

Chelmsford Cricket Club
Report for 19 & 20 May

There was almost a full programme of games this weekend with only the Saturday fourth team still to start their season. There were no close games on Saturday, crushing wins for the firsts and thirds; crushing defeats for the seconds and fifths.

James Clifford and Nick Prowting were the star performers as the first team beat Shenfield by nine wickets to make it back to back wins. Fifteen year old Clifford took his first five wicket haul at this level after Neil Fergus (3-20) and Paul Jones (2-26) had made inroads. The target of 137 was made to look very routine by Prowting (59*) and Dan Hagen (44*).

The Mahmoods, Haris and Fahran rescued the second team with half centuries in their score of 221. With Fahran picking up an injury, the bowling resources were restricted and Burgess (113*) and Fulk (89) prospered after having early lives to put together a match winning partnership.

A very young Brentwood third team were another to suffer a nine wicket defeat at Chelmer Park. Good all round bowling restricted Brentwood to 126, a total that would have been lower without some poor fielding. Ben Clifford's two for 8 was the best bowling return. Jack Moss (60*) and Tom Witham (57*) plundered the runs.

The Saturday fourth team's trip to Brentwood was called off due to a waterlogged pitch.

A fine bowling spell from Graeme Eversden (5-18) routed a largely inexperienced fifth team, bowled out for 47 at West Essex. Tom Arnold picked up two wickets but B Eversden's unbeaten 26 took the home team to victory with eight wickets intact.

On Sunday, both sides achieved victories, although not in the most enjoyable fashion. The firsts started their twenty 20 campaign with a walkover; Old Brentwoods failing to raise a side. The second team had a comfortable win at Writtle, Craig Thompson batting well for an unbeaten 52 and Abijheet Kumar grabbing four wickets.

Reports & Scores

Saturday 19 May

1st Team

Shepherd Neame Essex League Premier Division

Played at Chelmer Park

Shenfield 136 all out

Chelmsford 137-1

(Chelmsford won by 9 wickets)

Chelmsford continued their winning start to the season by completing another emphatic win against visitors Shenfield on Saturday. Having had poor weather for weeks prior to the start of the season the lush outfield and soft wicket meant that it was a good toss to win. Chris Prowting's luck was in and he had no hesitation in asking the visitors to bat first.

Shenfield started their innings in a positive manner despite tight opening spells from Mark Drain and Nisarg Patel. The opening pair put on 44 before a sharp bit of glove work from skipper Prowting removed John Walter (12), stumped off the bowling of Neil Fergus. Arshad Ali decided to take the

attack to the bowlers scoring a run a ball 44 before James Clifford took a good catch on the long on boundary again off the bowling of Fergus.

The Shenfield innings didn't really recover from the loss of Ali with Daniel Jacob providing the only other real resistance, riding his luck to reach 28 before becoming Neil Fergus' third and final victim leaving him with excellent figures of 10 overs, 3 wickets for only 20 runs.

The standout bowling performance came from 15 year old James Clifford who took 5 wickets for 16 runs in only 4.1 overs including bowling Lugg and Allen with sharply turning, almost unplayable deliveries. Clifford's introduction into the attack led to Shenfield losing their final 7 wickets for only 33 runs with Paul Jones picking up the other wickets (2-27 from 7 overs).

Despite conditions favouring the bowlers 136 always looked a below par score and Chelmsford's innings started brightly with boundaries from Paul Jones before he became the only wicket to fall for 13. The departure of Jones brought Nick Prowting to the crease whose knock of 59 not out saw Chelmsford through to the finishing line.

The early wicket gave some hope to Shenfield who tried to increase the pressure with some vocal support for their bowlers but Prowting rarely looked in any trouble and his partnership of 115 with Dan Hagen (44 not out) did the talking for Chelmsford. The winning post was reached with 14.1 overs to spare completing the perfect start to the season for Chelmsford having secured maximum points from the first two games.

2nd Team

Shepherd Neame Essex League Premier Division

Played at Courage Playing Fields

Chelmsford	221 all out
Shenfield	224-2

(Shenfield won by 8 wickets)

3rd Team

Shepherd Neame Essex League Premier Division

Played at Chelmer Park

Brentwood	126 all out
Chelmsford	129-1

(Chelmsford won by 9 wickets)

5th Team

Shepherd Neame Essex League 4th XI Division 1

Played at West Essex

Chelmsford	47 all out
West Essex	51-2

(West Essex won by 8 wickets)

Sunday 20 May

2nd Team

Friendly

Played at Paradise Road

Chelmsford 177-6
Writtle 113-9
(Chelmsford won by 64 runs)

Some good batting from David Goddard and Craig Thompson set Chelmsford up for a resounding win at Writtle.

Some good bowling from Fenton (2-24) and a couple of slack run outs threatened to keep the Chelmsford score down. Goddard (42) played very nicely until he was Fenton's second victim but that brought Thompson (52*) to the crease and he played very well.

On a slow, low wicket and with a very slow outfield a target of 160 was likely to prove challenging and some fine striking from Thompson took the score well past that. He reached a well-deserved half century with a boundary from the last ball of the 40th over.

The chase made a pretty pedestrian start but the introduction of Abijheet Kumar enlivened proceedings. He took four wickets although he did concede 42 runs in his 8 over stint. The other five bowlers used all bowled pretty tidily with each taking a wicket. Despite the cold, Chelmsford's catching held up well and the home side never really threatened the target.

Fixtures

Saturday 26 May

1sts: Brentwood (A) SNEL 12.30
2nds: Brentwood (H) SNEL 1.00
3rds: Fives & Heronians (A) SNEL 1.00
4ths: Upminster 4ths (H) SNEL 1.00
5ths: Old Parkonians 3rds (H) SNEL 1.00

Sunday 27 May

1sts: Basildon (H) T20 2.00
2nds: Broxbourne (H) F 2.00