



Matching Green Cricket Club Newsletter

April 2024

A word from our "Lord"!

Welcome to all our members and supporters to a new season and a new newsletter.

There was some point between Christmas and the end of March that I feared if we would ever see any cricket this year, or maybe we should become a sailing club or scuba society. But just on queue the weather gods have been merciful and the flooding on the Green has parted. Yes its cold but dry(ish), thank goodness. So I will have no need to dust off for my wet suit and flippers just yet. They can go back out into the Ark for another year, just in time as there is a lot of cricket to be played.

I think it's fair to say that last season was probably the most successful this club has ever known. Well, certainly in my living memory. Riz Akram and his squad of players managed to win not one, not even two, but three trophies the HEBL (League) and the two T20 knock out trophies (Boardmans Davies Cup and HEBL Cup) last season.

Rumour has it that our closest rivals have strengthened their squads over the winter, so the challenges ahead must not to be underestimated. However, Matching are still the side to beat and we set the standard on and off the field. Good luck to all our players. Train hard, play easy, stay fit, steadfast and let's make it three years in a row.

I must also congratulate both Riz and Usman for representing England Over 40s last year. Both will be looking to continue their success with the England side again this year. I must also mention both Jason Green and Steven Ward for representing the successful Essex over 50s side. To all our veterans flying the flag for this club, in either their National or County sides this season, I wish you well and the best of luck.

Special mention goes to Simon Jeffery and his HEBL 2nd XI. Simon has done a remarkable job as Captain. Having picked up the pieces from the 2022 season, he has galvanised a team of old lags and young steeds into a close knit and

competitive side, which by the second half of last season had notable success. New honours surely are just around the corner for Simon and his team?

Simon has worked hard over the winter in the nets on Monday nights and on Wednesday nights at our weekly circuits training. He has set an example for all of his players to follow. If nothing else, the Second's Captain will be fitter and stronger this year.

I must also mention Simon's star batsman Asad Shah, the highest scorer in the 3rd Division and star bowler Fin Haywood Law. Asad just smashes boundaries for fun and Fin as he only started playing competitive cricket two years ago. Good luck to all the second team for the coming season.

It also amazes me, at the start of every season, to see how our youngsters have grown and developed over the winter. It must be something in the beer or just global warming, as everything seems to grow quicker these days. I am expecting great things from the youngsters this year. Notably Olly Hartnell who has established himself as the new no. 3 on Saturdays for the 1st XI. After Riz and Wardy he was our youngest top scorer for the season with over 700 runs, behind Wardy's 800 and Riz's 1000 runs.

It's not just about runs accrued it is more about how many games you help win. Olly's 48 in the Davis Cup Final was the highest score of the match and ensured Matching had enough runs in the bank to win. In most books he should have been Man of the Match, but no one would begrudge Sibbers receiving the reward for his stunning one-handed catch and two wickets.



NEW members always welcome

On a bit of a tangent, I must mention Charlie Bennett's 64 ball duck at Nazeing which ensured a draw (much to Kevin Neville's annoyance) that saved the game and helped seal the league title for Matching. Never have I seen a more entertaining duck. Well played young man. I loved the way you ground down the Nazeing bowlers.

Another notable youngster is Jack Porter. His bowling scarred the living daylights out of most opposition opening batsmen. But not only his bowling but also his fielding. He always surpassed himself in the field, which came as a surprise to any batter who thought they could sneak a quick single to him. Much to our amusement, they would learn the hard way. Especially in the game against Bishop's Stortford. The opening pair in that game were off to an amazing start and may have chased our total of 340 down only to succumb to Jack's heroics at short cover, diving stop one-handed, on one knee throw the stumps down, celebrate. Batsmen; "yes , no, sorry".

We are very lucky to have Jack in the side, for how long I can't tell, not before he is stopping a much softer but larger ball for a living.

On the bowling front Matching has always been a spinners paradise. Strange considering how small the ground is. Dan Sibley with over 40 wickets was unplayable and our top slow bowler once again when the pitches dried up. But both Usman with over 40 wickets and Jason with close to 50 wickets were the best in the league and spearheaded Riz's attack. We will need their skill again along with some drier weather and harder pitches so they can continue terrorising opening batsmen.

I must also mention some absent friends. Hassan Ali who is greatly missed. This year he's plying his trade at Hoddesdon, but he can't stay away from our Club for cricketing reasons, or is it just social reasons? Best of luck Hass for this coming season, I look forward to welcoming back where you belong sometime soon. I also want to wish Mathar (Tina Turner nicknamed by the lads) our star leg spinner, who has left to play closer to home in South London. I wish you all the best for the coming season.

Thank you to all of our team who organise and run our social side. Rachel Leamon and her team of able helpers have made our licenced bar in the Pavilion the first point of call. The bar is open to all players, social members and their guests on weekends or whenever cricket is being played and especially on Colts training nights. The Pavilion and Green are a family favourite, where the kids can let off some steam while the parents just relax with a cool refreshment.

We will be raising money throughout the season for the Club and St Mary's Church Restoration Fund. To start off the season we all enjoyed and learnt a thing or two at our Spring Quiz. On May Day Bank Holiday the Club will be helping to run the celebrations, with a return to the Green for the first time in over 20 years. There will be stalls along with our renowned barbeque and bar by the Pavilion. Then we hope you can join us for the annual Car Club Show on 14th July.

Later in the year we will be hosting Bonfire Night before we finish off the year with a good old sing-song and some carols just before Christmas. If you can help out or just love our burgers, then we look forward to seeing you.

On a national level it is an Olympic year. No cricket this time, as there is break dancing instead, how is that an Olympic sport? But fingers crossed cricket will be included in the next Olympics in the USA in 2028. The game needs all the support it can get. In the meantime we hope to celebrate our Olympians in the best way, in the Pavilion after a hard days cricket or training in August with a some of our finest liquid refreshment.

My thanks goes out to Salim Akbar and his Sharks Academy. Salim devotion to the improvement in all our players is unstoppable. He runs the club nets and circuit training throughout the winter. This summer he will continue Friday night training sessions on the Green for both girls and boys aged from 7/8 up to 13/14 year olds from the end of April through to the beginning of August. He will be assisted by Brad our ECB Level 3 Coach and his team of club helpers. We have also entered the West Essex Cricket League to offer U11 soft ball Terrier Cricket matches during the early part of the season on Sunday mornings. On Sunday afternoons we will see a return to friendly cricket where we will place the emphasis on youngsters running the games. Olly Hartnell will continue to be Sunday Captain. You have been warned don't park your car too close to the ground!

Senior players' coaching continues on Wednesday nights. Don't expect just to come and bowl or bat, but be prepared to work hard and sweat.

To all our new players I welcome you to the best village club in the area. We have the best setting, training, team spirit and of course hospitality. We will continue to offer all our Saturday and Sunday opponents the best teas in the county. While other's may offer nothing more than a cuppa, we will continue to offer a royal welcome to all or visitors. My appreciation and thanks goes out to all our tea ladies, lasses and lads, you are the best!

Keeping the Green in such good condition takes a heck of a lot of time and hard work, so my thanks goes to all our voluntary ground crew and helpers, especially Rob Leamon, John Kenny, Nigel Cobby and Bob Barnes. All the maintenance and repairs cost an incredible amount of money. Without the financial help from our sponsors and kind charitable donations the Pavilion and surroundings would not look quite so stunning. My special thanks go out to all our supporters and especially our main sponsors, Martin from Harrington Brothers and Simon from Age CCTV.

Finally, to all our members and volunteers, I want to thank each and every one of you for your support and unwavering efforts, however great or small, to make our Club what it is... the best. We are Matching Green... triple winners 2023!

SIMON HARTNELL
Chairman

MGCC News...

Simon Jeffery makes guest appearance for Lynton & Lynmouth CC

Last July, when visiting Steve and Rebecca Parker's hotel in Lynton in Devon, Simon was offered the opportunity to guest for the local club at their spectacular 'Valley of the Rocks' ground. Lucky Simon! Simon and Steve both wore their MGCC kit at this magnificent ground, a must do visit for anyone travelling to North Devon.



Christmas Carol Evening a huge success

We were delighted to host the community Christmas Carol singing on Sunday 17 December. It was a great turnout with everyone enjoying the mulled wine, minced pies and hot chocolate. With the help of St. Mary's Matching Church and in particular Rev Julia Baldwin, we are planning to make this an annual event.



Winter Fitness Classes

With the expert help of club coach Salim, we ran a series of fitness classes in Matching Village Hall during the Winter months. These were free to anyone in the community. We hope to repeat the classes next year so look out for details later in the year.

