

Chelmsford Cricket Club
Report for 8 & 9 September

With six wins from seven games it was a fairly spectacular weekend albeit tinged with slight disappointment. Resounding home wins for the 2nd and 3rd teams saw them wrap up the Premier League titles in good style, for the 3rds this was a 6th successive league win. The 1sts, 4ths and 6ths closed out the season with victories and the under-15s beat Brentwood to retain the Central Essex District Cup.

A brilliant century from Nisarg Patel set the 1sts up for victory at Buckhurst Hill. Frustratingly, Wanstead lost but secured enough points to take the league title. The other disappointment was a defeat for the 5ths, which scuppered their hopes of promotion.

A fine partnership between Patel (105*) and Chris Prowting (50) rescued Chelmsford from a poor position to post an imposing 297 for six. In reply, Buckhurst Hill lost wickets regularly, no player managing more than Beckett's 36. There were three wickets for Fahran Mahmood and a tidy two wicket spell from James Clifford.

When Fives & Heronians reached 107 for nought, the 2nds would have felt slightly concerned about their prospects. Braithwaite (62) and Norris (60) played pretty sensibly and had their team in a good position but the rest of the order collapsed horribly. Matt Thurston took six for 60 and the last 9 wickets realised just 38 runs. Chasing 170 to win, Nick Bailey was in hostile mood and showed his big-hitting ability in a fine innings of 105. Miles Clark and Gary Chidley saw proceedings through for an eight wicket victory.

The third impressive century of the day came from the bat of Paul Keaney in the 3rd team's score of 219 for three. They knew that 10 points would guarantee the title and that score gave them 8 of those. The rest were picked up quickly with two wickets for Aaron Beard setting them on their way. Opponents Upminster were eventually ousted for 60.

Ian Turner and Lee Cranmer were the star performers in the 4th team's seven wicket win over West Essex. On a very lively wicket, Turner picked up six for 39 in West Essex's innings of 156. Cranmer played well to record an unbeaten 79 with Rupert Redman (31) providing useful support.

Saleem's innings of 123 for Epping gave the 5th team a major problem. Epping scored a useful 231 for eight and given the hot weather and time spent looking for lost balls, they did not have a great deal of time to chase the runs. Micky Burns (45) and Connor Cheverall (34) provided a solid start but against some challenging bowling, they were unable to muster much momentum. The rest of the order fell away in pursuit of quick runs with Shah returning a very impressive eight for 33.

The most exciting game of the day was the 6th team's one-wicket win over Rayleigh. Krise (29) top scored in Rayleigh's innings of 160 for nine. Jack Champion, Jordan Champion and Andy Shepherd all took two wickets. Jamie Matthews played a fine innings for Chelmsford but wickets fell around him and there were still 15 to get when the last man, Ed Cole joined him. That was reduced to 9 with 2

overs left. Cole guided the ball to the boundary and after a couple of singles, he repeated the dose and Chelmsford had won, Mathews closing 48 not out.

The only game on Sunday was the Central Essex District Under-15 Cup Final against Brentwood. A spectacular half century from Aaron Beard and a very good innings from Bradley Green (45) guided Chelmsford to 168 from 20 overs. Brentwood made a decent fist of the chase but ultimately ran out of batting and closed at 140 for seven.

Reports & Scores

Saturday 8 September

1st Team

Shepherd Neame Essex League Premier Division

Played at Buckhurst Hill

Chelmsford	297-6
Buckhurst Hill	205 all out

(Chelmsford won by 92 runs)

Chelmsford CC 1st XI finished the season with a trip to Buckhurst Hill knowing that it would take a big upset in the other matches in the league that day to let them take the league title this year.

Chelmsford were greeted by a beautiful sunny day and a ground in good condition at Buckhurst Hill – a complete contrast to how the ground had looked at the beginning of the year when it resembled a lake rather than a sports field.

Chelmsford won the toss and chose to bowl first in the hope of making the best of the good conditions. However, the start of the innings did not go to plan as Josh Peters (3-45) removed both the opening batsmen despite some erratic wayward bowling in his first few overs. Buckhurst Hill soon turned to spin and slowed down the Chelmsford scoring rate with the control that had been lacking from the opening seam bowlers, Sam Sullivan (2-54) and Rohan Bhome (1-38) removing the Chelmsford middle order to bring Nisarg Patel and Chris Prowting to the crease with the innings in a precarious position at 85 for five.

Prowting (50) started slowly as the Buckhurst Hill spinners tied him down – his start was in complete contrast to Patel who showed positive intent from his first ball. The pair complemented each other well and gradually increased the scoring rate with a display of good running between the wickets and punishing the bad balls. Prowting was dismissed as he tried to hit out in the last 10 overs which left a good platform for Patel and Ollie Devenish to post a big score.

Patel and Devenish then launched an attack in the last 5 overs that brought boundaries all round the wicket and allowed Devenish to race to an explosive 34 not out. Patel ended the innings unbeaten on 105 and allowed all who were present to watch one of the classiest innings seen in recent years at a Chelmsford 1st XI game.

Chelmsford closed on a mammoth 297 for six, owing a lot to Patel who had rescued the innings after some low scores from the top order.

