

TheToss

Winter 2012

Volume 12, Issue 2

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST :

- > **The Club is as strong as its members. If you have something that you feel you can contribute or want to make a point, please speak to someone on the Committee.**
- > **Important roles to fill are Colt Team managers and 4th and 5th XI Captains**

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THE SOAPBOX

The 2012 season was another year of incredible achievement on the pitch for Chelmsford Cricket Club. Runners-up in the first team Premier league, a best ever finish in the 10 team format; title triumphs from the 2nd and 3rd teams and the Under-16s and Under-15s being County Champions.

It didn't feel like that away from the pitch though. Selection was often a nightmare and after the burdens that fell on them it is hardly surprising that David Goddard and Alex Bailey have decided to step down from the 4th and 5th team captaincies. In the Colts section there is a lack of numbers in the under-13s and two age

groups did not have a manager. There are some promising signs from the 9 year olds and under but the small number of players covering about 4 years may restrict the opportunities of the few colts we have there.

Then there's the apparent death of Sunday cricket, only fourteen adult Sunday matches were played. The weather did not help with either Colts or Sunday cricket but given the way the season had gone, you would have thought there would be some appetite

for cricket in September after the league finished. There was none though, except at High Easter.

Perhaps it does not do to dwell on the negative, the achievements this year have been brilliant. And the club has an incredible array of talent to call upon. The people who have done so

much to run the Club away from the field will continue to be there, if a little more tired and irritable (is that even possible for some?) and should a crisis emerge, someone will step up—fingers crossed.



OFF SEASON ACTIVITY

Congratulations must go to some of our younger members who have been selected for elite performance programmes.

In particular, Shona Keaney who will be part of the England Women's Under-15 Development

Programme.

James Clifford and Jack Sterland have been selected for the academy programmes of Essex CCC and Loughborough UCCE.

Ben Clifford and Aaron Beard are part of the Essex CCC Emerging Players

squad.

Winter coaching for years up to U13s have been running on Sunday nights at the County Ground.

After Christmas there will be the usual sessions for U15s and adults from 7pm.



It's Cap'n Chris

We found a winning formula of batting first ... and then applying pressure with the spin quartet

THE HIGH C'S—SATURDAY 1ST XI

As I reflect on the season in my sitting room in west London, the signs that the season are over are very apparent – a weekend that consists of two whole days, rain falling steadily on the window and the sound of football clichés from Ford Super Sunday. “It is a game of two halves” is a cliché that is said all too often in football and can be used to sum up a season, but it doesn't apply to our season, this year was the season of three quarters and one quarter. Let me explain. I heard someone once say that “it looks good to be in the navy, but it is way more fun to be in the pirates”, and despite a slip last season we are seen as one of the sides to beat in the premier league – or a navy. We agreed as a squad this year that although we possess the firepower of a navy, if we can scrap like the pirates we stand a chance of challenging for the title and the times we would let ourselves down would be when we had the complacency of a navy. So we entered the season with new additions to the squad, ambitions to be significantly better than the year before and a lesson learnt from many previous years to not drop too many points at the beginning of the season.

All pre-season fitness regimes were quickly forgotten as the local Ilford delicacy of chicken and chips in a soggy box was enjoyed

by everyone but the visiting team, but wins against Ilford and Shenfield started the season off well. By the third game of the year the side had started to take a slightly different shape to previous years, Dan Hagen had joined Nick as the rock that the batting line up was built on, and the spin quartet of James Clifford, Tom Craddock, Rob Hayto and Nisarg Patel (once Nisarg had realised he was a spinner and not a seamer) started to prove too skilful for most batting line ups.

We were very pleased to welcome Tom Craddock to the side this year, an addition that brought us much more than a highly skilled and feared bowler. Tom's attitude and commitment inspired the team both on and off the pitch, and seeing the learning and development of the younger guys on the back of Tom's advice showed the extra value that he added this year. Carrying momentum into the third game of the season away at Brentwood we saw the first signs of the other quarter of the season, where despite bowling Brentwood out for a below par score we failed to scrap like the pirates and managed to clutch defeat from the jaws of victory.

After a quick visit to South Woodford to change in their very small, corridor like changing rooms, we

then hosted Wanstead in a top of the table clash. On a wet wicket we won the toss and JC, Neil Fergus and Nisarg proved too good for the Wanstead batting line up, reducing them to 128-9. With 9 wickets down we thought we had them out for a par score but 55 runs later we had let Wanstead slip to a considerably more imposing score of 183. With Wanstead carrying the momentum into the second innings, only Dan's unbeaten 71 made any impression as the game was handed to Wanstead.