New electronic scoreboard installed

The number boxes on the scoreboard were becoming an issue as people scoring, especially visitors, were less than sympathetic with their age! The committee, with the help of a grant, therefore took the decision to replace the scoreboard with a new electronic version. Our thanks to Kevin Buchart and Terry Soper (who supplied the original scoreboard) for agreeing the change was necessary and to Epping Forest District Council for their financial assistance.



Chairman's finger

Lordy cut his season short, quite literally, when he decided to have an argument with a concrete mixer during the summer. Unfortunately the cement mixer won. Simon hopes to be fully fit for the 2024 season, minus a finger tip!



Voneus National Village Cup

We've been given a bye in the first round of this season's competition. Our 2nd round tie is on Sunday 12 May and will be away at the winner of the 1st round match between High Roding and Bentley.

Twins for Gaj

A few weeks ago Gaj Gohel was delighted to share the news of the birth of twins Dharvi (girl) and Dh waj (boy). We welcome two new additions to the MGCC family with open arms and can't wait to see them on the Green. **Massive congratulations from all of us to the Gohel family.**

MGCC News...

England Counties over 40s debuts

Riz and Usman were selected to play for England Counties Over 40s against Ireland on Wednesday 31st May 2023. The match was played at Uxbridge CC. Usman took a catch and bowled 6 overs for a miserly 19 runs. Riz scored 14 runs batting at number 3. Ireland won the match by 53 runs.



England football debut for Jacko



Jack Porter made his England u15 debut in Spain in April 2023 and in the same month was named in the Arsenal U18 matchday squad for the first time for their game against Leicester City. We are immensely proud of Jack's achievements and we're all keeping a close eye on his development (whilst hoping he can still play cricket for us!).

Quiz Nights a great success

During the off-season, Rachel and her social team ran two very successful Quiz Nights at Matching Village Hall. They were both great fun and raised over £650 for club funds.



RIP

Vice-President Richard Morris sadly passed away this February. Richard, along with his wife Naomi had been great supporters of our club for many years. Accompanied by David and Margaret Morgan, they regularly attended club events.

Hugh Scantlebury passed away peacefully at home, age 86. Hugh was a lifelong supporter of all things cricket, playing in his younger days and an avid spectator in later life. He particularly enjoyed going to watch Essex where he was a Life-member. Hugh was delighted that his two grandsons, Nick and Jack, developed their own love of cricket at MGCC.



Squin Clarke died recently aged 86. Squin was a well known character at Bishop's Stortford CC and the rugby club and helped set up the Davies Cup. He brought a smile to everyone he met.



NEW Thursday Club

We are starting a NEW Thursday Club.

It's FREE to everyone in the community to get involved, whether a member of MGCC or not (although you will be encouraged to join!).

So what is the Thursday Club? It's a place for people of all ages to meet up, **have a chat, enjoy a cuppa** and a slice of cake or two. You can pop in to the club at any time between 11am and 1pm.

We'll also take the opportunity to do the odd job in and around the pavilion to help keep it looking spick and span. But there is no pressure to do anything if you don't want to. Just come along and enjoy the company and the surroundings.

So spread the word! The cricket pavilion is THE PLACE TO BE on Thursday mornings in the Summer!!

EVERY THURSDAY 11am - 1pm



2023 MGCC awards



1st XI Batsman of the Year – Riz Akram

1st XI Bowler of the Year – Usman Aslam

**1st XI Allrounders of the Year – Jason Green
– Steve Ward**

1st XI Most Improved Player of the Year – Jack Porter

2nd XI Batsman of the Year – Asad Shah

2nd XI Bowler of the Year – Finlay Heywood-Law

2nd XI Allrounder of the Year – Laurence Hutchinson

2nd XI Most Improved Player of the Year – George Porter

Other major achievements –

The 1st XI won the Herts & Essex Border Premier League for the second year running and completed the League double by winning the League Cup as well.

We won the Boardman's Davies Cup for the first time since 1998 completing an unprecedented TREBLE!

Riz Akram scored the most runs (1000) in the HEBL Premier division including a club record 188 not out against Thorley (12 6's and 20 4's). He amassed an amazing 1404 runs in all competitions.

Steve Ward once again took the most wicket-keeper dismissals (34) in the HEBL Premier division and added an impressive 842 runs during the season.

Charlie Bennett's 69 ball duck at a cold and very wet Nazeing Common proved to be pivotal for the season, proving that the whole XI can contribute to success. His innings, along with some other hilarious moments contributed to Charlie being awarded the **Champaigne Moment of the Year award**.

Olly Hartnell had another fine season scoring 712 runs and just missed out on a league century falling 4 short away at Bishop's Stortford 3rd XI.

Asad Shah scored an impressive 446 runs in just eight innings in the 2nd XI including a masterful 132 not out against Thorley 2nd XI.

Jason Green took an impressive 32 wickets (who knows how many that would have been if all the catches had been taken) whilst adding a handy 396 runs with the bat.

Riz Akram and Usman Aslam represented England over 40s for the first time.

Simon Hartnell, Steve Ward and Jason Green represented Essex over 50s during the summer.



Riz Akram **Batsman of the Year**



Usman Aslam
1st XI Bowler of the Year



Jack Porter
1st XI Most Improved Player



George Porter
2nd XI Most Improved Player



Riz was presented the Clubman plate by club Chairman Simon Hartnell

Clubman of the Year Riz Akram

Riz had a magnificent season in 2023. Personally, he scored four 100's and totalled 1404 runs for the season. More importantly he led the club to its most successful season ever! Leading from the front, Riz's enthusiasm and commitment to the club was unwavering. His captaining of a talented team was excellent and he led the 1st XI to three titles including the HEBL Premier league title for the second year running.

The Riz Report

What a incredible season 2023 was... who would of thought we could possibly win the treble?

Winter nets with SHARKS CRICKET ACADEMY

After winning the Tees Herts & Essex Border League Premier League title in the 2022 season, our goal was clear; to hit the winter nets hard and make sure we were ready to start the 2023 campaign in good shape, our aim to retain our title. Thanks to our club Head Coach Salim Akbar, we continued the challenge with Sharks Cricket Academy at HECC Cricket. During the winter training we welcomed Mather Saeed, a leg spinner, to the ranks.

2023 season

Straight after winter nets we started pre-season outdoor training but, due to the wet conditions, we were restricted to the amount of training we could do.

Voneus Cricketer Village Cup

We started the competition very well with good wins over Ingatestone & Fryerning and Little Baddow. After a couple injuries to key players and the unavailability of Wardy, we fell short against Bentley in the regional quarter final, loosing by 2 wickets.

Tees Herts & Essex Border League Premier Division

Our pre-season friendlies were cancelled due to wet weather. The first round of league games were also all abandoned. Not the ideal start!

Our first league match came with a strong win over Nazeing Common – we bowled Nazeing out for 90 and chased the runs down very comfortably. We continued from the previous year and led from the front with Simon Hartnell taking 4 wickets in 8 overs for just 7 runs and Dan Sibley taking 3 wickets for 14

runs. The win set our standard for the season and we continued playing our best cricket.

We played 15 league games, winning 12 over the two formats and loosing just one (away at Stansted Hall & Elsenham) with two matches drawn.

Highlights of the league

We played away at Nazeing on a miserable afternoon with rain and very windy conditions, and their new pavilion in development, it was not our best away game. We were missing key players Simon Hartnell, Jason Green and Peter Liversidge and Mather Saeed. Nazeing batted very well and scored 242 in 43 overs. In return they gave us 47 overs to chase the target. We did not bat to our potential and were never in control. We were heading towards a disappointing loss until I sent in club hero, Charlie Bennett, at number 7. Charlie executed our team plan to perfection. He defended brilliantly for a defiant 0 not out from 64 balls and helped drew the game.

Leading performances

Riz Akram – 1404 runs

Steve Ward – 842 runs and 31 wicketkeeping dismissals

Olly Hartnell – 712 runs

Usman Aslam – 42 wickets

Jason Green – 32 wickets

Dan Sibley – 31 wickets

Overall, we set a incredible standard by the way we played the 45 over games and we adapted exceptionally well to the split format well which led us to winning the league.

HEBL League Cup

For the first time, we played our T20 games in our blue MGCC kit. Our bowling



attack was exceptional led by our club coach Salim Akbar! Our bowling unit was incredible that got us to our league cup trophy!

We beat Potter Street and Church Langley in round one, Abridge in round two, Nazeing Common in the semi-final and Bishop's Stortford in the final.

Boardmans Davies Cup

We finally did it... our first win in the competition since 1998! After impressive Thorley conceded and wins over Farnham and Little Hallingbury, we faced Audley End & Littlebury in the final at Bishop's Stortford CC.

