

U's NEWS

Volume 3 - Issue 1



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THE NEWSLETTER OF UPMINSTER CRICKET CLUB

www.upminstercricketclub.com

Welcome



A very warm welcome to the pre-season edition of the 'U's News' Newsletter!

I'm sure, like everyone else who is reading this, it is great to be looking at the 2021 summer with great optimism, and hope for five months of cricket. As we all know, the 2020 summer was a disrupted season due to the pandemic and we've had a long and bleak winter - the only highlight of my winter was on Saturday night, shouting at the TV to figure out who the person was behind the Dragon on The Masked Singer.

We can now look forward to proper entertainment as cricket is set to return to Upminster Park for a full league season. On the pitch, Alan Ison, who took over from Ollie Peck last summer, will get his first full season back as 1st XI captain. Our great treasurer and bowling machine Andrew Berry is taking on the 3rd XI job - can they make it three 3rd XI Premier League titles in a row? My personal prediction is for the 5th XI to secure promotion this summer!

Even though we haven't been able to meet in person all winter, the committee has been incredibly busy in getting everything prepared for this season. I'm sure this will be covered in more detail in the newsletter but it is great to see how much the club is doing to improve our outer grounds. As someone who plays on the main ground, the new rollers are fantastic and will improve the schools pitches tenfold. I'm also thrilled to see we have purchased new covers for the main ground too, but also a little sad as I quite enjoy perfecting my Jurgen Klinsmann dive on a wet ground cover!

There are so many little projects going on at Upminster CC at the moment and it's a very exciting time to be a member. One final hope for this season is, if all restrictions are lifted, we all get to have a good night in the clubhouse. There is nothing I miss more than hearing about all the ways the lads got triggered, and why the red jacket was awarded! I hope to see you all for a drink at the club this summer.



2021 SEASON PREVIEW

Despite the cold weather in April, it's just great to see cricket up and running at the start of the season after the frustrations of last summer.

The Easter holidays saw 12 solid days of Colts Cricket Camps, to kick off the outdoor cricket activities for the year. Scott Simmons and his expanding group of Level 2 coaches put the boys and girls through their paces, with the juniors working hard across two lots of 3 hour sessions.

The men's teams first action has seen Upminster take on Brentwood and then Orsett over consecutive weekends. There have been many fine individual performances during the friendly games so far, whetting the appetite for the hotly anticipated visit of local rivals Gidea Park & Romford in the League Cup as we go to press.



There's much to look forward to over the summer, not least the prospect of being able to follow the action from UCC HQ directly from your own living room. The introduction of the "UpminsterCricketTV" YouTube channel has been made possible by the installation of our very own playing camera at the Stewart Avenue end, allowing you to follow the whole match live as it unfolds or just enjoy the wickets direct from the PlayCricket scorecard.

As we all know too well, we still have to be ever mindful of Covid-19 both on and off the pitch this season. There are very detailed rules and regulations in place from the ECB and the Essex League that we have been required to implement, and we would urge all players, officials and spectators (when they are allowed) to please ensure compliance with these rules at all times.

The playing schedule for the Colts section is as busy as ever this year, with sides entered in competitions with the Met district, Central district and Havering Leagues as usual. We also have sides entered in the prestigious Essex competitions for U16s (Matchplay), U14s (Sir Alistair Cook Trophy) and U12s (Brian Taylor Trophy), and we wish the boys all the best of luck in these very competitive games.



We're also very pleased to have launched a refreshed kit range with SurrIDGE Sports for the start of the season, which proved to be very popular towards Deadline Day at the end of March. We shall look forward to seeing some very smartly turned out teams for the start of the league season in May!





