congratulations also to Rob Bannister who was a very deserving winner of the Keith Martin Club Person of the Year Award.



## GIRLS GET ESSEX RECOGNITION

A huge well done to three of our younger members. Emily Quinlan, Kara Smith and Caitlin Smith all attended Essex trials recently and have been selected for the U11 Essex County Performance squad – a fantastic achievement for these three girls! Best of luck to you all over the winter.

## JACK PETCHEY WINNERS

**GEORGE KING (age 13):** George’s dedication and hard work during the winter months has seen his skills develop, and his all round performances with bat and ball have helped Upminster Cricket Club’s U13 teams win league and cup matches. George will also help and encourage his team mates and he is a well-respected member of his squad.

**HARRY KING (age 13):** As with brother George, Harry is a talented and hardworking member of the U13 squad and has made some notable contributions in the Havering League matches this season. In addition, Harry conducts himself in a very positive and sporting way and is always willing to help putting the equipment away after training sessions.

**JAMIE GREEN (age 12):** In recent years Jamie has developed as a player following his coaching over the summer and winter. He has proven himself to be an asset to his team contributing both with the bat and ball, and it is apparent that he is going to be a valued club member in the future.

**BEN CALDER (age 17):** Over the past few years, Ben has made the transition into senior cricket and consistently makes contributions to the club and the side he is playing in. He always offers to score and umpire during games and encourages the other young players in the team to get involved and sets a great example. He is always on hand to help complete ground duties before and after games and his enthusiasm and positivity encourages other younger members in the club to contribute.

**TOM LARKE (age 19):** Tom has made great progress with his cricket in recent seasons, not just in terms of his cricketing performance but in the way he assists others off the field of play and the example he sets. Now a regular in the senior 2nd XI, Tom is now a highly reliable and popular member of the Club.

**LUCY QUINLAN (age 12):** Lucy’s enthusiasm for cricket is infectious and she is always present at the girl’s cricket training sessions, where her contributions and energy inspire her peers. Lucy has said that she would like her Jack Petchey award to fund a professional female coach for her group’s training sessions, where she and her peers will benefit from specialist coaching to improve their game.

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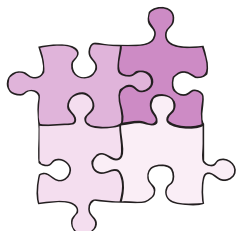
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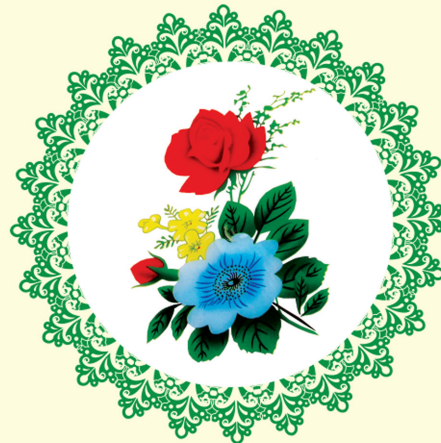
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