The high standard of the league this year had become very apparent to us as we had “won” all but 30 overs of cricket to date and had managed to lose two games. With half of the limited overs games played we started the timed format and also started a most glorious run of form. We found a winning formula of batting first, where we saw fantastic hundreds from Dan, Adil Dewan and 2 hundreds from Nick, and then applying pressure with the spin quartet. Scrapping like the pirates became a theme of this part of the season, collecting 25 point wins and grabbing the attention of the rest of the league. Despite only managing draws against Ilford and South Woodford, we had left ourselves in contention to challenge for the title in the end of season run in Cont'd..

cue season defining moment away at Shenfield. With 226 on the board and the home side 166-8 the game was ours to take, but we lost our drive and energy meaning we let Shenfield sneak home. This certainly wasn't an evening spent celebrating on the Bar 41/The Bar combo, and the disappointment in the team was clear to see when we heard that Wanstead had lost and that we had missed the chance to go level with them at the top of the table.

Looking back we all probably regret this game, perhaps all but my brother who identifies the South Woodford game. The game where I was whisked off to hospital with a nose injury, he was left in charge, and we were not able to take the last wicket – or as Nick puts it “Chris’ injury cost us the time we needed to bowl them out”. Perhaps, but you play with the time you are given. Knowing Wanstead had it all to lose we finished the season with my two favourite moments of the year. People often say that you need a little bit of magic to turn a game in your favour and Dan Hagen’s catch at extra cover against Colchester was certainly that – I’m not sure I have ever seen a ball hit so hard, stick in someone’s hand so well, or such a poor attempt at the aeroplane to celebrate. A treat for all who were there that day. The other came on the last day of the season

away at Buckhurst Hill, at 85-5 we were under a bit of pressure but as I joined Nisarg at the crease I was greeted by the most confident comment I’ve heard in cricket (excluding general conversation with Nick Bailey):

“You are the lucky one today” Nisarg said. “Why’s that?” I replied. “Because you are the one who gets to bat with me today!” replied our 2012 seam bowler turned spinner.

Nisarg backed this up with our 5th hundred of the season, and it was one of the finest in a 1st XI game I have seen since I started playing in the side.

Nick and Dan were amongst the top ten run scorers in the league and Nisarg, JC and Tom were in the top ten wicket takers. These fine performances formed the backbone of the side this year. Credit cannot just go to those who feature well in the stats though, at some point during the year every member of the team has stepped up and can take credit for our 2nd place finish.

I will look back on my first season as captain with fond memories but also at important lessons learnt, particularly at Woodford Wells when we gambled losing the game by bowling more overs than we needed to, eventually bowling them out in the last over of the day (a special thank you to Fergs for helping me hold my nerve as WW started to get close).

I will also remember it for the success that the young guys have had. Adil scoring his maiden 1st XI hundred. Ollie Devenish with his exceptional attitude and development into a fine all-rounder, filling the big boots left by the injured Fergs and Mark Drain. And JC for continuing his development into a leading spinner, with his refreshing attitude of tossing it up higher if he gets whacked.

But overall I will remember it for the year the pirates came close, for the key moments where we stopped scrapping that defined the season, but more importantly for the year we re-established ourselves as a top side in Essex.

I would like to thank the senior players in the side for their advice. A special thank you to Rob for helping me manage the team from the other side of London, for attending selection on Mondays and for his (often blunt) advice on selection dilemmas. And to Tony Edney for his continued commitment as our scorer and rules expert. One final thank you goes to those who have looked after the catering this year - the small group of long standing volunteers who cooked and served Saturday evening food, and to Angela for the teas who we wish all the best with her tea shop.

Chris Prowting

Saturday 1sts

P 18

W 10

D 2

L 4

A 2

Pts 272

Position 2nd

(Champions

Wanstead 274 pts)

DECODING DARREN – SATURDAY 2ND XI

I'm on holiday this Saturday so I'll have little time to do a report. A few things I would like to highlight are the following:

The 2nds are known to have an experienced side and won the league, 8/9 of the players aged under 25. Special mention to Miles Clark for his fine wicket-keeping. 109* vs Hornchurch and taking us to our first win of the season away to Wanstead.

Matt Thurston for taking his first ever 5 wicket haul (6-60 vs Fives)

Dave Thrift with most catches of 9. Very consistent in the field and is probably the fittest and oldest player in the side, also scored a few fifties Gary Chidley coming back to the side in fine form with a couple of unbeaten fifties Stuart Everard with 23 Wickets and Craig Thompson with 22. Adil Dewan scoring a century, Matt Poole & Neal Abhyankar with a 5 wicket haul. The time-out? Also special thanks to John Everard, Bernice Clark for their hard work scoring.

Darren Thompson

Three games into the 2012 season, disaster looked possible. The batsmen failed to post defendable scores and all the games were lost, although by decreasing margins.

The bowling form from the one wicket defeat by

South Woodford was carried into the next game as Wanstead were bowled out for a low score. The batting form continued too but Miles Clark in his first appearance at this level guided the team home. From there it was onwards and upwards. There were nine more games played to a conclusion, seven were won and the other two finished as draws with the opposition nine wickets down.