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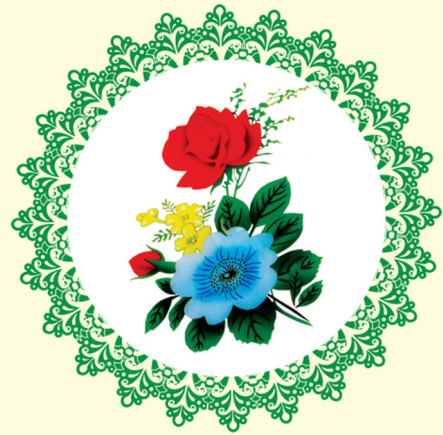
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SPOTLIGHT ON

Anthony Linn



Q: Hello Anthony, thanks for sitting down with us and having a chat. How are you and how has the first year of fatherhood been?

AL: Very good, everything seems to be now going in the right direction towards a level of normal and cricket is just around the corner which is always exciting. Fatherhood has been the hardest but most rewarding year of my life! Hats off to anyone with two or more!

Q: You've been playing for Upminster since your colt days, how did you first come to the club and what was it like then?

AL: I joined in year 7 I hadn't been in the area long and a few lads at Gaynes were playing so came down with them and been here since. It was a club going through huge growth and was the beginning of the multi XI and large colt section that you see today.

Q: Your best figures of 7/66 came in 2005, in a great 5th XI including the likes of Colin Thompson, Joe Margetts and Gwynne Mack. What was it like playing in that team as a young 16 year old? Also, how does it feel to peak at 16?

AL: It was a great experience to play with guys who had 30+ years of playing cricket behind them, you did do a lot of running around however! Gwynne was the skipper for my first game as an 11 year old and is an absolute gent. As for peaking at 16 it's been all downhill from there!

Q: As a batsman, your big day out in the sun came in 2010 when you smashed 123 for Karim Govani's 5th XI in an excellent win. How did it feel when your brother Steve rocketed past that in his infamous 170* at Woodford Wells 8 years later?

AL: Bit of a surreal day that...we went for quite a few and England were playing Sweden in the QF of the World Cup so everyone was having a pint or two at lunch. I think I was more nervous than Steve was but he played an absolute blinding knock which turned out to be crucial come the end of the season...

Q: You were a key member of three league winning seasons (2017/18/19) how would you sum up them seasons? And what were the main factors in the success?

AL: The first was Josh's first season as captain and was very enjoyable celebrating his 18th and a league win on the same day! The second was a proper nail biter all year and was the first time the 3rd XI won the league after so many years of coming a game or so away. It came down to the last day winner takes all showdown with Wells which we scraped. The third was just us and Brentwood going toe to toe which we won by a single point and was great to see another skipper in Ollie White win his first!

We managed to win some really tight games in all three years that previously we lost by a few runs or wickets and that came down to everyone in the team wanting each other to do well, each player having a settled role in the side and a great blend of youth and experience.

QUICK FIRE QUESTIONS

Favourite ground: (Woodford) Wells.

Favourite tea: Old school Hornchurch...nowadays Wanstead at Nutter Lane.

Favourite shot played by a UCC batsman: Mick Larke's no look pull.

Which cricket rule would you change: Scrap the 'Timed Out' rule - one less worry during a collapse.

Favourite Pundit: Mark 'Sixer' Nicholas.

Most interesting teammate?: Bobby Mack, absolute legend.

Biggest topic of discussion in your dressing room?: Why socks & sliders should be an immediate WOTD nomination.

Podcast recommendation?: Tailenders. Got me through the first 12 weeks of fatherhood and was part of an impromptu UCC drinking sesh in Bristol with Matchin (Thanks Grumps!)

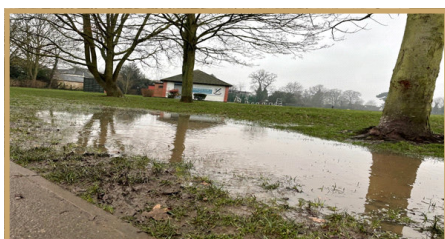
Thank you Anthony. Good luck for the 2021 season.

HOUSE & G

With the new season in sight, Upminster's groundsman Mark Severn and club volunteers have been busy preparing for what will hopefully be a full season of cricket. All three squares were once again aerated in January 2021 and Mark has been treating, feeding and cutting all of the tables since then. The winter fence erected in late September stood the test of time and was finally taken down just before Easter and the sleeves for the removable metal poles that were installed last season to rope off the square during the summer were cemented in thereafter. Twenty hours of rolling was undertaken on the main square in late March, which was perfect timing before the ground became too firm.



