

Chelmsford Cricket Club Report for 28 and 29 July

After a nightmare week for captains and team secretaries, Chelmsford fielded six Saturday sides and emerged with four wins and two draws. This was a commendable effort from all concerned, particularly David Goddard.

It was also a landmark day for Adil Dewan and Miles Clark. Dewan made his maiden first team century against Ilford and Clark his maiden league hundred in the 2nd team game at Hornchurch.

Nick Prowting contributed another highly accomplished hundred in a superb partnership with Dewan. Chelmsford scored a useful 289 for five. Ilford decided that was too many and did not enter the chase but as they played out to 241 for five including three wickets in the last over, they might have been wrong.

Clark led the way with an unbeaten 109 in the 2nd team's 242 for four with Darren Thompson (45), Lee Cranmer (30) and James Arnold (24*) giving worthwhile support. Hornchurch made a decent start with Bones scoring 41 but the spinners Stuart Everard (5-49) and Neal Abhyankar (3-45) turned the game Chelmsford's way as Hornchurch were bowled out for 175.

The third team made slightly heavy weather of a six wicket win over Gidea Park & Romford. A good innings of 74 from Goldsmith enabled the visitors to score 178 for six. Jack Moss (54) and Paul Keaney (53) shared an opening stand of 103 to put Chelmsford firmly on top but there was only an over and a half to spare when the target was achieved.

A fine innings of 82 from Angus Turner was the key to victory for the 4th team. Neil Raisborough bowled well to take five for 44 and with two wickets each from Phil and Tom Arnold, Chingford were restricted to 168. Some good early bowling particularly from Datar (3-34) had Chelmsford reeling at 34 for four. With a couple of other players hanging in, Turner played a virtually lone hand in keeping up the chase. That was before the entry of Phil Arnold who smashed an unbeaten 43 in no time, losing Turner with just 3 needed.

The heroine for the 5th team was Maureen Green who turned out as the eleventh player. In terms of individual performance, it was not sparkling as she was part of a hat-trick for Brathwaite (6-24), a rare hat-trick that included a husband and wife. She inspired her son Harry though as he produced match winning figures of five for 33. Connor Cheverall scored 68 in Chelmsford's 168 all out and Fives & Heronians came up 29 short.

There was a successful defence of the Warsop T20 trophy with some excellent bowling and fielding against Rankins and Hatfield Peverel. James Clifford and Nisarg Patel were superb, Clifford taking four wickets for 13 runs from his 8 overs and Patel five for 40 from his, including a hat-trick.

A weakened Sunday league side were comfortably beaten by Aztecs. Liam Kenaey acquitted himself very well, taking three wickets and scoring 35 in an otherwise fairly dispiriting day.

Reports & Scores Saturday 28 July 1st Team

Shepherd Neame Essex League Premier Division
Played at Chelmer Park

Chelmsford	289-5
Ilford	241-5

(Match Drawn)

Chelmsford sought to return to winning ways on Saturday as they took on a struggling Ilford team at Chelmer Park. The day started positively as stand-in captain Nick Prowting won the toss and elected to bat on what looked to be a good batting track.

Chelmsford were put under pressure early on by tight opening spells from Ilford's Veettil and Kutty (1-52), who extracted what little movement was available in the wicket. Kutty picked up Dan Hagen early on, however this brought Nick Prowting in to join Adil Dewan at the crease.

The Chelmsford pair both looked in good touch and soon began to transfer the pressure back on to Ilford's bowlers through excellent running and positive strokeplay. Dewan played a solid anchor-type role as Nick Prowting soon progressed to a fine hundred and was eventually run out for 109, ending an excellent partnership of 199. Dewan then upped his tempo and alongside some excellent hitting from Hayto (27*) and Jones (16*) Chelmsford reached a slightly above par total of 289 for five. Dewan's innings of 118 showed a huge amount of patience and class in what was only his third game opening the batting for the first team.

Chelmsford knew that such a total was very obtainable if they did not bowl well on what was by now a very flat track. Unfortunately Ilford did not back themselves to give the chase a go and played extremely defensively through Jacobs (96*) and Kandola (57).

The Chelmsford bowlers bowled with plenty of variation and set some inventive fields to try to tempt the Ilford players into mistakes but unfortunately this was not their day.

When Ilford did eventually try to attack they did so to good effect, with Idrees striking a 43 ball 60 and demonstrating what could be done on such a wicket. This new approach enabled Nisarg Patel to pick up three wickets in the final over of the day, he finished with three for 89 and Tom Craddock's toil ended fairly unrewarded with figures of one for 75. The only other Chelmsford wicket taker was Mark Drain who took one for 20.

On reflection, Chelmsford know that such a performance would win more games than not and therefore now look to take the form gained on Saturday into next week's home fixture against South Woodford. A win is needed to keep the pressure on Wanstead, who are now 12 points clear of Chelmsford at the top of the table.

