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THE NEWSLETTER FOR CHELMSFORD CRICKET CLUB

The Soapbox

Special points of interest:

- *Use the website*
- *2011 Matchplay Manager's Report*
- *Fantasy Cricket*
- *Diary for the Season*
- *Subscriptions*

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Another season is underway but for the first time in many years there are a number of changes, mainly in who is in charge of teams.

Long-standing and successful team captains Paul Jones and Barry Clayden stood down after 2011 as did (the also successful) Ian Hare. The new Saturday captains are Chris Prowting, Darren Thompson and Andy Rycroft. These are important roles and members should ensure that they are given adequate support and encouragement.

In the colts set-up, Bob Shortman and I will no longer be involved in the management of Colts teams. Craig Thompson has stepped into the breach at under-15 level

and after some pleas, there has been some interest shown for the under-13s and 11s. I would like to say the job is a pleasure and it usually is (but not after 10 years).

The other main change is that Peter Anstee has been elevated to President after Ken Carr retired from this role.

Judging from the poor attendance at winter nets, we are at something of a crossroads as a club. I think that a certain amount of complacency and arrogance has been allowed to set in and it can take some time to turn this around.

Cricket Clubs are about

more than producing good players. Being a good player can also be something measured in relative rather than absolute terms. I have reproduced Keith Goodman's article about the importance of good practice. The turn out at the winter nets was poor and that is the ideal time to work on your game but the opportunity is still there in the summer and Keith makes a number of important points that can help your game. Nets are on Thursday evenings but there is nothing to stop you arranging practice at other times provided you have some like-minded friends.

Very best of luck to everyone this season; I hope that you perform well and enjoy yourself.



www.chelmsfordcc.co.uk

Please try to stay abreast of the latest news and events by using the website.

Match reports and details will be available from Sunday night and the latest news will be

updated regularly.

The website also includes a link to our new clothing supplier and range.

It is also a useful way to access

our statistics on play-cricket plus various other bits of useful or trivial information (e.g. who was the bowler of the year in 2006?).



What did you do this winter?

The usual practice programme was followed in the winter. The most encouraging aspect was the good number of under-11s—regularly around 20 - on the Sunday nights. The under-13 session after this was less well attended but that was in line with expectations.

On those Sunday nights there were occasions when more coaches were badly needed. Had it not been for help from Colts this could have been embarrassing. Thanks go to James Clifford and Bradley Green who

helped out on most weeks but particular thanks have to go to Miles Clark who was there every week (and after Christmas too).

The most worrying thing was the low number of under-16s on Monday nights before Christmas and under-15s on Sunday nights after Christmas. In these sessions the coaching ratios were virtually 1:1.

This reflects a worrying gap in our resources. There is some very good quality but little quantity. This might

not be an awful thing but it is a weakness. There are plenty of ordinary colt players who become fine adult players and plenty of high quality colts who lose interest.

The numbers at adult nets were also disappointing. Sunday night at 8.30 may not be an ideal time when would be? If you came along to coach the under-15s beforehand it might not seem like such a bind, although that would have meant having more coaches than players.

Over a long time we have been incredibly lucky that Bob and Keith have been available to us

And what about in the summer?

If the club is to succeed we need to be seen as a good place to learn the game. Over a very long time we have been incredibly lucky that Bob Shortman and Keith Goodman have been available to us. Without wishing to be indelicate, both are getting on and it is important that we find people to supplement and

eventually replace them.

The other thing that is needed is **numbers**. This is particularly important at the lower ages. A close ratio of coaches: children in the lower age ranges can make a huge difference to the experience of children and coaches.

Friday nights from 6.30

are the evenings that coaching for under-12s takes place. This is a time that members should set aside to help, even if only once a fortnight or monthly. You might find that you enjoy it. Passing on the skills of cricket and your love of the game can be a very rewarding experience.

Clothing

In previous years, Club clothing has been a logistical nightmare. It has generally fallen on one unlucky person to collect and distribute orders, then collect the money, a thankless task.

To avoid this, we now have an online supplier, Centurion Sports. Our specific

site can be accessed via the 2012 Kit tab on our website.