In front of a large crowd (thanks to our supporters!), we were restricted by some excellent bowling to 120 from our 20 overs. Our innings was held together by an exceptional 48 from Olly Hartnell. In an intense second half, we bowled brilliantly, holding Audley End & Littlebury to 108 for 5 in their 20 overs and won by just 12 runs. Jason Green bowled his 5 overs for a miserly 15 runs and Dan Sibley 3 overs for 7 runs. With a fantastic catch on the boundary Dan was also awarded Man of the match!

The treble

Winning both cups – HEBL League Cup, Boardmans Davies Cup and then the league... what a year incredible season!

I'd like to thank to Salim for his input and experience which helped boost our clubs moral. The training with Sharks was very well organised and very enjoyable. As a club we have adapted very to the challenges put to us in training which helped us overcome traumas in previous cup finals!

Our success came with many challenges

League Cup 1/4 final, 11th July – Lordy calls me at around 4.30pm, an hour before kick off against Nazeing – “Riz, I have cut off my finger and on my to A&E!” Right... how do digest this Lordy?! My original thought was he is joking... then few minutes later the thought of Lordy with no finger put me in shock!! We now have our key player without a finger and we’re a player short!!

With the worry of Lordy with no finger and in A&E, luckily Harry Capewell came to the rescue... we now had 11 of our best players available. We won the toss and decided to bat. We managed to put on a reasonable score of 132 for 7, Nazeing fell short by 4 runs thanks to our impressive bowling attack, Usman Aslam 5 wickets for 20 runs from his 4 overs, Salim Akhbar 4 over for 19 runs and Gaj Gohel 4 overs for 20!

Greeny injury – Greeny was out injured during mid-season and was unable to bowl. He then played half of the season with a calf and hip injury. Greeny has played a huge part for our club’s success. Without blowing his trumpet too much (!!) his experience and match winning bowling display against Audley End & Littlebury in the Boardmans Davies Cup final was one of our club’s best moments of the year. And with the bat, Jason played a crucial role in our mid-order to help our team to safety after we lost early wickets.

Spider – one of our most reliable batsmen... scored runs in difficult situations and got the team out of trouble many times! And one of the most loved up players in our dressing room! My best innings from Spider in our only league loss against Stansted Hall – after our top order batting collapsed, Spider came in at 7 and hit a brilliant 65 from 66 balls help us reach a respectable score of 243. And in the **League cup final...** we were chasing 109 against Bishop’s Stortford III in 20 overs – Spider’s gutsy innings of 25 in the middle order was vital in helping us win the League Cup!

Ozzie – Usman was our leading wicket taker, our most valuable fast bowler. He made his England over 40s debut this season against Ireland! Exceptional all

round guy on and off the cricket ground and who can forget Ozzie home made tea! Member of Sharks Academy

Wardy – my opening partner is crime... Steve has consistently destroyed bowling attacks. and continues to be the best keeper in the league. Our 1st wicket partnerships included 207, 202, 183, 168, 130. Wardy scored 842 runs and took 34 victims with the gloves! Wardy’s only downfall is he’s a Spurs fan!

Olly – Flamboyant top order batsman... My favourite innings by Olly was in the Davies Cup final. Ollie played a match winning innings of 48. After loosing Wardy, Olly joined me in the 1st over and immediately adapting well to our team plan and we put on a crucial partnership of 74. Overall Ollie scored 712 runs during the season!

Sibbers – Team hero... Man of the Match in the Davies Cup final – Sibbers is the most crucial player in our team. My vice-captain, he played the season with a back and knee injury but still managed to take 32 wickets.

Mather Sayeed – Our new leg spinner who turns the ball square! Mather bought something different to the side, taking 23 wickets. Mather was one the best spinners in the league and made a impact immediately taking crucial wickets at key stages. Ended the season with the nickname Tina (aka Tina Turner), and donned a Tina Turner wig during our league winning celebrations.

Jack – Jack played a huge part in our success taking 18 wickets in 46.4 overs! Jack has a incredible bowling action and is one of the best young cricketers in the league! His bowling display against Takeley was very special (4 for 29 runs). Jack saved many runs with his incredible fielding skills.

Gaj – the most loved up player in our team! My favourite player, Gaj took 20 wickets and contributed well with the bat whenever the team needed runs in the mid-order. Gaj was our go-to guy!

Sausage – our posh boy and incredible hard hitting batsman. On his day Peter can destroy any team! He has the safest hands in our team but unfortunately was not available for the majority of the games. When he did play Peter contributed very well with the bat and

on the field. My favourite inning from Peter against Bengoe – we were batting on a green seamy wicket, our top order struggled to get on top of Bengoe’s attack... Peter came in at five scoring a brutal 40 from 27 balls that helped us put on a match winning score!

Fin – a dream player for every club! Fin helped us out many times and genuinely deserved his place in our undefeated 20/20 team – Fin’s fielding in the 1st has been incredible saving many runs in the field and he held vital catches – most importantly (for me) fin is a Gooner.

Charlie – CLUB HERO... 64 BALL 0... probably won us the league!! “Charlie... stick to playing cricket leave the umpiring to dad”!

Hasan – played a few games for us and managed to run out a very annoyed Olly (LOL) against Bengoe.

My huge thanks to everyone who has played a part in achieving treble. I am truly grateful to have a incredible bunch of guys playing cricket at our club. We have a fantastic club spirit. We worked hard in the winter and our training with Salim really payed off.

On a personal note – 1000 league runs and top scorer of the league (188) and receiving my awards from former Essex cricket player and my mate Graham Napier was the icing on the cake!

I am extremely grateful to Simon Hartnell. Whilst in agony from his freak accident his support and guidance was vital to me. His ability to find strength and encouragement to talk me through game plans and his selfless support while in pain shows Simon’s character and desire to take Matching Green to further success. Huge thanks also to our Grounds team, Rob, Bob and Lordy for helping make the Green the great place it is.

I think its fair to say our previous coaching with Owais Shah made a huge impact. We invested well and our results are testament to that. We have grown stronger as a club. A huge thanks to the committee for their continued support.

Our goal for next season is simple... back to nets with Sharks and comeback stronger and hit the ground running in our efforts to retain our trophies.

Community Legends

by Bryan Russell

Bryan helped with our entry into the 'Voneus Village Cup community legends' competition... We are delighted to enter the competition and will do so with the same enthusiasm and spirit with which, every year, we enter the National Village Championship Cricket competition.

The tiny village of Matching Green, consisting of about 200 dwellings, is clearly blessed by its geography. It was formed in the early Middle Ages when villagers set up residences around the 16 acres of established common land, creating the largest village green in Essex and home to our long established village cricket club.

One historic use of the land included gravel extraction, which left us a legacy in the form of a village pond, sitting attractively adjacent to the Edwardian style pavilion and forming the boundary line for about 100 yards. There is a gentle slope with an extraordinary gravitational draw to one of the other key buildings in the village ... the Chequers Pub.

Matching Green is also blessed by its history. The oldest evidence of a cricket club on the Green is 1833. The local paper printed a score card of a game v Elsenham but shortly after this first record another card was discovered (v Felsted) which included the name of Frank Silcock. Despite this being shortly after the dawn of cricket, Frank Silcock is featured in many 'History of Cricket' books as he played 33 times for England as a fast 'round-arm' bowler, and was a regular in the W.G. Grace 'challenge matches' from that period. In the Oval 'Gentlemen v Players' match of 1868 he bowled W.G. Grace for 19 in a stint of 71 (4 ball) overs, taking 7 for 132, before being bowled out himself – F. Silcock 10 caught Walker bowled W.G. Grace. The 'Gentlemen' won that game by an

innings and 87 runs but the following year, at Lords, Frank Silcock bowled W.G in each innings and was on the 'players' team which won by 3 wickets. His family, Saddlers by profession, lived in what is now Saddlers Cottage, overlooking the cricket pitch, next to the pond.

In the Second World War, the US built an airfield for bombing missions, and an anti-aircraft gun was placed on the outfield, which, although removed after the war, still requires the groundsman to make occasional repairs to various drainage machines when he forgets the exact location of the old foundations.

The club has always been conscious that it can never be anything other than a 'village' team and for the vast majority of its existence only played 'timed' or friendly matches. In 1996 that all changed when most of our Saturday fixtures, all against neighbouring village clubs, decided to create a league. We declined to join them but the following year, when a second division further decimated our fixture list, we were forced to join. Our decision to treat games as friendlies, sharing the captaincy, backfired and we finished bottom. The following year, we chose the best captain and won promotion and we retained our position in the top division, occasionally winning the title, ever since.

As more and more clubs joined this 'village' league, travelling became a bigger issue and we, as a club, agitated to reduce travelling and eventually the league split into smaller, more geographically appropriate leagues.