With such a wet winter, work on the square was slightly delayed, however towards the end of March, the rain ceased and the square and the outfield started to dry out. In my years of playing for Upminster, I have never known the park as wet as it was this winter. Thankfully, everywhere seems to have dried out nicely and the square in the park is looking as good as ever, which is testament to the specialism of Mark Severn and the tireless work put in by club members.



club scope to host more senior matches, as well as enabling the junior section to play more home matches.

At HQ, the concrete ramps to the containers were installed just after the Easter weekend and it is planned that the stairs to the scoreboard on top of the containers and the fencing around the stairs will be installed in time for the league season.



ROUNDS



Unfortunately, as the ground was so wet at the time, the cement lorry caused damage to the outfield in front of the clubhouse. However 4 tonnes of sand, loam and seed was laid to try and rectify the damage. It will look ugly at the start of the season, but player safety is

important and it is hoped that it won't be long before the area fully recovers.

The electrical installation has been completed by James Evans and all three containers now have light and electricity, where the new bowling machines can be powered. The club has invested in four new bowling machines for the use of the coaches and members and the machines have already proved to be very popular with the younger members. We hope that as a club, with the continued investment in facilities and equipment we can produce quality cricketers that will go on and strengthen the club and hopefully the county.

All squares are looking good and are being prepared for the season and although the main square is ready to go, there is still plenty more work required at Coopers and Campion to prepare the facilities for cricket. In the coming weeks, our regular band of volunteers will be hard at work at Campion and Coopers getting the wickets rolled, the sight-screens ready and undertaking other tasks that will get our out-grounds ready for cricket on Saturday 8th May 2021.



As always, I would like to thank everyone who has given up their time to help with the various tasks over the winter and also getting the grounds prepared for the coming season. I hope this year we will get in a full season of cricket and hopefully the restrictions will start to ease and we will see an end to these very strange times that we have experienced over the past year or so.

Bobby



A WORD FROM OUR SPONSORS



Time flies and I think all of us are particularly pleased this year to see the arrival of Spring and the warmer weather after a particularly difficult Winter.

You must all be very much looking forward to the new cricket season, which for me always follows hot on the heels of the end of the Tax Year! I'm delighted that Hunter & Co are able to continue our sponsorship of the club again for 2021, and I hope it's a successful one for you on the field.

We are also very excited to support the purchase of the new covers for the main ground at Upminster Park. Ollie approached me about this over the winter and explained what an improvement it will make for the playing conditions at the park, and I'm very pleased that we were able to support this very worthy investment. Let's hope they are not called into action too frequently during the season.

Work wise we continue to operate from our office in St Mary's Lane (opposite Waitrose), albeit with Covid restrictions continuing in force for the time being. Please do contact me directly if you have any queries about our services including tax returns, tax planning and company accounts to name just a few. I'll always be glad to have an initial appointment with you to understand your requirements in a little more depth.

May I wish everybody good luck for the coming season across all of the teams, and I hope you are blessed with some warm and sunny weather throughout the next few months!

I look forward to seeing you soon,

Esin

Esin Hunter
esin@eghunter.co.uk

INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE

The club's financial performance in 2020 was outstanding, thanks to some careful planning, two exceptional fundraising events and the remarkable support over the year of the club's membership.

This has allowed us to invest those funds back into the club and improve facilities, something that the committee has taken forward with gusto over the winter. There has been a long list of purchases and it's great to see some of these in action in the recent Easter cricket camps for our Colts members. The new bowling machines have earned their money over the last two weeks, and the boys and girls have certainly enjoyed hitting lots of balls while the bowling machines put down some juicy half volleys.

After last year's installation of new nets and containers at the main ground, the club has started to make further investments in our out-grounds this year. A new heavy roller has been delivered to Coopers School and the committee are on the lookout for another roller to buy for Campion school. With the club growing and looking to nurture our home-grown talent, improving the playing surfaces at our out-grounds will hopefully see the club developing some talented players for future years.