The most amazing victory was against Woodford Wells who had been outplayed and had settled for a draw. Their ninth wicket pair seemed to have thwarted the hopes of victory but some good hustling allowed an extra over in the last hour. That paid dividends as the ninth wicket fell and the dozy number 11 had thought the game was over and got changed. He eventually arrived at the crease to be given timed out on appeal. Not perhaps the best way to win a game and perhaps it is fortunate that the league winning margin was more than 13 points.

The bowlers performed well throughout the season with Craig Thompson and Stuart Everard leading the way and useful support particularly from Neal Abhyankar, Stephen Drain and latterly, Matt Thurston.

With the bat, David Thrift was the most consistent, showing his experience and also putting some of the younger members of

the team to shame with his athleticism in the field. His opening partner Haris Mahmood did not score as heavily as might have been expected but still performed creditably and played some fine innings.

Miles Clark had a very good debut season which included a maiden century, away to Hornchurch and did an excellent job as wicketkeeper.

In the closing weeks, Gary Chidley found a rich vein of form and Matt Thurston came into the side, always providing quick runs.

With a win needed to guarantee the title on the last day, Fives made a good start before faltering horribly with Matt Thurston clearing up. Nick Bailey smashed a century in the reply although this was not one of Darren's highlights.

There can't be many teams with two scorers and thanks must go to John Everard and Bernice Clark for fulfilling this role, for both sides on some occasions and when the opposition had a scorer, we had a photographer.

Congratulations to Darren and his squad on a very fine season. I'm not sure whether you are experienced or not, that's the one part I haven't been able to decode, you are Champions though.

Saturday 2nds

P 18

W 8

D 2

L 3

A 5

Pts 247

Position 1st

**(Runners-up
Wanstead 222pts)**

ANYONE FOR SUNDAY—SUNDAY 1ST XI

Another difficult year as Sunday captain. The usual problems occurred, poor availability, people playing their cricket elsewhere on Sundays, and a severe lack of interest.

It is a slight concern that Sunday cricket appears to be on the decline, I hope to see an increase in availability next year as we try to keep Sunday cricket alive.

Despite all that, we had a good year and if it was not for the poor weather costing us four league games I firmly believe that we would have won the league which would have been a fantastic achievement.

Orsett ran out as winners due to hardly missing any games.

The league season got underway hosting last year's winners Hadleigh & Thundersley. A good bowling and fielding display led by Alistair Fergus's 4-28 and Matt Thurston's 4-21 restricted Hadleigh to 155. This should have been a relatively easy chase but some tight bowling led by Joe Robbins 3-24 saw Chelmsford fall behind the rate early on. James Arnold played beautifully and timed his innings to perfection before being dismissed for 61, Paul Jones with 33* ensured Chelmsford got over the line with 7 balls to spare.

A good partnership from Chris Prowting (109) and Rob Hayto (48) on a slow damp pitch saw Chelmsford

post an above par score of 208-7 against Orsett. Plom (31) got the chase off to a good start before being dismissed by the impressive Aaron Beard who finished with 2-14 from his 6 overs, supported by the ever reliable Alistair Fergus (2-10) with Tom Halsey (3-17) finishing off proceedings and dismissing Orsett for 105.

Aztecs fell on the same day as the Warsop T20 finals day, causing a problem in raising 22 players to cover both games. Luckily we did, and I thank everyone who made themselves available that day and Craig Thompson for leading the side in my absence. Aztecs posted 205-8 with Liam Keaney (3-24) impressing with the ball.

Chelmsford couldn't get over the line in a rain affected chase, Dave Goddard (25) and Liam Keaney (35) the only players to get themselves in.

Chelmsford were due to host Waltham on Presidents Day but rain proved to be the winner on the day.

On a rearranged date, East Essex won the toss and took almost half an hour to decide what to do, holding a discussion in their changing room before deciding to bowl. On a slow pitch Chelmsford posted a competitive 174-9, Oliver Devenish (50) and Chris Prowting (40) the main contributors. East Essex never got going and batted with

no real plans to achieve their target, despite needing a win to retain their Premier League status. Alistair Fergus (4-33) was once again in the wickets.

Our final game saw us travel to South Woodford, an outstanding opening partnership of 194 from Adil Dewan (87) and Jack Sterland (94) set the foundations for Nick Bailey (32) to show off his hitting power and Bradley Green (13) to add a touch of class as Chelmsford posted an imposing 267-6. Some good catching and tight bowling from Alistair Fergus (2-38) and Ken Jones (4-33) ensured that South Woodford never got any momentum going. McMullen (89) was the only South Woodford batsmen to post a score worth noting as Ben Clifford (2-5) finished off the innings for 172.

Not many friendlies were played, but another good day was had by all as we hosted Cosmopolitan. Chelmsford ran out as winners with Tom Halsey providing entertainment with the bat.