Another, perhaps bigger, social change happened at about the same time. Many schools stopped playing and teaching cricket, drying up our supply of youngsters, and the club decided, with one eye on our own self-preservation, to undertake this role ourselves, with several players committing themselves to go for the level 1 and 2 ECB coaching badges. One of our 'guest' coaches, as a personal favour to our current club captain Riz, was former England player Owais Shah, who has come several times a year and is fabulously motivating, not only for the youngsters, but also



the coaches. Ever since that time, every Friday evening through the summer, up to 60 boys and girls are in small groups around the outfield playing the game. The success can be counted by the fact that over 30 boys - and girls - have played for West Essex in different age groups, and several for the combined County teams.

This has caused the club to have a close relationship with the County and we are proud that the Essex 'over 50' team occasionally use our idyllic cricket setting as their home ground.

A more recent event took place in 2009 which underlines our confidence in the future. We rebuilt our old wooden hut of a cricket pavilion and raised over £160,000 to create the fabulous Edwardian style pavilion which we proudly occupy today, and which allows us to broaden our activities beyond cricket for the benefit of the village.

The fact that the Cricket Pavilion is the only building on the Green makes it ideal for many wider village functions and a list of such activities, mostly organised by the club, include - bonfire night firework display, keep fit sessions (I admit we didn't organise those), the catering at the annual village charity 'vintage sports car' show, Mayday celebrations, a Village Ball to commemorate the building of the new cricket



Christmas carols outside the pavilion on Sunday 17th December 2024. We hope this will be an annual event.

pavilion, 'inter village pub' football and cricket games, and this year, as an experiment, we had 'outside' Christmas carol singing led by our lady Vicar which was a fabulous success - refreshments in the warmth afterwards, of course. We offer our facilities wherever we can.

One exceptional example, was a 'post-covid' charity match between the club and staff at Princess Alexander Hospital (Harlow) organised by the club which raised over £15,000 for the NHS and huge numbers of people came to support the event and the day.

We are a very forward looking club but there is one area where we refuse to let a tradition die quietly. Village

cricket teas. Many clubs, probably the majority, have absolved themselves from responsibilities of cricket teas and players have to bring their own food. We will fight, metaphorically, to continue this tradition, and even promise that spectators are welcome to pick over any remaining crumbs of cake with a cup of tea in hand while sitting on the pavilion balcony enjoying England's most timeless pursuit.

Thanks for your help with our entry Bryan. Fingers crossed and we might even win! (Ed)

JUNIOR COACHING RESTARTS ON THE GREEN IN APRIL



Our popular cricket coaching for **boys and girls aged 5 to 13 years** starts again on Friday evenings.

Friday 19th April – Sign-up Evening on The Green

Please come along from 6pm to sign your children up for our popular coaching sessions.

Cost £60 per child which includes all coaching and social membership to the club for the family. **We will also have the NEW junior coaching shirts available at £15 each.**

Friday 26th April – First coaching session

Juniors ages 5-8: **Fridays 6pm – 6.45pm**

Juniors ages 9-13: **Fridays 6.30pm – 8pm**

AND... don't forget to tell your neighbours and friends!

2023 League standings



THE TEES
Herts & Essex
Border League

Herts & Essex Border League – Premier Division

Pos	Team	P	Won fixed	Lost fixed	Won flex bat 1	Lost flex bat 2	Won flex bat 2	Lost flex bat 1	Win draw	Lose draw	Even draw	A	C	Bat (BP)	Bowl (BP)	Pen	Points
1	Matching Green I	18	7	1	3	0	2	0	1	1	0	3	0	14	10	0	307
2	Stansted Hall & Elsenham I	18	7	1	2	0	3	0	1	1	0	2	1	10	8	0	294
3	Nazeing Common I	18	6	2	2	0	0	1	3	1	0	2	1	28	22	0	256
4	Abridge	18	4	4	0	0	5	1	2	0	0	2	0	27	17	0	244
5	Farnham	18	5	3	0	0	1	0	3	3	0	3	0	43	26	0	225
6	Bishop's Stortford III	18	4	4	0	2	2	2	1	0	0	2	1	37	25	0	202
7	Hockerill I	18	2	6	0	1	1	2	0	2	0	3	1	47	33	0	164
8	Bengeo I	18	3	5	0	2	1	4	0	0	0	1	2	42	26	0	163
9	Takeley I	18	0	8	1	1	1	2	0	2	0	2	1	49	27	0	142
10	Thorley I	18	2	6	0	2	0	4	0	1	0	2	1	48	21	0	126

Herts & Essex Border League – Division 3

Pos	Team	P	W	L	T	NR	Void	Forfeit	Aban	Bat (BP)	Bowl (BP)	Pen	Points
1	Stansted Hall & Elsenham II	18	12	1	0	1	1	3	0	4	4	0	318
2	Hockerill II	18	8	5	0	2	1	2	0	20	11	0	246
3	Albury	18	8	4	0	2	3	1	0	11	14	0	230
4	Matching Green II	18	5	4	0	3	2	3	1	17	10	0	202
5	Thorley II	18	4	7	0	2	1	2	2	23	15	0	153
6	Stansted II	17	2	8	0	1	1	3	2	32	23	0	145
7	Harlow V	18	5	6	0	0	1	2	4	18	23	5	141
8	Little Munden	18	3	4	0	1	2	3	5	20	9	0	114
9	Thundridge	17	3	4	0	3	1	2	4	16	11	0	107
10	Broxbourne V	18	1	8	0	1	3	1	4	22	25	0	67

The latest league results and up-to-date league tables can be found at <https://hertsandessexborderleague.play-cricket.com/Competitions>



MGCC Club Kit



All club kit (except children's training shirts) is available exclusively on-line www.gray-nicolls.co.uk/collections/matching-green-cc

***** ALL PLAYERS MUST WEAR THE LATEST SPONSORED KIT *****

Please follow the club on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and our YOUTUBE channel

First Davies Cup win since 1998!



Veterans of 1988
- only Spider played
in both finals.



2023 Boardmans Davies Cup winners

Back row: Graeme Bowerman, Salim Akbar, Mathar Saeed, Oly Hartnell, Dan Sibley, Steve Ward, Jack Porter, Usman Aslam. Front row: George Porter (sub), Jason Green, Riz Akram, Simon Hartnell (injured), Gaj Gohel.

Do you recognise any of the winners in 1998?

Back row: Graeme Bowerman, Rob Leamon, Steve Byford, Bryan Russell, Mark Iliffe, Mickey Bashford, Dave Warburton.
Front row: Pete Weaver, George Deller, Simon Hartnell, Steve Hume, Matthew Hartnell.



Players and supporters celebrate the success

MGCC at the 2023 HEBL league dinner



Lordy collects the HEBL Premier Division trophy from our very own (and Tees' Managing Director) Ashton Hunt



Riz and Wardy collect their trophies from Essex legend and Matching friend Graham Napier



Riz and Ashton



HEBL divisional and cup/shield winners with Essex cricket legend Graham Napier

Matching Juniors 2023 winners



2023 Junior award winners

	Under 7	Under 9
Most Improved Player	Ziggy Nilsen	William Horgan
Most Effort Awards	Arthur Sadgrove Francis Nilsen	Marnie McMahon Dexter Pickering
Batsman of the Year	Edward Barker	
Bowler of the Year	Tyler Dawkins	
Most Improved Players	Harley Perry Abery	
Most Effort Awards	Darcie Sendall	
Tony Little Most Improved Junior of the Year	Jamie King	
Junior of the Year	Jack Porter	
Best Attendance Award:	Alice Sadgrove, Arthur Sadgrove, Maisie Galley, William Horgan, Dexter Pickering, Sophia Horgan, Neve McCabe	

2023 Jack Petchey Foundation Achievement winners



- January – Fin Heywood-Law**
Finn has established himself as a key member of the 2nd XI.
- May – Jamie King**
Jamie is very dedicated to improving his cricket.
- September – Nancy Lorimer**
Nancy is a popular, regular attendee to coaching.

Our young members (Aged 11-25) are encouraged to nominate winners for a 2024 Jack Petchey Achievement award. If you'd like to nominate someone please contact Martin Figg. Winners will be given the opportunity to suggest how the grant money should be spent. Last year the funding was used towards renewing the pond netting.

The view from behind the stumps

by Andrew Bennett, Essex Panel Umpire



I was looking forward to the 2023 season in order to consolidate my umpiring experience with a desire to move up the ranks of the umpiring community. However, the season started with a 'squelch' and, to be honest, the only thing I gained experience of was calculating potential rain delays and drinking tea.

It was 29 April before the sun dared to show itself and any matches got underway. My first match of the season was a baptism of fire. An Essex Cup match featuring Essex Premier league champions Wanstead and Snaresbrook and I was also being assessed. No pressure then. It was also my first time umpiring Riz's brother, Arfan, which is like umpiring a slightly smaller, noisier version of Riz.

