

MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM THE RAMS!!!



ROCKHAMPTON CC EARN GCB FOCUS CLUB STATUS!

2010 will be an exciting year and the Club are delighted to announce that we have successfully been granted Focus Club status. Committee members announced this fantastic achievement at the recent Annual General Meeting and as a Club we would like to **thank all members for your support** and involvement in keeping the Club successful and moving forward. More information will follow on this later.

AGM ROUND-UP

Everybody loves a Rockhampton AGM; the music, the games, the disco lights, the curries, cakes, crisps and chocolate, the costumes, the dancing girls and the cider (in fact everything that makes for a great Rams social)... is well and truly put to one side.

Then we talk about the cricket, the money, the machines and the miscellaneous and when everyone has had some drinking time we ask for a load of volunteers to take on the vital jobs that keep the Club going.

Don't worry though... If you did miss this outstanding highlight of the festive season and you didn't get the chance to get more involved there is a post available! We are looking for a **Director of Youth Cricket** to help the Youth Managers co-ordinate their teams and to be a link between the youth setup, the Committee, Senior Teams and League Committees.

This is a role that anyone affiliated to the Club could comfortably take on, player, parent or other. If you do have an interest in this or would like to help out with youth training or coaching then please contact our **Head Coach, Neil Higginson 07515 349987 e-mail: higgy864@hotmail.com**.

In other news Matty Tyler has retained the First Team Captaincy, but David Lane and Richard Mackinnon have stepped down from their Second and Third Team Captaincy roles, both after very successful stints. Jimmy Cooke is taking on the Twos whilst Tom Cullimore takes over the Threes who of course secured promotion this season as **Winners of the Stroud League**. Congratulations lads and cracking job Macca! (The Rams answer to Mike Brearley).

INAUGURAL 4TH TEAM

2010 will see the first ever Rockhampton Cricket Club 4th X1 as the Club continues to develop on and off the field. The idea is that this Team will offer further opportunity for both **youth and experience**. There is no limit to how 'experienced' you can be to play for the Rams! If Jerry White can still cut it in the First Team behind that well furrowed beard then there is no excuse for not dusting off the whites, popping down for a net session and registering yourself as a playing member this season. The rumour mill is already throwing out some interesting father and son playing combos for next season so family rivalries could reach an all time high!

PRE-SEASON NETS

Pre-season nets will start on in January 2010 at the Castle School Sports Hall. Details are:

Youth

Friday evenings 8th January – 26th March 19.00pm to 21.30pm

Seniors

Sunday afternoons 10th January – 28th March 16.30pm – 18.00pm

The coaching staff are busy pulling together innovative and progressive session plans with the focus being on dynamic and focussed cricket (Playing Smart). More detailed information on this will follow but any questions contact Neil Higginson as detailed above.

ECB TICKETFORCE 2010 – MARCH THE 26TH, 27TH AND 28TH

We have registered the Club to be a part of this, the biggest annual volunteering event in sport and look forward to welcoming as many of you as possible to the Club during the above weekend.

Whilst the final details are yet to be agreed, you can expect a warm welcome, food, to get stuck into some renovation projects and a chance to get to know more about the Club and how it works to serve the community.

In short this is your chance to make a real difference to your club – something that you can all be proud of – resulting in a real sense of achievement.

All being well this will include the Youth Registration event as well.

Youth Cricket in 2010

A brief update on an ever increasing Youth set-up.

We have decided to re-name the respective Youth Sections to:

Juniors – U9 and younger

Colts – U11 and U13

Youth – U15 and U17

This reflects what other sports do and also promotes a sense of progression for all our younger players.

In addition to the usual 20:20 midweek Bristol Youth Cricket League format, we will be entering an U11 team into the Stroud and District League. Also we have entered teams at U11, U13 and U15 into the 'Longer format of the Game' being put together by the Gloucestershire Cricket Board. These matches will be played on Sundays throughout the summer from 30 to 45 overs.

So, much more cricketing opportunity for the young players; BUT please be aware that the Club will depend on and benefit greatly from more parental support and volunteers to enable this to be a success.

**Have a very Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year,
tell your friends how great we are and bring them
to nets in January!!!**