I would like to thank everyone who has played on Sundays this year, Bernice Clark for scoring on numerous occasions and Dave Goddard who has helped me raise sides when availability has been poor. Apologies to anyone I may have forgotten.

Rob Hayto

Sunday 1sts**P 9****W 4****L 1****A 4****Pts 99****Position 4th****(Champions
Orsett 111 pts)**

ANOTHER REPEAT – SATURDAY 3RD XI

Saturday 3rds

P 18

W 10

L 1

D 2

A 5

Pts 261

Position 1st

(Runners-up
Woodford Wells 240
pts)

After very mixed fortunes in the opening two games, the 3rd XI was able to take the more positive experience and ensure that reflected the direction of the remainder of the season. The only defeat to season Strugglers Fives, failing to chase down a meagre 119, losing by 20 runs, fortunately turned out to be the season's low point, apart from the inclement weather leading to five abandonments, decisively one less than closest rivals, Woodford Wells.

On reflection, the season was characterised by the application to the task when lesser sides may well have capitulated and conceded crucial points. Despite mixed availability over the course of the season, strength in depth at the club ensured that young players called in, such as Sam Trowell and Tom Arnold, were able to contribute significantly to key wins, Sam scoring key runs in partnership with Aaron Beard against South Woodford and

Tom bowling economically for 12 overs on debut, in a threadbare bowling attack, which saw Alistair Fergus, top wicket-taker, bowl 26 overs from one end, restricting Hainault & Clayhall to 199. The season was punctuated by gratefully received contributions from some more senior players such as Phil Arnold and Ian Hare (5 wicket haul in his only appearance of the season).

The batting unit dominated most sides, frequently chasing down totals without conceding bowling points, characterised by a consistent and fruitful opening partnership of Jack Moss (Averaging 60+ scoring 550 odd runs) and Paul Keaney (2 centuries), providing a platform for James Arnold; Tom Iliffe; Bradley Green and Aaron to chip in with crucial scores as required.

Despite being hunted down by Woodford Wells, against whom we failed to start and complete our matches, we kept thwarting their

pursuit by picking up wins or large bonus point hauls throughout the season.

The hot and sunny final day saw us inflict a comprehensive 159 run defeat on Upminster, with all players contributing with runs and Beard; Clifford; Fergus; Halsey and Goodman all picking up a share of the wickets, which heralded the flow of Champagne (NO Colts were carried out of the Clubhouse) for the 6th Season running.

No doubt the 2013 season will be characterised by an even greater determination from other Clubs to knock us off our perch, so the contribution of the young players will be even more vital and strong availability from the start will be a must.

Particular thanks must go to Mike Vandome for his umpiring, a great burden lifted from captain and players.

Andy Rycroft

TO THE MAX—THE BAR REPORT

There were 24 weekends available for cricket in 2012. Regrettably the weather, opposition cry-offs and our own availability problems savaged our season. 9 Saturdays and 18 Sundays saw no cricket at Chelmer, 4 other occasions saw cricket curtailed or abandoned. However, whenever cricket was played, the bar was open.

A huge thank you to a large group of people is in order. First, the Cash and Carry Crew; Julie Witham,

Sue Hollingsworth, Martyn Edwards, Bob and Gill, Peter Anstee, Berna Cranmer and Sue Beard. Then the Bar Brigade; Julie and Gill again, Hannah Devenish and particularly Max Gibson. Max's unstinting help and support make my job easy.

We also opened the bar on 28 occasions whether midweek or weekend when no cricket was played.

In total 36 cricket events

did not happen—weekend and midweek matches and Friday Colts' practices. It should come as no surprise then that the gross income on the bar is down by £3,500 on the 2011 season.

There has never been a worse season for weather but hopefully there were some good ales to sup and some good conversation shared.

Roll on 2013—'things can only get better'.

Brian Poole



UNSUNG HEROES

There are a lot of people who need to be thanked for their contributions during the season.

Chelmsford is very lucky to have an array of skilled scorers with Tony Edney, John Everard, Bernice Clark, Sue Hollingsworth and Stan Doe regularly doing the job on Saturday or Sunday. Others such as Maureen Green, Richard Thompson and Sam Pandya provide skilled back-up.

It would be good if we could supply more umpires, most clubs in the 2nd XI Premier League have one. The 3rd team is very lucky to have Mike Vandome to do the job for them.

Preparation of teas, particularly on Saturdays is a demanding task. 2012 will have been Angela's final season as she pursues her business ambi-

tions with a Tea Shop and if anyone is interested in taking over, please approach a Committee member.

Berna Cranmer's teas on Sunday have been copious, with enough left-over to satiate even Austin's voracious appetite.

Thanks must go to all the others who helped out on Fridays, at weekends and with Saturday evening catering, in particular Rosie Prowting and Shirley Bailey.