As it happens my assessment went well with the only feedback being that I should ensure I stand side on to the scorers when signalling a leg bye. I interpreted that as meaning that I did OK!

Unlike the 2022 season when sunstroke was a real threat 2023 turned out to be a lot wetter with trench foot a possibility. The weather played a major part in a lot of matches and with different leagues and competitions having different regulations relating to rain delays it is essential that the umpires are up to date with the regulations for the match in hand. Inevitably with a delay there is one team that wants to get out and play and the other wants to stay off. More than once I've heard "we played in worse last week" despite the pitch being under water. But we can't win as there was a match in the East Anglia Premiership last season where the

groundsmen was reported for a level 2 warning for verbal abuse of the umpires for daring to say that 'his' pitch was playable! On the subject of weather it is worthwhile reminding players, and spectators, of the ECB guidance regarding thunder and lightning as I had to take players off a couple of times last season. Nobody wants to stop play but lightning kills.



Go indoors immediately if:

- There is sudden thunder without lightning; or
- You see lightning in the clouds; or
- Flash to bang time is 30 seconds or less; or
- You see lightning strike the ground or building etc. nearby.

Then keep watching and listening. 30 minutes after the last thunder it should be safe to resume play

Delays inevitably add to the complication when calculating over rates etc. and in some leagues where slow over rates, depending on the

format, are penalised by penalty runs or points deductions, maintaining an accurate view of the over rate is essential. Again no umpire wants to penalise a team but we can't ignore the laws and regulations at a whim.

I always maintain a continual dialogue with the captains, letting them know whether they are ahead or behind the rate and by how much. If they listen and make a concerted effort to increase the rate then all is well. However, if captains don't want, or more commonly, get too fixated on the match, to listen then action has to be taken.

I stood in an Essex Premier League match last season where one of the sides was well behind the rate from the first hour. We were telling them this and of course "we will get quicker when we bring the spinners on" was uttered. The match was very close so fields were changed every ball so inevitably the over rate didn't improve and once the allotted time was over (it was only 15 overs/hour so 3 hours 20 minutes) we had no option but to impose penalty runs which gave the match to the batting side. The fielding side only needed one wicket so the slow over rate possibly cost them the match. There was, unfortunately, histrionics and abuse but the umpires were in a no-win situation. If we had not applied penalty runs and the fielding side had taken that wicket then the batting side would have justifiably been angry that we had not played within the regulations.

One of the worst abusers was the chairman of the losing club. Ironically, in a match later on in the season he congratulated me for not giving one of his batsmen out, run-out, on a close call,

winning them the match. Some people have short memories!

I have found that one of the biggest differences between higher and lower division teams is the over rate. Higher division teams can bowl to a field resulting in less field movements and will zip to their position at the end of an over without the inevitable “where do you want me skip” being shouted from at least five fielders.

Overall I think the level of player behaviour was good across the season. Yes there were the odd flashpoints but I can't say I have any complaints other than the match referred to above.

I continue to be amazed at how single minded a lot of players are. In one match I gave a lad out LBW. He was clearly unhappy, lots of shaking of head and I could see him on the boundary gesticulating with his teammates. Later in the match I was standing at square leg and the said batsman approached me and said, “I think I hit that ump”. Note that he ‘thought he hit it’ to which I replied, “You may have done but if you did it was pad first” to which he replied, surprisingly, “yea could have been”. So not only was he not sure whether he hit it he also wasn't sure whether it hit his pad first. Yet still he was moaning!

I had the opportunity in the season to stand in a few women's county and regional matches. These featured some England and ‘Hundred’ franchise players so it should come as no surprise that the quality was very good. Ok it might not have the pure power and pace of the men's game but the technique and skill level is very high and I was very impressed by the quality of the fielding.

As I wanted to increase the range of matches that I stood in I also took the opportunity to stand in a number of schools matches. These were also of good quality. One of the matches featured a touring side from South Africa. As you can imagine all of the SA boys were huge and only bowled one way - fast and short. I think the English lads were a bit shell shocked by the number of balls that whizzed past their noses despite the softness of the pitch.

Standing in a wide cross section of matches last season did mean that I got to stand with a large number of different umpires. The advantage of this is that you get to see how they operate and you can often learn from them. Some do, however, have some eccentric behaviours. In one T20 cup match I was standing with an experienced East Anglia Premiership umpire who, prior to the match, tore into the young groundsman for daring to carry the stumps to the middle. Then, when offered water to wet the holes with, he declined it as he carried his own ‘special’ water for the stump holes. Umpires can be as weird as players at times.

“Umpires can be as weird as players at times!”

I also umpired a number of HEBL matches across the season and I think I got to see all of the teams play at least once. From what I saw I would say that the quality is improving with close competition across the top four or five sides with the odd upset thrown in. However, the shortage of umpires is a handicap to the league as it is far more enjoyable if you are standing with another umpire.

I did stand in a number of close matches throughout the season but for me the closest, and most bizarre, came in the final match of the season, Bengoe vs Bishop's Stortford III's in HEBL premier division. Stortford posted 240 and after losing a couple of early wickets Bengoe were 230 for five with five overs remaining. 11 runs needed, five wickets in hand, five overs to go. Surely not. Well four wickets fell in four overs leaving Bengoe needing two runs to win in the final over with the batsman who had

scored a lovely 115 facing. Cue an edge to second slip and pandemonium.

One thing I did become aware of in the HEBL league was the number of wides conceded. My sore shoulders were testament to this. Scouring PlayCricket I did some quick analysis which showed that across the season an average of 18.6 wides were bowled per team per match! The best team averaged 9.5 wides per match, the worst 24.8. On two occasions teams bowled 40 wides in a match. That's not only 40 runs but 6.6 extra overs. It isn't surprising that the teams that finished in the top three in the league bowled, on average, fewer wides than all of the other teams bar one. Hockerill claimed the award for the fewest wides bowled across the season. Credit to them.

I was reminded of the dangers of umpiring on a few occasions during the season. Two of the occasions were probably my fault for poor awareness - once hit by the ball that ricocheted off the stumps and once I collided with a fielder knocking me to the ground (video is available on YouTube). However, I claim I was blameless for the most painful knock. I had given a player out LBW, the batsman was walking off and the fielders were starting to congratulate the bowlers, all apart from one lad, who oblivious to what was going on, thought he saw the opportunity for a run out and pinged the ball straight into my sensitive area! His teammates were as shocked as I was. Perhaps it wasn't the accident he claimed it was!

For this season I am undecided where to spend my time standing. The Hamro Foundation Essex League provides high quality cricket but a lot of travelling to the dodgier parts of Essex and East London. The Saracens Herts League also could involve a lot of travelling although probably to nicer places and I could venture to the East Anglia Premier League which would involve a LOT of travelling. HEBL is nice and local, and whilst I will do some HEBL matches, would be repetitive if I were to do full time. But wherever I end up I hope we all get a lot of good quality cricket in.

Matching MAY DAY festival

BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY 6 MAY

MATCHING GREEN

BBQ ICE CREAM VAN STALLS OF ALL TYPES MAY POLE DANCE TEA & CAKE TENT MAY QUEEN
CAKE BAKING COMP LICENSED BAR MAY QUEEN FUN DOG SHOW TOMBOLA & RAFFLE LOTS OF FUN!

11.00-17.00

**LOTS OF FUN FOR EVERYONE!
LOOK OUT FOR MORE DETAILS**

If you would like to help, have a stall or get involved in any way please contact:
Rachel McCabe 07813 553562
or
Linda Latchford 07551 173741

FUN DOG SHOW
ALL ENQUIRIES » Carrie Harrington
07834 399953

CAKE BAKING COMPETITION
LADIES - Best Victoria Sponge
MEN - Best Brownies
CHILDREN - Best Cup Cakes
JUST TURN UP WITH YOUR CAKES ON THE DAY!

SUPPORTING ST. MARY'S, MATCHING CHURCH RESTORATION FUND

UPCOMING EVENTS

Voneus Cricketer National Village Cup - 2nd round
Sunday 12 May 1pm start
Away at High Roding CC or Bentley CC

Essex 50+ 2nd XI v Suffolk 50+
Wednesday 5 June 1pm start

Herts & Essex Border League XI v Tees
Thursday 4 July 6pm start

Harlow 250 year celebration match
Sunday 21 July 1pm start at Harlow CC

HEBL Cup and Shield finals
Tuesday 23 July 6pm start at Hockerill CC

MGCC v Chinghoppers ALL DAY match
Wednesday 24 July 11.30am start

President's Day
Sunday 28 July 1pm start

Boardmans Davies Cup final
Sunday 11 August 2pm start at BSCC

Voneus National Village Cup Final
Sunday 15 September at Lords




The car show is a hugely important fundraiser for the club. It's hard work, but great fun! We run the outside bar, barbecue and tombola/sweetie stall. We also need people on hand to help the car club with the logistics of running the show! This year the Friendship Club are unable to run the tea and cake tent so, with the help of Sara and Janet, we are running that as well! And don't forget, the car club also donate proceeds to many local charities.