For members one big advantage is that you can order items at any point during the season and expect them to arrive fairly promptly.

There is still some of last year's kit in stock and if you

wish to purchase any of this, please contact

alistair.fergus@btinternet.com. There are a large number of playing and training (T20) shirts available at £18.50 or £12 for juniors.

Award Winners for 2011

Outstanding Individual Performance:

James Clifford

Allen Jerman Batting Award:

Nick Prowing

Spencer George Bowling Award

Ian Hare

All Rounder of the Year:

Rob Hayto

Fielder of the Year:

Chris Drain

Most Improved Player:

Liam Keaney

Rawsthorne Trophy for Outstanding Young Player

Haris Mahmood

Thompson Cup for outstanding colt in adult cricket:

Bradley Green

Prowing Hollamby Smith (Highest Score) Trophy:

Martin Daniels

Team of the Year:

U16 Matchplay

Shirley Carter Cup (Clubman):

Ken Carr



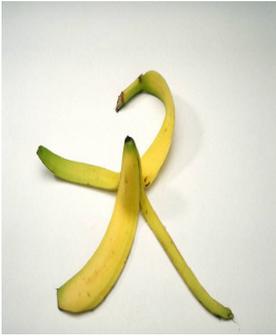
Good Practice

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| <p>1) Do you wish to excel in a game that you love?</p> <p>2) Are you happy with your present standard of skill? ---If so, DON'T read on</p> <p>3) Are you a confident and positive performer? If so, DON'T read on</p> <p>4) IF YOU ARE STILL READING?</p> <p>5) Are you good at aimless netting with no specific aims?</p> <p>6) If you fail on Saturday, how confident are you the next week without practice?</p> <p>7) Confidence brings a positive attitude
Negativity=Bare survival; Positivity=Dominance/Success</p> | <p>8) Lack of confidence breeds failure that becomes endemic.</p> <p>9) Practice brings enjoyment and a positive attitude due to success at skills.
"Learn from History or be doomed to repeat it."</p> <p>10) Constant repetition enhances skill acquisition</p> <p>11) Don't keep making the same mistakes - RECTIFY them.</p> <p>12) Always have someone to watch and rectify them ---problems can be tiny imperfections that have crept into your game.</p> <p>13) Bad skills have muscle memory that is difficult to eradicate.</p> <p>REMEMBER-----a positive side is a dominant side and a winning</p> | <p>side that will not have to rely on winning crucial end of season games. NB -Applies to all of Chelmsford sides.</p> <p>PRACTICE</p> <p>WHEN? ---In the winter on a Sunday.</p> <p>WHY? ----Deconstruct then reconstruct skills
READY for next season</p> <p>HOW LONG? ---
Minimum of half an hour of concentrated skills.</p> <p>IT'S ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO GET RID OF BAD HABITS IN THE SUMMER AND THEN IT'S TOO LATE.</p> |
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Keith Goodman

Fantasy League is back for 2012 See page 5

Matchplay 2011—The Group



Thanks to the members who braved inclement weather to paint and repair the sightscreens

During the winter training sessions I was not entirely sure what to expect but the hard work put in built the foundations for the season. Having missed the competition in 2010, only a small minority had significant Matchplay experience.

The opening game was a potential banana skin against a Colchester side that included a couple of good county players, but a strong team performance saw us run out convincing winners by 8 wickets. Having lost the toss we were put into the field and restricted Colchester to 187 Henry Clark and George Simmons picking up 2 wickets apiece. In reply James Clifford and Angus Turner put on an opening stand of 89 which really knocked the stuffing out of Colchester and gave the platform for Liam Keaney and Haris Mahmood to finish off the innings, the latter ending on 63*.

Benfleet provided less of a contest but the same result. We elected to bowl and dismissed them for 78. It was a good team performance in the field, Henry claimed 4 wickets and Ben Clifford 2 on his debut. The reply was capably finished off again by Liam and Haris, allowing us to be home by 5.

At this point it was clear that we were a strong side. This was evident when Stock called off on the Friday before the next game because they could not raise a side.