As mentioned above there are also a large number of helpers with the bar and Brian Poole's dedication to this is impressive. Max Gibson and Hannah Devenish's efforts should also be acknowledged.

In the running of the Club, our Chair, Secretary and Treasurer are all non-playing members and

Eddie, Shirley and Martyn do fine jobs.

If I could ask people to do one thing it is to check the website regularly. I post match reports and scores there on a Sunday evening (or Monday morning) and yes, they are full reports not just the first half of the game as in the local press. Do not ask me why I didn't put X in the Chronicle, what goes to the Chronicle is what's on the site. I don't edit the Chronicle, mind you from what I've seen no human does.

The news is also kept fairly up to date and Bernice has done some excellent work in loading photographs of teams old and new.

Of course this is just a snapshot of the volunteers who keep the club afloat. Thanks to everyone who helps out.

ON BALANCE A B—SATURDAY 5TH XI

There was frustration... promise...and progress ... more frustration...satisfaction ...yet more frustration

Attempting to summarise this season in a sentence is a tricky challenge, but I'm willing to give it a go. There was frustration with five games being rained off; promise in the encouraging performances and progress with some of the younger members of the team; more frustration with frequent selection struggles; satisfaction with an excellent final position following a very disappointing start to the season; but yet more frustration at missing out on promotion on the final day of the season. The low point of this year was the first game actually played. In being dismissed for 47 on a tricky West Essex wicket, the eleven batsmen showed the full range of poor judgement, technique and application. Following this heavy defeat the superb knock of 134* from Phil Arnold against Old Parks helped to get the side back on track, although a win could not be forced, and a sickening last-ball defeat at Stanford-le-Hope (Martin Daniels contributing 92 in vain) belied an improved level of team performance. The game at Horndon was unusual although not exactly enthralling. Horndon came in for tea looking confident having bowled

us out for 99, of which Connor Cheverall had made a third of the total in a doughty and determined innings. With the wicket being effectively unprepared though, and the outfield resembling, well, a field, the opposition found that they too could not gain value for their shots when faced with some accurate bowling. Phil Arnold picked up 5-13 from 16 overs, as Horndon could only muster 82-8. After 92 overs of tedium in the match a draw was the unlikely result, not a match to write home about (although I may have just disproved this assertion). A win was finally achieved in the sixth scheduled fixture, a hard-fought match with Wickford where the batting again disappointed, compiling just 105 in 52 overs, but a five-run victory was gained with Phil again the bowling hero with 5-31. My personal favourite game of the season was the following week where we made an utterly inept attempt to chase Epping's total of 151-9 at Chelmer. We collapsed to 70-9, with Patel having collected 8-19 at that point. Ben Daniels and Tom Arnold (combined age 30) batted resolutely for more than 20 overs, with the fielders getting increasingly desperate and

ultimately achieved the most defiant of draws. A strong team performance against Wanstead resulted in another win, Peter Marshall guiding the chase with an unbeaten 54. The first three weeks of July were a wash-out before a memorable win over my old friends at Fives. Connor Cheverall contributed a measured and then aggressive 70 to the total of 168, which was about par, and it was a memorable day for their bowler Braithwaite, who picked up five wickets including a hat-trick containing a husband and wife as his second and third victims - but the day was not over for the Greens. Barry severely dented the chase with the wicket of one opener, caught at slip from a sharp delivery, and then a fine catch in the deep to remove the other as for once one of my field 'traps' worked. He later ran out their captain but more damage was being caused by Harry, whose flight and turn were too much for several batsmen. One of their senior batsmen confidently pronounced he could play the turning ball off the back foot, before being bowled round his legs; lovely evidence of, to use a Bushism, a 'misunderestimation'. Cont'd./

With Maureen offering the bribe of a McFlurry, Harry sealed the win with his five-for.

This kicked off a good run. Hyder Jeddy (89) and Barry Green (5-18) demolished Stanford, Zameer Panjwani ran through Wickford to return a stunning haul of 7-35. These victories over sides around us in the table put us in the promotion picture despite a respectable but comfortable defeat to West Essex, who were easily the division's best side. Frustratingly the Brentwood fixture fell victim to rain after Connor (76*) and Tahir Khan (80*) had amassed a hugely impressive partnership. However an aggressive team performance against Wanstead (Tahir 70*; Micky Burns 54; Harry Green 5-42) put us in a strong position. Victory against already relegated Epping would have sealed promotion. Unusually hot weather, a succession of balls being lost, small boundaries, Phil breaking down early in his spell and some rather poor sportsmanship cost us the opportunity of making a decent fist of a tricky chase. This left us at the mercy of other results, and although Horndon hilariously kept Wickford in the field for 70 overs to kill the game (a lesson in the merits of not antago-