We will need more help from members than ever! Speak to Martin or Rachel to get involved.



MGC&SCC SHOW (in association with MGCC) **Sunday 14th July 2024**

PLEASE PUT THE DATE IN YOUR DIARY – we'll need a big band of volunteers on the day!

Presidential thoughts

from Rob Leamon, President

All sports clubs rely on a group of volunteers who help run clubs. At Matching Green Cricket Club we are no exception, relying on help to run all aspects of the cricket club.

An outsider might easily think the club almost runs itself. We are indebted to an active committee who run the day-to-day club business, most of the committee are playing members or older players who have moved from playing cricket to watching, with the occasional beer and conversations about how we thought the present team were going wrong!

However, I think the real hero's of any club are the people who help without ever being playing members. These are the people that contribute so much. We have large events like the May Day Festival, Classic Car Show, Fireworks Night and the Christmas Carol Concert. These events need lots of people to help make them run smoothly. They are great fun to be part of and the competition at the car show between the bar and the barbecue to raise the most is VERY competitive! Thanks to Kevin and Rachel and all their helpers for running the bars through the year and Sara and Janet for their catering expertise.

The ground is always in need of man hours to keep the cricket pitch and outfield to a high standard. We have help from Bob Barnes, along with all the experts he calls upon to help keeping the equipment in a good state of repair, and for all his equipment he brings to the green. John Kenney is always around to help if we need help, (as well as a loan of Christmas tree for carol concert!) and also for his pyrotechnic displays on the 5th of November. Nigel Cobby is another who comes up and cuts around the pavilion to keep everything looking neat and tidy.

We have several coaches who come to help the colts on Friday nights so thanks to everyone who helps out and especially to Salim, who runs coaching though the winter. Salim also runs the Wednesday fitness sessions. Hopefully one or two of our middle-age players are looking a lot fitter than we did this time last year!

And we can't forget all the parents, grand-parents, wives, husbands, who help with teas on match-days. We are one of the teams in the league who are passionate about providing teas for opposition teams. We feel it is a very important part of the game of cricket at the weekends whether League, colts or

just friendly games.

The biggest thanks go to Secretary Martin, Treasurer Martin, Chairman and groundsman Simon, 2nd team captain and pavilion caretaker Simon, First team captain Riz and of course Social Secretary Rachel.

To anyone I've forgotten to mention, my thanks for all your help. We are very lucky at Matching. We have a fantastic ground to play cricket and a wonderful group of people that help out, making it a pleasure to play cricket, watch cricket or just coming to one of our social events to chat and laugh with friends.

A word of warning.. everyone gets older or circumstances change and you're not able to help out as you would want. **We always look for fresh faces to help out, either on the committee or at social events. Any amount of help would be appreciated however big or small. What I can promise you is you won't regret it, it's loads of fun, and incredibly rewarding.**



Team MGCC enjoying the last few dregs from a sold out bar after the 2023 Classic Car Show.

Please follow the club on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and our YOUTUBE channel

Wides, wides and more wides!

Watching cricket from the boundary edge, the 'old git brigade' often comment on the number of wides being bowled by all teams, in particular in the HEBL Premier Division where leg-side wides are now part of the league rules as they are in limited over cricket around the world.

The consequence of so many wides is considerable. Apart from giving away an extra run and having to re-bowl the ball, the extra time it takes to bowl the allocated deliveries is, in some cases, becoming extreme.

Three hours (15 overs per hour) should be enough to complete an innings and in the days of people wanting shorter games, surely it's down to the bowlers to

hone their skills to ensure fewer wides are bowled.

In a moment of boredom, Andrew Bennett, our own umpiring guru, looked at each of the HEBL Premier club's results in 2023 (using PlayCricket) and came up with the following chart. Not great reading for many clubs. Thankfully our 1st XI are far from the worst, but there is room for improvement!

In one unnamed HEBL Premier league match last season, during both innings an incredible 85 wides were bowled turning a 90 over game into a 104 over match, no doubt ending around 9pm! Quite unbelievable!

The chart below shows that Hockerill 1st XI bowled the fewest wides in 2023, an average of 9.5 per game.

	06-05	13-05	20-05	27-05	03-06	10-06	17-06	24-06	01-07	08-07	15-07	22-07	29-07	05-08	12-08	19-08	26-08	02-09	Total	Average
Hockerill I	N/A	5	10	7	12	8	16	5	9	3	N/A	N/A	13	N/A	19	6	4	16	133	9.50
Nazeing Common I	N/A	13	14	17	40	10	17	22	14	3	15	N/A	6	N/A	6	7	5	N/A	189	13.50
Matching Green I	N/A	11	14	21	20	15	14	10	18	16	33	N/A	19	N/A	9	17	7	14	238	15.87
Stansted Hall I	N/A	18	31	14	24	18	25	18	3	21	16	N/A	13	N/A	10	10	8	18	247	16.47
Thorley I	N/A	7	32	17	17	19	25	0	29	13	13	N/A	14	N/A	12	38	20	N/A	256	18.29
Abridge	N/A	8	16	22	23	22	33	17	27	22	11	11	20	N/A	15	16	17	30	310	19.38
Bishop's Stortford III	N/A	16	9	25	35	23	18	19	20	21	35	N/A	29	N/A	4	20	7	22	303	20.20
Farnham	N/A	15	16	35	34	25	22	27	30	30	11	N/A	12	N/A	40	16	15	0	328	21.87
Takeley I	N/A	25	21	23	40	15	14	36	10	15	N/A	22	14	N/A	42	34	36	24	371	24.73
Bengeo	N/A	9	53	16	33	19	24	33	16	15	34	N/A	21	N/A	28	32	6	33	372	24.80
Total		127	216	197	278	174	208	187	176	159	168	33	161	0	185	196	125	157	2,747	18.56
Average		12.7	21.6	19.7	27.8	17.4	20.8	18.7	17.6	15.9	21	16.5	16.1		18.5	19.6	12.5	15.7		

WHO ARE THESE FAMOUS UMPIRES GIVING WIDES? NO PRIZES IF YOU GET THEM ALL!



Harlow CC... 250 years old

Our close friends, Harlow CC are celebrating their 250th anniversary year and have planned a full agenda of cricket against 'old' cricketing clubs (including Matching Green) as well as a few modern favourites. As part of Harlow CC's celebrations we are delighted to have accepted the offer to take part in a celebration match, during their cricket week, on Sunday 21 July.

Harlow CC play further matches against Sawbridgeworth, Bishop's Stortford, Upminster, Harlow Town CC and Maldon CC. Maldon were their opponents during their first recorded cricket match in September 1774.

All these matches start around 1pm and will feature tradition cricket teas available to all visitors for a small sum of monies to be donated to Harlow CC's Bursary Fund.

Harlow are also hosting The Barbadian High Commission XI in an all-day match.

Cricket week will also feature a match between The World Cricket Exchange XI and The Club Cricket Conference XI and MCC are sending a team to play Harlow's President's Invitational XI.

Their year finishes on the 28th September with a celebration Gala Dinner with guest Graham Gooch.

Thanks to Harlow CC President (and Matching Green CC Vice President) Alan Howick for the scorecards opposite. They come from a large collection of historical artifacts that Alan has collected over the years.

Eagle-eyed amongst you will see our opponents were Moor Hall (not Harlow). Moor Hall was one of the smaller clubs which amalgamated to create what we now know as Harlow CC.

The match, played on 20 July 1850, featured a two inning match in which Moor Park ended up the winners by 52 runs.

**Harlow CC v.
Matching Green CC
Sunday 21 July, 1pm**

We hope as many MGCC members will attend this celebration match to watch and enjoy Harlow's hospitality.