In addition, the club has funded the installation for two new artificial wickets at Coopers school, which will give the club scope to host more senior matches, as well as enabling the junior section to play more home matches.



We have also made the significant investment in roll-on covers for the main ground, enabled by extending the new net facilities which will now double as overnight storage for these nets. These covers have been very generously sponsored by our main club sponsor Hunter and Co and will feature their logo alongside the logo on the canvas.

Next on the shopping list for Scott Simmons is a speed gun, so we will be able to settle the arguments that have raged in the nets over the past few weeks!



S P O N S O R S H I P

Well, here we go! Fingers crossed for a full season.

I'm pleased to announce that Hunters will once again be our main and shirt sponsor, along with continued franchise sponsorship of the Hurricanes, in the Windmill Whack.

A big thank you to two of our existing sponsors, who have raised the bar this year and are providing franchise sponsorship to both men's and ladies Windmill Whack teams - Apple Financial Solutions, with the Financial Firebirds and Financial Phoenix (formally Sharks) and the Reality Group, with the Chairman's Choice and Chairman's Chiefs (formally Phoenix).

I'd like to give a big welcome and thanks to Tolan Construction Services, who are to take on the franchise sponsorship of the rebranded, Tolan T-Birds (formally Panthers).

I'm also pleased to see the return of our other key franchise sponsors for the 2021 season. In the men's Whack, Kushoom Bugh, with the Kushoom Bugh Tigers and Govani Chemist, with the Govani Maestros.

In the ladies Whack, Burley Transport Ltd, with the Burley Bandits and ACE Creams and Tapas, with the Ace Avengers.

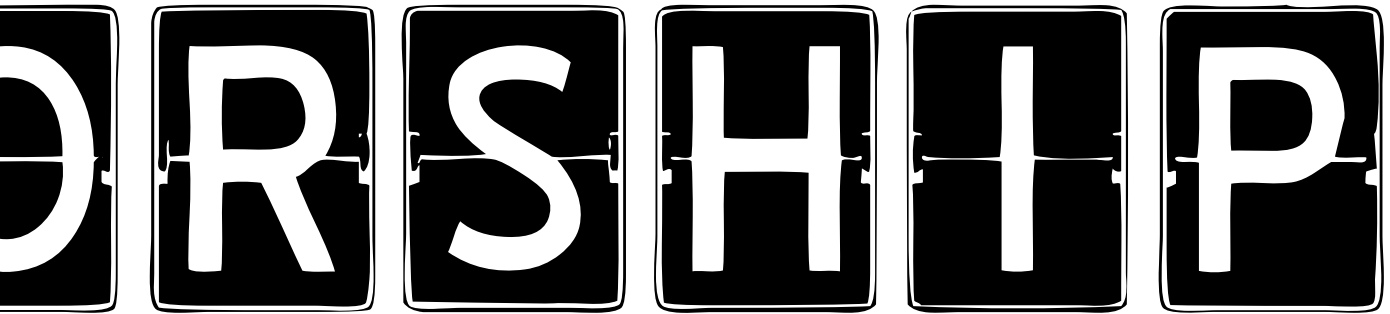
Thank you to all our sponsors, not just the franchise sponsors, but all our sponsors, big or small, for, without your support and commitment to the club, many of these competitions would struggle to survive.

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

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

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





Additional Match Day Sponsorship Options -

Main Ground Match Day Sponsor

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

200 Club

The next draws (Feb, March, April & May) will be held on the first Windmill Whack weekend, Sunday May 9th, at the Pavilion.

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

You can sign up for as many numbers as you wish. Why not have a number for each of your kids (no need to tell them if they win!!). Visit the club website and sign up.

- The cost for a number is £50 - paid in two instalments of £25, 6 months apart.
- A monthly draw, with a chance to win up to £2000.
- With 200 members, the draw would be 10x £200, 1x £1000 & 1x £2000, over the year.
(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.