nising opposition sides), Stanford-le-Hope beat a weakened West Essex and snatched promotion. Nevertheless a 3rd place finish in the division, competing mainly against other clubs' 3rd and 4th elevens is a fine achievement for a side compiled mainly of the young and the not-so-young, those learning their craft and those, er, trying to remember it. The efforts of Harry (26 wickets @ 12.6); Connor (301 runs @ 30.1); Zameer (12 wickets @ 11.3) and Tahir (193 runs @ 38.6) bode well for the future and will surely see them pushing forward next year. The standard of fielding was generally high and this can make all the difference in low-scoring matches. Tom Arnold and Ben Daniels also bowled with impressive control without necessarily collecting the wickets they deserved. The batting lacked consistency and would probably benefit from increased representation of older players to guide the youngsters. Finally, after four years it is time for me to stand down from captaincy. I will still be appearing on Saturdays and look forward to trying to rediscover some form. I won't offer advice to my successor, although I will be handing over the priceless list of

phone numbers.

One question that I've been asked a few times is if I saw Daniel Craig as James Bond with the Queen during the Olympics opening ceremony. In fact on that Friday evening at 9pm Dave and I were still at the clubhouse trying to complete our sides.

My thanks for all their help in the last few years go to Stan, Sue, Bernice, Maureen, and any other helpers I have momentarily forgotten. Thanks to Steve and particularly, Peter for their support as vice-captains. Particular thanks to Bob and Dave for their help in assembling sides, and to Gill for her good humour when answering the umpteenth phone call each week. And finally, thanks to each of the 74 players who turned out, especially those who came in at the last minute. It is a testament to the coaching and mentality of this fine club that even in those weeks when we believe we are 'weak', that more often than not we have still fielded sides more than capable of being competitive.

Alex Bailey

Saturday 5ths

P 18

W 6

D 3

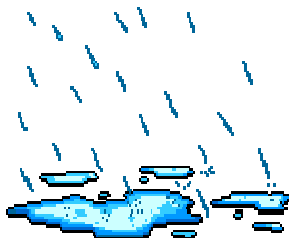
L 4

Pts 208

Position 3rd

**(Champions
West Essex 254 pts)**

MYSTERY SPIN—WARSOP T20



We bowled, fielded and caught like a side that had belief that we could defend any total we posted

Defending the title was always going to be difficult, but achievable.

We managed to qualify for finals day having only played one group game against Maldon. After posting an average score with a few bit-part contributions from our batters, we knew that we would have to bowl and field well to ensure victory.

Maldon never looked like a side with much depth, and we knew early wickets would be crucial. The early breakthroughs came but just brought Maldon's overseas Glenn to the crease. He looked a high class player and was dominant until blotting his copy-book in permanent style, bowled by Alistair Fergus. Maldon never recovered from this with, Beard, Fergus, Hayto and both Cliffords keeping it tidy to ensure that they never got close.

To finals day we went again which unfortunately fell on the same day we had a league game. It proved a very difficult task to get 22 players out. Thank you to the 11 who travelled to Aztecs.

Going into finals day, I knew that spin would be key against the type of sides we were playing, who don't normally see spinners throw the ball above the eye line. Although

I must add that the seamers played their part by sticking to their task and executing their plans well. We faced a new challenge in Rankins, winners of the competition in its first year. James Clifford and Nisarg Patel bowled exceptionally well and both returned outstanding figures.

Rankins posted a below par score on what was a good pitch and very small ground.

Jack Sterland and Haris Mahmood saw the run chase home with ease as we lost no wickets in booking a place in the final. Hatfield Peverel ran home easy winners in their Semi Final against Hutton, with Castledine and Donovan showing imperious form to set up a repeat final.

Claims that the home side were not going to take this match too seriously were dismissed as they celebrated each wicket as if they were looking to win the Ashes. A pretty dismal batting display, with the only highlight being Gary Chidley's destructive innings meant that we would have to perform out of our skin in the field to ensure we retained the title.

Hatfield Peverel got off to a slowish start, struggling to get any momentum going; their skipper Castledine could not reignite his semi-final form

and holed out going for a maximum.

Wickets fell on a regular basis with no batsman being able to get set and swing the momentum in their favour. Nisarg bowled beautifully and grabbed a hat-trick, while James was again phenomenal with the ball as Peverel failed to reach three figures in their 20 overs.

Our display in the field was faultless.

We bowled, fielded and caught like a side that always had belief that we could defend any total we posted.

This is something that we should all be proud of; whilst the competition may not be the strongest I still believe it is a fantastic achievement to win it back to back.

I have stepped down as Captain for 2013 and passed the baton to Jack Sterland; I have no doubt that Jack will also be successful in this role. I would like to thank everyone who has played under me in this competition over the last two years, and to all those who have helped me raise sides, umpired, scored, and driven to games.

I am very proud to have Captained the Club to back to back titles in this competition and hope we have further success in the future.

Rob Hayto

DUKES ESSEX T20

This is a competition which provides great stress; the main aim for me is to get 11 players to a ground for the start time for the mid-week games. This was another competition that we qualified from having only played 1 group game, except that we lost this one.