The Ardleigh Green game will forever stay in my memory for what happened prior to the toss. Walking from the car park I witnessed Angus hit a ball straight back into his dad's face. Fortunately

Dickie Davies was on hand and with his ability to turn the clubhouse into a temporary operating theatre all was resolved in time for both Ian and Angus to enjoy the game. After the earlier commotion we chose to field and managed to bowl Ardleigh Green out for 114, Liam and James picked up 3 wickets apiece and Aaron Beard took 2 on his Matchplay bow. After overcoming his earlier incident Angus scored an unbeaten 58, ably supported by Brad Green who scored 37 on his batting debut.

A well disciplined Loughton side were next up and with county games starting to cause selection headaches a few boys made their first appearances of the season. After electing to field, everything seemed to be following the usual script with Loughton dismissed for 107; Josh Fitzwater bowled an extremely good opening spell and Ben came on to finish the innings off with 4 wickets. In response on a slow, low wicket which was not helped by rain at tea the Chelmsford batsman did not seem to want to knuckle down and some poor shots left us 58 for five. Jack Stevens and batting debutant Aaron were at the crease and fortunately they used their brains enabling the unbeaten record to continue.

The next opponents were Stansted Hall, a side nobody knew much about. On a baking hot day we only had 10 players and faced with fielding first I thought it could be a long day. After a good opening spell from Josh, Jack took the wicket of their best player and after that the side crumpled, leaving Chelmsford only having to chase 39

for victory. The pick of the bowlers was Henry with remarkable figures of 6.4 overs 6 wickets for no runs. The target was achieved for the loss of a single wicket.

Having been unbeaten up to this point, the next fixture against Brentwood would determine who would top the group and miss Wanstead in the quarters. For the 6th consecutive match we fielded first. On a good deck, with a lightning fast outfield, Brentwood made a good start helped by some wayward bowling to be 107 for 1 at drinks. An improved effort later on restricted Brentwood to a below par 228. This was achieved by some accurate bowling from George whose 8 overs yielded 2 for 19 and a good death spell from Matt Davis who picked up 2 important wickets.

In response James (56) and Angus (29) got Chelmsford off to an excellent start with an opening stand of 88. The platform these two provided allowed Henry (41) to prove he is a genuine all rounder, punishing Brentwood for some sloppy fielding. Liam (51*) showed his growing maturity to see us home by 6 wickets.

With only 1 point now required for qualification, the 2 points from the only rain off in the county on the day of round 8 secured passage to the knock out stages.

Fortunately the weather caused the final group game to be rained off after Old Parks had smashed around some mediocre bowling. With every other game in the group being lost to the rain, we topped the group, securing a home tie.

Matchplay 2011—It's A Knock-Out

On a very hot Monday, which did not coincide with any public holiday and meant a day of annual leave had to be taken (thanks ECCC) we faced Gidea Park who had qualified because their final group game had been conceded while all others were a wash out. For the first time in the competition we chose to bat and Angus and James made a brilliant start, scoring 68 and 81 respectively. The solid start allowed us to amass 275 for 3 in our 40 overs, Henry scoring an unbeaten 62 and Liam contributing a quick-fire 42. This total was always out of Gidea Park's reach and the victory margin was 107 runs. The spinners were the pick of the bowlers picking up 9 wickets between them with James, Henry and Adam Chantry taking 4, 3 and 2 wickets respectively.

This lined up a semi final at Billericay on another Monday against a Hadleigh side that had only lost once so far in the competition. We chose to bat but stuttered to 45 for 3. When Miles Clark joined James at the crease anything near 200 would have been acceptable but these two proved how good they are by putting on a stand of 187. Once James had been caught on the boundary for a brilliant 112, Miles carried on to record 88, unselfishly running himself out on the final

ball. Hadleigh were left with a target of 256 and were going well at drinks with their star player Tom Phillippe looking set to guide his team home. Some excellent work in the field with 4 run outs ultimately proved too much for Hadleigh who fell 46 runs short. The game was much closer than the margin suggests and if Tom had managed to put as much effort into his batting as his complaining about the field the outcome could have been different. The differences between the sides were the partnership between Miles and James when Chelmsford could have capitulated and the discipline in the field.