Buckhurst Hill came flying out of the blocks in the second innings knowing they had to go at 6 runs an over throughout the innings to chase down the target with Beckett (36) and Buxton (21) striking several boundaries each. However Chelmsford were able to control the innings by regularly taking wickets meaning that every time a batsman started to put pressure on the Chelmsford bowlers a new batsman would come to the crease.

The wickets were shared around with the pick of the bowlers being Fahren Mahmood (3-43) and James Clifford (2-36). Once Josh Peters (32) was dismissed by Rob Hayto, Chelmsford knew the game was safe. Buckhurst Hill were eventually bowled out for 205 handing a 20 point win to Chelmsford who ended their season with a solid performance.

Unfortunately for Chelmsford, Wanstead were able to get enough points from their last game to narrowly keep the top spot and claim the 2012 premier league title. 2nd place is still a good result for Chelmsford and they will come back next year with another season's experience, some lessons learnt and even more hunger to win having missed out so narrowly this year.

2nd Team

Shepherd Neame Essex League Premier Division
Played at Chelmer Park

Fives & Heronians	169 all out
Chelmsford	170-2

(Chelmsford won by 8 wickets)

3rd Team

Shepherd Neame Essex League Premier Division
Played at Chelmer Park

Chelmsford	219-3
Upminster	60 all out

(Chelmsford won by 159 runs)

The whole Chelmsford team were involved in a very strong performance that tied up the title in emphatic style.

Knowing that 10 points would definitely be enough to be Champions, Chelmsford decided to bat first in the hopes of posting a score in excess of 200 that would give them 8 of those. Upminster's opening bowlers provided a good challenge but Jack Moss and Paul Keane gave the innings some backbone with sensible play.

As the openers tired and a couple of the change bowlers did not find their lengths the scoring rate went up. Keaney was in particularly dominant form as the pair put together their 4th century partnership of the season.

Govani applied some pressure with good bowling and was rewarded with the breakthrough at 111, Moss caught for 27. James Arnold and Keaney continued to score with a reasonable amount of freedom as Keaney reached his second century of the season.

With the score at 160 for one, an early declaration looked likely but Keaney was caught on the boundary for 100 and then Arnold (21) was bowled next ball, both falling to Govani (3-40). Bradley Green and Tom Iliffe consolidated to make sure of getting 200. Both played some fine shots, Iliffe scoring 31 not out and Green 27 not out when the innings was closed at 219 for three.

Chelmsford now needed to take five wickets to make sure and Aaron Beard gave them the perfect start with a wicket in the opening over. Ben Clifford (1-6) also struck early before pulling up. Beard (2-14) picked up the third and the five wickets were achieved inside 10 overs as Alistair Fergus took wickets with successive balls, the second a good reaction catch at short leg by Andrew Rycroft.

Within a few overs it was seven down, Tom Halsey (1-8) and Fergus striking. The eighth wicket pair showed a bit of resistance and played some good shots before Keith Goodman (1-8) outsmarted D’Cruz (15). Just over an over later, it was finished, a superb direct hit run out from Halsey made it nine down and a tidy stumping from Green off Fergus (4-19) ended proceedings.

4th Team

Shepherd Neame Essex League 3rd XI Division 1

Played at the Rolls

West Essex	156 all out
Chelmsford	157-3

(Chelmsford won by 7 wickets)

5th Team

Shepherd Neame Essex League 4th XI Division 1

Played at Epping

Epping	231-8
Chelmsford	144 all out

(Epping won by 87 runs)

6th Team

Friendly

Played at Chelmer Park

Rayleigh	160-9
Chelmsford	162-9

(Chelmsford won by 1 wicket)

Sunday 9 September

Under-15s

Central Essex District Cricket Board Final

Played at the Old County Ground

Chelmsford	168-5
Brentwood	140-7

(Chelmsford won by 28 runs)

A well-constructed innings from Bradley Green and a really impressive demonstration of strokeplay from Aaron Beard set Chelmsford up for victory in a keenly contested match.

James Clifford gave the innings a fast start in a very aggressive innings. After racing to 29 he was caught on the boundary. With Coleman (1-13) bowling a tidy spell, the run rate dropped and the pressure mounted with Green responsible for at least keeping the scoreboard moving.

The fall of the fourth wicket brought Beard to the crease and he timed the ball nicely from the off. There were a couple of lovely cover drives that really got him going and Brentwood began to wilt under the pressure. Green was caught for 45 but Beard continued to play really well and with 16 runs from the last 5 balls of the innings he reached 53 not out from just 28 balls.

Brentwood made a terrible start when a wicket fell in the first over but Horswill and Patel steadied things. Patel played particularly well and whilst he was there the game was very much in the balance. However, he was caught on the boundary for 62 off Sam Trowell.

After playing second fiddle Horswill needed to take control for Brentwood to have a chance. A tidy over from Ben Clifford (2-13) put him under even more pressure and it ended with him being smartly stumped by Green for 29.

There was too much for the rest of the order to do and James Clifford (3-29) picked up three wickets in the closing overs as they went for big shots.

Fixtures

Sunday 16 September

1sts: South Woodford (A)

ESL 1.00