A strong Colchester side posted over 200, Foster playing well for his 78. 25 wickets did not help matters.

Miles Clark and Matt Thurston played well and found some good form in what became a net session when victory was well beyond our grasp.

Our home games were not played, surprisingly not due to rain. Old Brentwoods cried off at 8pm the night before, while Basildon went one better and sent a text message to Tony Edney at 11am on the morning of the game to advise that they could not raise a side. While we got the points, this was frustrating as not much cricket was being played at the time thanks to the rain.

Our run rate saw us qualify as runners up and meant a trip to Fives & Heronians in mid-week.

Again it became a difficult task to raise a side for a 6pm start with a long journey to go with it. Massive thanks to everyone who played.

As it turned out, we went there with a strong side and one that I felt was capable of causing an upset. Fives won the toss and decided to bowl. We managed to post a competitive score with Adil Dewan and Matt Thurston being the main contributors. Fives got off to a flyer but some quick wickets and tight bowling saw the nerves creep in as the home side started to fall behind the rate.

With the bowlers bowled out and overs remaining, I was left with a difficult decision. Gary Chidley or Nick 'God' Bailey to bowl an over. Unfortunately I made the wrong decision as Gary saw his over dismissed for over 20. To this day I still can't believe I didn't choose the man who has never failed with the ball.

Fives got home with only a few wickets remaining and an

over to spare.

It was a performance that we could have been proud of, but also a missed opportunity.

Whilst I think everyone acknowledges that this is a competition we will always struggle to compete in, due to a lack of availability and the majority of games being played mid-week. We should be using these games to execute different skills and plans, not just turn up, play without thinking about what we are doing and then leave.

Again, a big thanks to all those who played, scored, umpired, helped raise sides and drove to games. Especially to Paul Keaney who scored at Fives where we would have had to play with 10 if he had not stepped in at the last minute.

Rob Hayto

We reached the last 16 of the Essex League T20 without winning a game

TOUR ?

It is some years since the Club ran a Tour, even at Colt's level.

The club receives a lot of correspondence from organisations who set these up. If you are interested, let

Shirley Bailey know and she can pass them on.

Experience suggests that Tours take place because a small group of people (or just one person) really drives them on.

UNSTOPPABLE FORCE—THE UNDER 15S

MOVE OVER
ANDY FLOWER ,
CRAIG THOMPSON
IS AFTER YOUR
JOB!!

In my 1st season as U15 manager I didn't really know what to expect. It seems a long time since I played cricket at this age.

With wins over Hutton home and away, in the League and cup, things started well.

Frustration set in as bad weather and a lack of cooperation from other clubs meant it was the end of June before we played again, beating Bentley in the cup.

Then, another month of inaction, this time solely due to the weather.

We played Brentwood at home at the end of July. I expected a tough test but was pleasantly surprised when we won easily.

Both matches played in August were cup games, Belhus, which we won at a canter and Woodford Wells which I think was the best game we had played so far.

With our success in cup competitions, it meant we were into September with only 2 of 5 league matches played, and with the possibility of 4 cup

games if we got through to both finals. In the end the league games didn't get played before the cut off date and were deemed draws.

Semi-final victories against Ilford where we batted brilliantly and in a tight match against Writtle where we didn't mean the chance of a cup double. The Central Essex Cup was collected, with a tough match at Brentwood and then the Essex Cup in a fairly straightforward win at Loughton

As you can see our season was dominated by Cup fixtures, eight of the ten matches played. This would have been more if we could have found a suitable date for the National Cup.

I would have dearly loved to have played the outstanding league games, but Springfield and Shenfield only wanted Sunday mornings and every date I offered was turned down. Bentley obviously didn't want a 2nd beating at the hands of CT's mighty U15's team!

I've not included personal performers because there are so many, and because 'Statto' (me dad) has already given his

masterpiece on Excel of the averages to Al-istair.

Next season we lose the skills of James, Brad, Matt and Tahir from the squad, a large void to fill. I am confident though that others will step up to maintain this season's level of success.

I would like to thank the people that have helped me tremendously this season. On the umpiring front, Steve, Alan, Barry and Burnsie and with scoring, Bernice, Maureen and me Dad.

I don't know if I should thank this person as he got me into trouble at Ilford – yes you Miles!!! and finally Bob, who was always there either on the phone or for a chat at Chelmer. Where would we be without him? I know for a fact that both my brother and my Dad also have so much respect and admiration for him, I'd like to think you all feel the same about who I consider is 'Mr Chelmsford'.

All the best and let's all look forward to another successful season for the U15s.