Stu Horsley
Upminster CC Sponsorship Secretary
Telephone: 07553 787971
Email: sponsorship@upminstercc.co.uk



Pitchero

Since the club adopted Pitchero for its website and membership database, its use has grown and grown and I'm sure is a familiar friend for many of us. Thanks to the incredible work of our Webmaster Kevin Roome, it is looked after on a daily basis and contains all of the latest club news, selection updates and important documents for the running of the club.

Upminster CC is one of the biggest users of Pitchero in the country, and for a period in March we were ranked #1 for usage of the website in the UK! It has also proved to be a hugely efficient and effective tool for collecting subscriptions and match fees, as well as providing the platform for the new club kit offer pre-season this year.

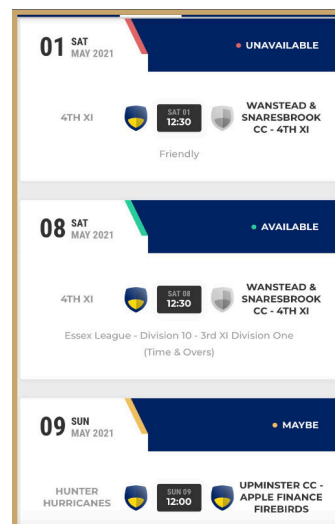
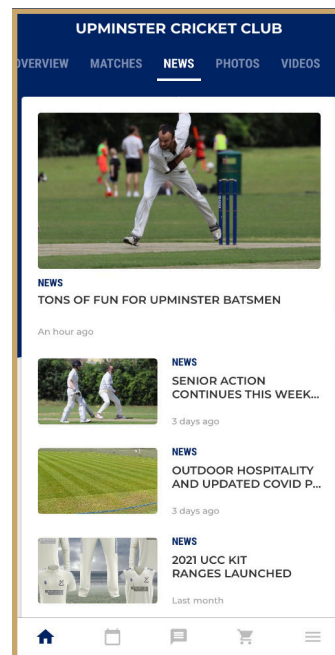
To help the Club run as effective as possible this season, please can we ask all members to do two things.....

1. **Update your Personal Details**.....having your correct personal details on the system (full address, email and mobile number) is really important.
2. **Set your Matchday Availability**.....giving the Selection Committee a clear view of overall availability will help us plan ahead.

With playing membership at a record level this year, we want to ensure everybody has as much opportunity to play as possible. We already have ten 7th XI friendly matches arranged during the season to provide additional matches, and we will review the situation throughout the season.

If you know you are going to be Unavailable for any specific weeks during the season, please update the Pitchero app in advance so that we can get a collective view across the club. Likewise, please set yourself to Available at least 3-4 weeks in advance throughout the season if you are definitely available to play for those weeks. There is also a 'Maybe' option to use as required!

In order to give the Selection Committee the best information possible, you will need to have marked yourself Available on the App in order to be considered for selection for the following weekend. The Selection Committee generally meet on a Monday evening, but this can also be on Sundays so it's important we are all fully up to date for the following weeks.



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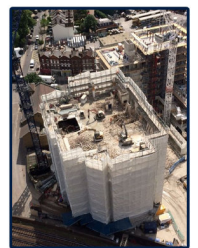
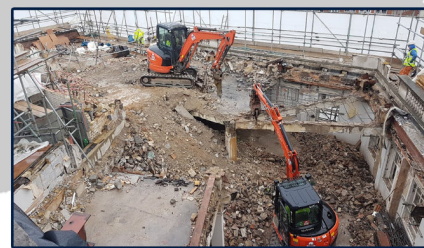
Wishing Upminster Cricket Club
the best of luck for the 2021 season.

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FIRST GAME - 10:00am, 9th May 2021 (subject to regulations) Final - 3.00pm, 29th August 2021



APPLE FINANCE FIREBIRDS - Captain, Tom Daniels

Best Performance: Runners-Up 2020

One To Watch: **Rohan Mayor** - The all rounder has made huge strides in recent seasons with his new found enthusiasm and commitment for the game, and has the skills to impress in this format.

