

Chelmsford Cricket Club
Report for 20 and 21 April

And so it begins, Chelmer Park hosted its first cricket of the season at the weekend. The weather was bright if crisp and the pitches as would be expected given the long winter, rather slow.

The firsts had already had a run out, beating Halstead on the previous Sunday but it was not particularly obvious as they struggled to overcome Hadleigh & Thundersley. Dan Hagen, Jack Sterland, Nisarg Patel and Rob Hayto had been in decent form with the bat in the opener and Mark Drain and Paul Jones in devastating form with the ball.

Mark Drain and fifteen year old Aaron Beard were the matchwinners as they shared an unbroken stand of 76 to engineer a two-wicket win. Hadleigh had recovered from an ordinary start through Smith (43) and Soilleux (44) to post a respectable 176 for eight from 40 overs. Chelmsford's reply never really got going and some terrible shots saw them subside to 101 for eight before Beard (26*) and Drain (42*) provided the heroics.

Ben Clifford stole the show in a crushing 165 run victory for the second team, his seven wickets included four in four balls. James Redman (91), David Thrift (41) and Nick Bailey (61) had played pragmatically to help post 253. Hadleigh and Thundersley were bowled out for 88, Clifford's seven wickets costing just 12.

It was Phil Arnold who took star billing in the third team's 148 run win over East Hanningfield. Chelmsford's innings never really gained much momentum, James Arnold (20), Jack Moss (25), Angus Turner (26), Francis Kyan (31) and Andy Rycroft (31) all got in and out without looking particularly dominant. Arnold was only in for four overs but looked completely at home smashing three sixes in an unbeaten 30 that took the score past 200. East Hanningfield made a steady start but the introduction of Arnold changed that as he took five for 6, his son Tom weighed in with a couple of wickets as well as the visitors subsided to 53 all out.

The winning run continued on Sunday with a six wicket victory over Robinson Lakeside. Ian Turner's four wickets was the main individual achievement with useful innings from Vit Sapaetharan, Rupert Redman, Rob Hayto and Abijheet Kumar.

Reports & Scores

Saturday 20 April

1st Team

Friendly

Played at Chelmer Park

Hadleigh & Thundersley	176-8
Chelmsford	177-8
(Chelmsford won by 2 wickets)	

The cool head of young Aaron Beard and the batting ability of the lower order proved enough for Chelmsford to sneak home.

The day started and ended with a good combination of Beard and Mark Drain. Initially they bowled tidily and picked up a wicket apiece as the visiting batsmen struggled. Wagstaff (30) had played reasonably before Fahren Mahmood removed him and at this point Chelmsford were well on top.

A positive partnership between Smith (43) and Soilleux (44) helped Hadleigh reach a respectable total. Beard picked up a second wicket on returning to the attack, taking two for 19 from his eight over allocation. The other highlight was a fine running catch from Jack Sterland to give Paul Jones a deserved wicket.

The Chelmsford reply never really got going. The pitch was difficult to score on with bad balls often the most problematic. With the score at 101 for eight, defeat looked fairly inevitable but Drain and Beard thought otherwise. Beard showed an excellent temperament in his first appearance at this level on a Saturday and Drain showed what a talented batsman he is. Both also showed their fine ball striking.

The pressure got to the visitors and a couple of spurned chances helped the Chelmsford cause. The winning runs came in extras with Drain 42 not out and Beard 26 not out.

2nd Team

Friendly

Played at Chelmer Park

Chelmsford	253-5
Hadleigh & Thundersley	88 all out

(Chelmsford won by 165 runs)

3rd Team

Friendly

Played at Chelmer Park

Chelmsford	201-6
East Hanningfield	53 all out

(Chelmsford won by 148 runs)

Most of Chelmsford's players were able to get the rust out of their systems in a convincing victory. The pitch conditions made free flowing strokeplay impossible so Chelmsford's top three of James Arnold (20), Jack Moss (25) and Angus Turner (26) found things hard but they all applied themselves and spent some useful time at the crease.

The styles of the lower middle order were more at home in the conditions and Francis Kyan (31) and Andy Rycroft (31) also got useful runs. Some excellent striking in the closing overs from Phil Arnold (30*) took the score to 201 for six at the close of 40 overs.

The East Hanningfield openers took the score to 30 but the introduction of Phil Arnold proved to be their kryptonite again. In a devastating spell he claimed five for 6, all lbw or bowled to reduce the innings to tatters. His son Tom also picked up two wickets and Andy Thurston one with his first ball of the season.

The innings was finished at 53 and might have been worse still without the efforts of Kyan behind the stumps; with the ball in his hands next to the stumps and both batsmen stranded in mid-pitch he elected to throw to the far end and did so very poorly.

Sunday 21 April

Friendly

Played at Chelmer Park

Robinson Lakeside	127 all out
Chelmsford	130-4

(Chelmsford won by 6 wickets)

After winning the toss and electing to bat, captain Rob Hayto was slightly disappointed to find out he had tossed up against the wrong team. Seven Kings were insistent that they were the scheduled visitors for the 21st and were at least partially right, the 21st of July.

The real visitors Robinson Lakeside won the toss and elected to bat but foundered as Ken Jones (2-13) removed both openers. The fall of the fourth wicket in the 14th over brought Tyric to the crease and he played well. Some good bowling from Harry Green and Alex Bailey kept a lid on the scoring but Tyric started to play nicely.

Ian Turner's entry to the attack brought a breakthrough but some positive running got the scoreboard moving until a direct hit run out. Hayto's first ball ended Tyric's innings at 52 and Turner polished off the tail very nicely, taking three wickets in four balls to finish with four for 17.

Some good bowling from Brown brought two early wickets and the bowlers continued to exert pressure. Rupert Redman and Vit Sapaetharan put a sensible partnership together to swing the game Chelmsford's way. Redman eventually chipped one up for 28 and Sapaetharan was dismissed by Brown (3-23) in his comeback over after a promising innings of 32. With 38 still needed, there was obviously one pessimist thinking the game would be tight but Abi Kumar (23*) and Hayto (17*) saw the game through to a positive conclusion without further loss.

Sunday 14 April

1st Team

Friendly

Played at Star Stile

Chelmsford	183-4
Halstead	65 all out

(Chelmsford won by 118 runs)

Fixtures

Saturday 27 April

1sts: Orsett (H) Cup 1.00

2nds: Orsett (A) F 1.00

3rds: Ilford (H) F 1.00

Sunday 28 April

2nds: Broxbourne (A) F 2.00