Wanstead were the other finalists, unbeaten and the under 15 national champions from 2010. The day did not start well when Wanstead won the toss. We took 2 early wickets bringing the dangerous Kishen Velani to the crease and his rapid 50 allowed Dar to score at his own pace. Dar's unbeaten century guided Wanstead to 233, a score that could have been reduced by 20-30 runs with the sort of discipline demonstrated in the earlier parts of the competition. In response James and Angus again gave a good start and we had not lost any wickets at drinks albeit a bit behind the rate. At this stage Wanstead realised they were in a

game and built the pressure through tight bowling causing a flurry of wickets. We were always chasing the game and eventually fell a mere 26 runs short.

With a bit more discipline and experience Chelmsford could have been champions but nothing should be taken away from the side's achievement.

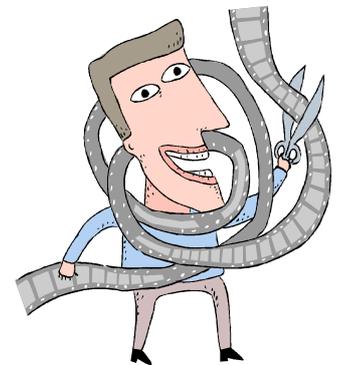
To reach the final and have the opportunity to play at the County Ground is one of the most special memories the boys can have and hopefully it is one they will remember and try to emulate.

Of the 12 for the final, 9 are eligible for 2012. If they are able to build on their performances they could have another enjoyable day out at the County Ground. If all players involved work as hard as they did in 2011 they can hope for great things in the coming seasons.

The season was thoroughly fulfilling and I hope that everybody involved, be that players, parents or supporters enjoyed it as much as I did and are all willing to be there again for the 2012 season.

On a final note I would like to thank everybody who helped me out during the season because I couldn't have done it without you.

Chris Drain



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<http://www.chelmsfordcc.easyfantasycricket.com/>

Missing the football season already? Join the Chelmsford CC fantasy league for the chance to have some fun and maybe win some money. Signing up takes a matter of minutes and costs just £5 per team. Signing up is a great way to help support the club and provide that extra bit of incentive to perform.

Unlike last year you can pay by card directly via the website and with prizes for manager of the month as well as the end of season table, there are lots of ways to win your entry fee back. Contact Nick Bailey via baileynicholas@hotmail.com for more details.

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CLUB**

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SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2012

Subscriptions are due at the beginning of the season for all members. The fees set at the AGM were:

Full members: **£100 (reduced to £85 if paid by 31 May)**

Age under 21: **£65 (reduced to £50 if paid by 31 May)**

In Full Time Education: **£35**

Colts: **£25**

Social: **£10**

How can I pay?

By cheque or by cash, please hand to Martyn Edwards or your team captain

By direct transfer to the club's bank account, marking the payment with your name and CCC. The account details can be obtained from Martyn Edwards.



The 2012 Season

Sunday 29 April—

Sunday League starts (9 games)

Monday 7 May—

Matchplay starts (group of 5 with High Roding, Walthamstow, Wickford & Goresbrook)

Saturday 12 May—

League season starts (18 weeks)

Sunday 20 May—

Shepherd Neame T20 starts (group of 5 with Old Brentwoods, Basildon, Leigh & Colchester)

Tuesday 6 June—

Warsop T20 starts (group of 5 with Great Waltham, Stock, Maldon & Old Chelmsfordian's)

Friday 29 June—

Race Night

Sunday 5 August—

President's Day

Friday 14 Sept—

Colt's Presentation Night

Friday 5 October—

Annual Dinner

Tuesday 13 Nov—

AGM

You may have already missed the Quiz Night (Friday 20 April), a very well attended event.

Thanks to Rosie Prowting for organising this with excellent help, particularly from Shirley Bailey and Bernice Clark. Also thanks to Fred Matthews (Quizmaster) and Brian Poole and Max Gibson for their bar work.