2nd Team

Shepherd Neame Essex League Premier Division
Played at Harrow Lodge Park

Chelmsford	242-4
Hornchurch	175 all out

(Chelmsford won by 67 runs)

3rd Team

Shepherd Neame Essex League Premier Division

Played at Chelmer Park

Gidea Park & Romford 178-6

Chelmsford 182-4

(Chelmsford won by 6 wickets)

Chelmsford achieved a fairly unspectacular win to keep up their momentum at the top of the table.

With a fairly thin bowling attack, Chelmsford needed the regular bowlers to bowl well and fortunately they generally did. Liam Keaney bowled pretty well, Alistair Fergus showed his usual stinginess and Keith Goodman was as accurate as always.

There was little reward in the wickets column as the pitch was rather slow, Goodman picked up three of the six to fall. There was also a debut wicket for Matt Davis in the final over.

The run scoring had largely been down to Goldsmith who played very well for 74. A positive unbeaten 33 from Hughes helped push the final score up to 178.

Paul Keaney and Jack Moss gave the innings a very solid start and punished any loose bowling. Keaney was the first to reach his half century but chopped on for 53 with the score at 103. That wicket fell just before the last twenty overs was called and with just 76 needed and nine wickets left, the game looked likely to be a stroll.

Somehow the innings slightly lost momentum though particularly with Winmill bowling very accurately. Moss lost patience and was caught for 54, Bradley Green and Liam Keaney fell after looking fairly promising and the required rate reached the level at which one pessimistic tailender insisted that he would have to bat. He was wrong, Steve Clifford playing his first game for about a year and Chris Drain combined to see the team home.

4th Team

Shepherd Neame Essex League 3rd XI Division 1

Played at the Peter May Centre

Chingford 168 all out

Chelmsford 172-7

(Chelmsford won by 3 wickets)

5th Team

Shepherd Neame Essex League 4th XI Division 1

Played at Whitbread Sports Ground

Chelmsford 168 all out

Fives & Heronians 139 all out

(Chelmsford won by 29 runs)

6th Team

Friendly

Played at Chelmer Park

Westcliff 249-3
Chelmsford 60-5
(Match drawn)

Sunday 29 July

1st Team

Spa Tec Essex Sunday League
Played at Courage Playing Fields

Aztecs 205-8
Chelmsford 110 all out
(Aztecs won by 80 runs (rain affected))

Warsop T20

Played at Hatfield Peverel
Semi-Final

Rankins 101-8
Chelmsford 103-0
(Chelmsford won by 10 wickets)

Some really accomplished spin bowling led the way to a very comfortable win.

After the first ten overs of the Rankins innings the score was 29 for five, with Alistair Fergus having conceded more than half the runs in just two overs. James Clifford (2-6) and Nisarg Patel were looking pretty much unplayable.

A sudden acceleration dented Patel's figures as he finished with two for 26 but Rob Hayto (2-23) made an important breakthrough and Rankins just crept into three figures.

The Chelmsford fielding was good throughout, with Stephen Drain's four catches standing out.

Haris Mahmood (31*) and Jack Sterland (46*) made pretty short work of the target, playing some fine shots and finishing things off in the 13th over.

Final

Chelmsford 137 all out
Hatfield Peverel 94-9
(Chelmsford won by 43 runs)

A brilliant performance with the ball and in the field ultimately overwhelmed Hatfield Peverel.

Gary Chidley (38) and Adil Dewan (30) set up the Chelmsford innings after the loss of a couple of early wickets. The platform was spurned though and some pretty poor batting in the second half of the innings saw it subside to a disappointing 137, Nisarg Patel contributing a useful 22. Norton and Donovan picked up three wickets apiece.

Peveler had chased down exactly the same score without losing a wicket in their semi-final and advanced to 29 after four overs. The introduction of spin changed things; James Clifford dried up the runs, Rob Hayto took the first wicket and then Clifford struck twice. With Peveler at 41 for three in the tenth over, Chelmsford were firmly on top when a heavy rain shower hit.

With a reliance on spin the wet conditions could have given Chelmsford problems but smart work from Miles Clark helped to effect a run out on the resumption. The fifth wicket pair did manage to get some good shots away but were held in check by the good bowling and fielding.

Clifford completed his four over spell with two for 7 and with the run rate mounting, the pressure told and Patel picked up a hat-trick, completing his four overs with three for 14. Hayto also grabbed a couple of late wickets to return three for 22 and the innings closed at 94 for nine.

The only real question was who would win the Man of the Tournament award? Patel had bowled superbly, made a useful contribution with the bat and had the glamour of a hat-trick. James Clifford had bowled eight overs for 13 runs through the day with four wickets as well and is only fifteen. A difficult choice to make (although it was clearly Clifford). The answer was that a Hatfield Peveler's Max Castledine won it.

Fixtures

Saturday 4 August

1sts: South Woodford (H)	SNEL 12.15
2nds: Douth Wodford (A)	SNEL 1.00
3rds: Hainault & Clayhall (A)	SNEL 1.00
4ths: Hornchurch (H)	SNEL 1.00
5ths: Stanford le Hope (H)	SNEL 1.00
6ths: Rayleigh Fairview (A)	F 2.00

Sunday 5 August – President's Day

1sts: Waltham (H)	ESL 2.00
2nds: Sheering (H)	F 2.00