Prospects: The mavericks of the competition came close to claiming their first title in 2020 only to fall at the last. The squad looks powerful and well balanced on paper with the likes of Lamont, Jenkins and Twine, and with Daniels in charge and bringing some fresh ideas they may well finally claim the crown at the sixth time of asking.



CHAIRMAN'S CHOICE - Captain, Peter Thompson

Best Performance: Winners 2016

One To Watch: **Harry Bradford** - Impressed in his first season with the Choice last summer. His nagging line and length should prove effective again in 2021.

Prospects: The team they all love to hate!! Plenty of experience, but do they still have the legs for the modern game?? Naming Thompson as captain is a huge gamble and his style may not be suited to those in this squad. Unlikely to get out of the group stages.



KUSHOOM BUGH TIGERS - Captain, Stu Connor

Best Performance: Winners 2019

One To Watch: **John Morley** - Leg spin is the thing in the modern T20 game and Morley showed why last summer with a host of big name victims. He will be looking to repeat again this summer.

Prospects: The most difficult of franchises to predict. Lots of big names, especially with the bat, but availability and temperament are often questionable. If the big names all play, and the Macks keep their heads, you should be seeing them in action on Finals Day.



GOVANI MAESTROS - Captain, Oliver White

Best Performance: Winners 2020

One To Watch: **Callum Berry** - If his County commitments allow, this man will shine in 2021. Has an all round game made for this competition and could be one of the stars of WW VI.

Prospects: One of the ever present names of the Whack, they gelled superbly to claim the title in 2020. With White and Berry supported by a host of all rounders it would be no surprise if they became the first team to retain their crown.



HUNTER HURRICANES - Captain, William Frost

Best Performance: Winners 2017

One To Watch: **Rob Bannister** - The Vice Chairman showed last season that there age is no barrier even in the modern game. Can he follow up with more all round excellence in 2021?

Prospects: The Canes were hit with availability issues in 2020 and Frost will be hoping that this is not a problem again for this season. If the new skipper can get on top of that matter, and Billy Wright is available for two games a weekend, then they may make Finals Day, if not they could be battling the Choice to avoid the wooden spoon.



WINDMILL WHACK



FIRST GAME - 12noon, 9th May 2021 (subject to regulations) Final - 1.00pm, 29th August 2021



BURLEY'S BANDITS

One To Watch: **Vicky Waters** - The Ladies Club Captain knows the game inside out with years of experience and will be looking to help her side go one better than they did in 2020.

Prospects: Went close to claiming the inaugural title last summer and with Waters supported by other members of the Ladies squad they will be expecting to at least match that performance.



ACE AVENGERS

One To Watch: **Rosanna Lawes** - Cricketing prowess runs through the Lawes clan and Rosanna will be hoping to help her side improve on their debut performance last season.

Prospects: Gradually improved throughout the 2020 competition. If they keep that improvement going then they may surprise a few people this year. Whether they have enough to make the final remains to be seen.



APPLE FINANCE PHOENIX (Formerly "Sharks")

One To Watch: **Freya Killilea** - Impressed in 2020 with the bat and the ball as her side stormed to victory in the first ever Women's Whack.

Prospects: Under a new name for 2021, but the holders will be strong favourites to retain their crown. Could they and the Firebirds combine to make it a win double for franchise owner Kev Heazle.



TOLAN T-BIRDS (Formerly "Panthers")

One To Watch: **Kerry Quinlan** - The Ladies and Girls Secretary will be looking to set a good example in the 2021 competition.

Prospects: Mixed results last year, but with a lot of experience gained during that campaign and some spring training having taken place, they will be looking to make it all the way to Finals Day this time out.



CHAIRMAN'S CHIEFS (Formerly "Phoenix")

One To Watch: **Keziah Dewar** - New to the game last season but with a year's experience under her belt and a competitive edge she is definitely one to watch in 2021.

Prospects: Another side who had ups and downs last season. They will be hoping the change of name may bring them some more consistency in the second year of the competition.



GOOD LUCK TO ALL PARTICIPATING, MAY THE BEST TEAMS WIN!



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