A Match on Monday the 20th of July 1850 at Moor Hall v. Matching Green

Moor Hall					Matching Green							
Order of going in	Batter	How out	Score	Runs	Order of going in	Batter	How out	Score	Runs	Total		
1	W. C. Chen	C. Matthews	Matthews	102	16	5	W. C. Chen	Matthews	112	14	26	
2	W. C. Chen	C. Matthews	Matthews	102	16	6	W. C. Chen	Matthews	112	14	26	
3	W. C. Chen	C. Matthews	Matthews	102	16	7	W. C. Chen	Matthews	112	14	26	
4	W. C. Chen	C. Matthews	Matthews	102	16	8	W. C. Chen	Matthews	112	14	26	
5	W. C. Chen	C. Matthews	Matthews	102	16	9	W. C. Chen	Matthews	112	14	26	
6	W. C. Chen	C. Matthews	Matthews	102	16	10	W. C. Chen	Matthews	112	14	26	
7	W. C. Chen	C. Matthews	Matthews	102	16	11	W. C. Chen	Matthews	112	14	26	
8	W. C. Chen	C. Matthews	Matthews	102	16	12	W. C. Chen	Matthews	112	14	26	
9	W. C. Chen	C. Matthews	Matthews	102	16	13	W. C. Chen	Matthews	112	14	26	
10	W. C. Chen	C. Matthews	Matthews	102	16	14	W. C. Chen	Matthews	112	14	26	
11	W. C. Chen	C. Matthews	Matthews	102	16	15	W. C. Chen	Matthews	112	14	26	
Byes				0	26	Byes				0	3	5
Leg Byes				0	1	Leg Byes				0	3	4
Wide Balls				0	1	Wide Balls				0	2	3
No Balls				0	0	No Balls				0	0	0
				30						70	250	

A Match on Monday the 20th of July 1850 at Moor Hall v. Matching Green

Matching Green					Moor Hall							
Order of going in	Batter	How out	Score	Runs	Order of going in	Batter	How out	Score	Runs	Total		
1	W. C. Chen	C. Matthews	Matthews	111	5	1	W. C. Chen	Matthews	111	5		
2	W. C. Chen	C. Matthews	Matthews	111	5	2	W. C. Chen	Matthews	111	5		
3	W. C. Chen	C. Matthews	Matthews	111	5	3	W. C. Chen	Matthews	111	5		
4	W. C. Chen	C. Matthews	Matthews	111	5	4	W. C. Chen	Matthews	111	5		
5	W. C. Chen	C. Matthews	Matthews	111	5	5	W. C. Chen	Matthews	111	5		
6	W. C. Chen	C. Matthews	Matthews	111	5	6	W. C. Chen	Matthews	111	5		
7	W. C. Chen	C. Matthews	Matthews	111	5	7	W. C. Chen	Matthews	111	5		
8	W. C. Chen	C. Matthews	Matthews	111	5	8	W. C. Chen	Matthews	111	5		
9	W. C. Chen	C. Matthews	Matthews	111	5	9	W. C. Chen	Matthews	111	5		
10	W. C. Chen	C. Matthews	Matthews	111	5	10	W. C. Chen	Matthews	111	5		
11	W. C. Chen	C. Matthews	Matthews	111	5	11	W. C. Chen	Matthews	111	5		
Byes				0	13	Byes				0	6	24
Leg Byes				0	4	Leg Byes				0	1	1
Wide Balls				0	1	Wide Balls				0	1	1
No Balls				0	0	No Balls				0	0	0
				30						38	93	

Moor Hall winning by 52 runs.

MATCHING GREEN 1ST XI
2023 HEBL Premier Division Champions
2023 HEBL League Cup Champions
2023 Boardman's Davies Cup Winners

Sponsored by



**harrington
brothers**
RESIN DRIVEWAYS



2024 FIXTURES



Cut this page out and keep it safe. Home fixtures are in bold.

APRIL

Sat 20	1st XI v. Goresbrook	F	H	1pm
Sat 27	1st XI v. Basildon & Pitsea	F	H	1pm
Sat 27	2nd XI v. Hockerill 2nd XI	F	A	1pm
Sun 28	u11s v. Epping	WT	A	10am

MAY

Sat 4	1st XI v. Bishop's Stortford 3rd XI	LP	H	1pm
Sat 4	2nd XI v. Broxbourne 5th XI	L3	A	1pm
Sun 5	MGSCC MEET			
Sun 5	u11s v. Theydon Bois	WT	H	10am
Sat 11	1st XI v. Little Hallingbury	LP	A	1pm
Sat 11	2nd XI v. Abridge 2nd XI	L3	H	1pm
Sun 12	u11s v. Epping Foresters	WT	A	10am
Sun 12	1st XI v. High Roding or Bentley	NVC	A	1pm
Tue 14	1st XI v. Little Hallingbury	LC	A	6pm
Tue 14	2nd XI v. High Roding 3rd XI	LS	H	6pm
Wed 15	Ploughboys v. Savills	F	H	6pm
Sat 18	1st XI v. Willingale	LP	H	1pm
Sat 18	2nd XI v. Albury	L3	A	1pm
Sun 19	u11s v. Epping	WT	H	10am
Sat 25	1st XI v. Bengoe	LP	A	1pm
Sat 25	2nd XI v. Hoddesdon HEBL 3rd	L3	H	1pm
Sun 26	u11s v. Theydon Bois	WT	A	10am
Tue 28	2nd XI League Shield 2nd Round*	LS	A	6pm

JUNE

Sat 1	1st XI v. Nazeing Common 1st XI	LP	A	1pm
Sat 1	2nd XI v. Harlow Town 3rd XI	L3	H	1pm
Sun 2	u11s v. Epping Foresters	WT	H	10am
Sun 2	MGSCC MEET			
Sat 8	1st XI v. Abridge 1st XI	LP	H	1pm
Sat 8	2nd XI v. Harlow 5th XI	L3	A	1pm
Tue 11	1st XI League Cup 2nd Round*	LC	H	6pm
Tue 11	2nd XI League Shield Semi-Final*	LS	A	6pm
Sat 15	1st XI v. Farnham	LP	A	1pm
Sat 15	2nd XI v. Stansted Hall & Els 3rd XI	L3	H	1pm
Sun 16	Sunday XI v. Hatfield Heath	F	H	2pm
Wed 19	1st XI v. Stansted Hall & Elsenham	DC	A	1pm
Sat 22	1st XI v. Hockerill 1st XI	LP	H	1pm
Sat 22	2nd XI v. Takeley 2nd XI	L3	A	1pm
Sun 23	Sunday XI v. Loughton	F	H	1pm
Tue 25	1st XI HEBL Cup Semi Final*	LC	A	6pm
Thu 27	v. Ploughboys (Richard Morris Memorial)	F	H	6pm
Sat 29	1st XI v. Stansted Hall & Els. 1st XI	LP	A	1pm
Sat 29	2nd XI v. Dunmow 3rd XI	L3	H	1pm
Sun 30	Sunday XI v. Leyton Orient Supporters	F	H	1pm

JULY

Thur 4	HEBL XI v Tees XI	F	H	6pm
Sat 6	1st XI v. Bishop's Stortford 3rd XI	LP	A	1pm
Sat 6	2nd XI v. Thorley 2nd XI	L3	H	1pm
Sun 7	Sunday XI	F	H	1pm
Sat 13	1st XI v. Little Hallingbury	LP	H	1pm
Sat 13	2nd XI v. Little Munden	L3	A	1pm
Sun 14	MGSCC CLASSIC CAR SHOW			
Sat 20	1st XI v. Willingale	LP	A	1pm
Sat 20	2nd XI v. Thundridge	L3	H	1pm
Sun 21	Sunday XI v. Harlow (250 years celebration)	F	A	1pm
Tues 23	HEBL Finals at Hockerill CC			A 6pm
Wed 24	v. Chinghoppers	F	H	11.30
Sat 27	1st XI v. Bengoe	LP	H	1pm
Sat 27	2nd XI v. Stansted 2nd XI	L3	A	1pm
Sun 28	Sunday XI v. President's XI	F	H	1.30
Tues 30	West Essex Cricket Board u11 match			H 11am

AUGUST

Sat 3	1st XI v. Nazeing Common 1st XI	LP	H	1pm
Sat 3	2nd XI v. Dunmow 3rd XI	L3	A	1pm
Sun 4	MGSCC MEET			
Thur 8	West Essex Cricket Board u13 match			H 11am
Sat 10	1st XI v. Abridge 1st XI	LP	A	1pm
Sat 10	2nd XI v. Harlow 5th XI	L3	H	1pm
Sun 11	Boardman's Davies Cup Final at BSCC			2pm
Sat 17	1st XI v. Farnham	LP	H	1pm
Sat 17	2nd XI v. Stansted Hall & Els. 3rd XI	L3	A	1pm
Sat 24	1st XI v. Hockerill 1st XI	LP	A	1pm
Sat 24	2nd XI v. Broxbourne 5th XI	L3	H	1pm
Sat 31	1st XI v. Stansted Hall & Els 1st XI	LP	H	1pm
Sat 31	2nd XI v. Abridge 2nd XI	L3	A	1pm

SEPTEMBER

Sun 1	Sunday XI v. Woodcutters	F	H	1pm
Sun 1	CAR CLUB MEETING			
Sun 8	Sunday XI v. TBA	F		
Sun 15	Sunday XI v. ACME	F	H	1pm

Correct at time of going to press.
 Keep an eye on [PlayCricket.com](https://www.playcricket.com)
 where all of our fixtures are listed.
 Hold your phone camera over this QR
 code and click on the link.

PLAY-CRICKET
.COM



KEY

LP – Herts & Essex Border League Premier Division	NV – The Voneus Village Cup
L3 – Herts & Essex Border League Division 3	LC – HEBL League Cup
F – Friendly	LS – HEBL League Shield
	DC – Boardman's Davies Cup
	WT – West Essex CB u11 Terrier League

We are looking for a **REGULAR SCORER** for our 1st XI.
 Please ring Riz or Martin if you can help.



Matching Green Classic & Sports Car Club are holding their monthly meetings on the Green this summer. Come along and see some of their lovely cars and enjoy a beer and a chat. You might even want to join the club!

Memories of Matching Green CC

Some memories of playing cricket against Matching Green Cricket Club from the late Hugh Scantlebury (who we sadly lost in 2023), by kind permission of the Scantlebury family.

I left school in 1954 and started playing cricket for Hatfield Heath the following summer. I was then away at college for three years and only played for them after the summer term ended. I then played regularly for the Heath for about ten years except from late July onwards when we started harvesting grass seed. I think that some years if the harvest was safely over I might have had the odd game in September.

When I started at the Heath there was no pavilion. There was a smallish brick and tile building where the mowers, deck chairs, a little scoreboard and other necessities were stored. Players arrived already changed, ready to play. I think that teas were served alfresco and presumably we had a power source to provide hot water. I can't remember what we did or where we went if it rained.

When we went to play at Matching Green it was all very different. For a start they did not have a road going through the outfield as we did. Nor had their pitch suffered a direct hit by a large bomb in the war as ours had. Instead they had a lovely flat ground and a good wicket with a pond on the boundary edge and of course a real pavilion.

The pavilion was not the one that was knocked down in 2012, but it's predecessor given I think by an High Laver farmer Mr. Gingell, sometime before the Second World War. Tragically he was later killed in a traffic accident at the cross roads in Old Harlow.

I believe this pavilion was replaced in the

late 1950's or early 60's and was commandeered by the then vicar of Matching and re-erected on the glebeland between Kingstons and Upper Hall where some of it still survives.

Some of this building has been replaced or altered over the years, but I believe the bit still showing traces of green was where the scorers sat and the scoreboard numbers were hung. If you look closely you can still see the where the opening was to provide a view of the cricket from the inside.

At the time the vicar had two sons who had ambitions to go farming and this pavilion was used to store materials and any hay that they made on that piece of glebeland. Their use of the land appears to have been somewhat shortlived, because over the years the land has now dissolved into scrub with trees up to thirty feet high. But although the pavilion still survives it is a very sad sight.

When I first played against Matching they were captained by a man called Harold Dupont. Whether he lived in the village or not I don't know but to us he did not really seem much of a local and it always amused us that a bell was solemnly rung before the start of every innings.

Mind you Matching had some useful cricketers. The opening bowlers were Dick Andersen and 'Caker' Perry whose arms were thicker than my legs and bowled what is known as a 'heavy' ball. Then there was 'Fringy', Charlie Holdgate, who was one of those just short of a good length bowlers, so

common in cricket that seek to try the patience of batsmen.

I remember Tony Tuke and Horace Whitbread as wicket keepers. Horace also used to open the batting. Another Whitbread 'Wag', possibly a brother

or cousin, was also a batsman. One time playing against us he was suffering from cracked ribs and batted with another pad strapped under his shirt. Clifford Tinney was a really good bat if he got a start. He employed Wag at Housham Hall as a tractor driver for several years before Wag left to become the local publican. Ken Springham was another from Housham Hall who played cricket and I also remember Rodney Holdgate batting.

In the 60's the pond was cleaned out and made bigger under the auspices of Tiffany Gingell, the son of the man who gave the original pavilion. Originally he worked for C & A Gould, the agricultural merchants at Moreton Mill and knew all the local farmers. He was a great friend of my father and was always calling in for coffee or tea. In those days he lived at Shetlocks in Matching Tye but later moved to manage a farm in the Pelhams.

After the improvements to the pond, it always seemed that many more balls were hit into it. Two personal memories of playing cricket for the Heath at Matching; once batting at number four I faced the last three balls of the first over. Secondly we were facing defeat at Matching when our last batsman, 'Toffee' Turner, normally the scorer, went out to face the final three balls of the game from one of their fast bowlers. Hemmed in by close fielders he then confidently snicked all three remaining deliveries over or through the slips for boundaries and finished 12 not out, a lifetime best.

We'd be delighted to hear of your memories of playing cricket either for or against Matching Green.

The club has a rich history which needs to be seen and heard. We hope to publish a history book in time for the clubs' 200 year anniversary.

If you'd like to help please contact **Bryan Russell on 07885 218463.**



The old pavilion in the Glebeland. February 2013.



Please support our club sponsors



harrington
brothers
RESIN DRIVEWAYS



PROUD SPONSORS OF MATCHING GREEN CC



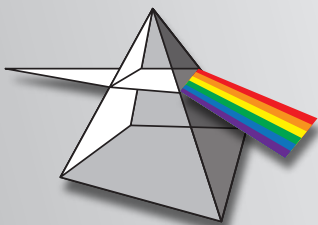
A local family run business providing first-class driveway surfacing and swimming pool surrounds for over 50 years.

RESIN DRIVEWAYS A SPECIALITY

also shingle, tarmac, block paving, sandstone

CALL US TODAY! 01277 546016

www.harringtonbrothersltd.co.uk



AGE®

CCTV & Access Control

01487 831971

www.agecctv.co.uk

Nationwide CCTV/Access Control installation and maintenance



Full system design for CCTV, Access Control and ANPR systems. Offering the best solution to suit your budget and needs.



Designed and printed by MFP Marketing
www.mfpmarketing.co.uk 07540 636488

Club Contacts



President Rob Leamon

07788 778351 rbleamon1@hotmail.co.uk

Chairman Simon Hartnell

07711 422314 srhartnell@aol.com

Secretary and Newsletter Editor Martin Figg

07540 636488 martin@matchinggreenc.com

Treasurer Martin Ormondroyd

07976 626918

MartinOrmondroyd@mrtaccountants.com

47 DeBohun Court, Saffron Walden CB10 2BA

Asst Treasurer (Players) Charlie Bennett

07831 973692 charliebennett2806@icloud.com

Asst Treasurer (Social membership) Janet Hartnell

07808 002961 janethartnell1@gmail.com

Saturday 1st XI Captain Rizwan Akram

07904 278617 riz@keymembersgroup.com

Saturday 2nd XI Captain Simon Jeffrey

07786 545399 simon@agecctv.co.uk

Sunday Captain Olly Hartnell

07740 598616 ollyhartnell@aol.com

Club Coach Salim Akbar

07930 180777 salimakbar75@yahoo.com

Social Secretary Rachel McCabe

07813 553562 blueleamon123@yahoo.co.uk

House Chairman Simon Jeffrey

07786 545399 simon@agecctv.co.uk

Lead Club Welfare Officer Steph Galley

07970 781313 stephgriffiths118@hotmail.com

Additional Club Welfare Officers

Martin Figg, Rob Leamon, Salim Akbar

Extra committee members

Jason Green 07725 630088

Dan Sibley 07841 215328

Charlie Bennett 07831 973692

Grounds Team:

Rob Leamon, Simon Hartnell, Bryan Russell,

Bob Barnes, John Kenney, Nigel Cobby

WE WANT YOU

and your skills!

Can you spare some time and help with a role at the club?

Our whole club is run by volunteers. If you can offer us any help, we'd be delighted to hear from you. We are looking to fill a few roles at the club.

Can you help?

Fixture Secretary to help arranging fixtures for friendly fixtures (start in October 2024).

Juniors Coordinator to help with the Juniors on Fridays and during matches.

Scorer to score matches on-line using PlayCricket (on an iPad) and maintaining records.

Umpire FREE training is available next winter.

Help with socials and running the bar

If you can help with any of the above, or have a business skill that may be useful to the club, contact Martin on 07540 636488 or martin@matchinggreenc.com

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.



Follow us today!

Social membership

Come and join us!

Just £20 (min) donation per year.

If you've enjoyed reading this newsletter we simply ask you to do two things.

1. Pass the newsletter on to a friend or colleague for them to read.

2. If you are not already a member of our community club, please join!

You can email any of the contacts above for details.

Social membership is a minimum donation of just £20 per year.