Craig Thompson

The season was dominated by Cup fixtures

UNDER 15 AVERAGES

Colts Name	Matches	Innings	Not Outs	50's	Total Runs	Average
Tom Arnold	8	0	0	0	0	
Aaron Beard	10	8	4	1	115	28.75
James Burns	10	5	0	0	20	4.00
Connor Cheverall	9	9	3	0	133	22.16
Ben Clifford	10	8	3	1	113	22.60
James Clifford	9	8	3	3	240	48.00
Alexander Critchell	1	0	0	0	0	
Mathew Davis	4	4	1	0	80	26.66
Bradley Green	9	8	1	2	260	37.14
Harry Green	10	2	1	0	9	9.00
Tahir Khan	2	1	0	0	2	2.00
Josh Limbeckia	2	0	0	0	0	
Jamie Mathews	10	2	1	0	6	6.00
Zameer Panjwani	1	0	0	0	0	
Sean Sullivan	2	0	0	0	0	
Sam Trowell	10	9	4	0	142	28.40
Connor Wootton	1	0	0	0	0	

Colts Name	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	Ave	Run rate
Tom Arnold	26.0	4	102	13	7.84	3.92
Aaron Beard	31.2	0	167	6	27.83	5.35
Ben Clifford	35.0	3	131	11	11.90	3.74
James Clifford	29.5	3	132	11	12.00	4.47
Alex Critchell	2.0	0	12	1	12.00	6.00
Harry Green	16.0	1	112	5	22.40	7.00
Josh Limbeckia	2.0	0	11	0		5.50
Jamie Mathews	14.0	0	108	3	36.00	7.71
Zameer Panjwani	2.0	1	3	0		1.50
Sean Sullivan	6.0	1	35	2	17.50	5.83
Sam Trowell	29.0	4	137	9	15.22	4.72

The under-13s only had 4 games

UNDER THE WEATHER—THE UNDER 13S

It was a very frustrating year for the under-13s. A small pool of players, the large pool that was usually on cricket pitches and the lack of a manager meant that there were very few chances to play. With Monday night training 'seminated' by rain the prospects were reduced further.

A total of 4 games were played, 2 won and

2 lost. The main encouraging aspects were from those who regularly appeared in the adult sides. Tom Arnold and Harry Green did very well in the league sides, the under-15s and 16s. Bob's sixth team regularly included Sam Taylor, Jack Champion, Alex Critchell and Ed Cole, who all made decent improvements to their game.

HELP THE COLTS – VIEW OF A CASUAL OBSERVER

I feel I must put pen to paper regarding the lack of interest/commitment shown by some people towards the continued life blood of our Club; the Colts section.

Yet again our senior teams in the Colts section have had a remarkably successful season. A lot of credit has to go to not only to the players but the managers who give up their spare time to arrange everything that's connected with running the sides. It's a thankless task and one made more difficult this season by the bad weather. Despite that Craig Thompson and Chris Drain must be highly commended for their efforts.

We have been very spoilt over recent seasons to have had the likes of Alistair Fergus, Peter Drain and of course Bob who have given so much of their time to manage three of the age groups. In the past we have had two teams in each section which means even more commitment. Sadly numbers now are not so strong and we are down to just one U13 and U15 side. It is a great shame that all three felt at the same time that it was

right to hand over the baton to new people but it's like anything you can only do it for so long.

There are many players from past Colt sides managed by these three gentlemen who are still at the Club and I think it would have been nice for a few of them to show their commitment to the Club, not only by playing but to get involved in this very rewarding duty. You would think that these would be easy positions to fill and players would be only too pleased to give something back to the Club and those who helped them so much during their Colt period. Sadly that has not been the case with only the two players above who have shown that commitment.

Both Bob and Alistair have decided for the sake of the Colts to carry on because nobody would take on these roles. I think this is very sad which is why I felt that something had to be said. I understand that someone actually came forward to run the U13 team this year, but then changed their mind after just one game, not what we want but at least he

gave it a go. May I suggest that if you're interested, but feel that you can't commit to doing it on your own then speak to a friend within the Club with a view to sharing one of the roles? I know for a fact that if you do then you won't regret it. Just remember if the likes of Bob, Alistair, and Peter hadn't given up their time for you when you were young would you still be playing cricket now and if so would it be at our great Club with all its tradition of producing fine young cricketers?

I apologise for not mentioning Andrew Shepherd so far, he does a tremendous amount of work for the U9s as well as his additional Committee and child welfare role. It's very pleasing to say that at present 'Shep' is happy to continue with this role, long may that last. I finish this article now and ask you to ponder on what I've said, and then say yes I could do more for our Great Club by getting involved with our Colt section how do I go about it? The simple answer is to have a chat with Bob.

Pre-Dinner Conversation
'You got a lot of wickets this year, are you getting anything?'
'Yes, an obsession with play-cricket'

BABY STEPS – THE UNDER-11S

Thanks to the efforts of Bob, the under-11s managed to get 10 games in. With a very inexperienced squad, the results were not brilliant but some important progress was made.

Reaching the semi-final of the Cup was the highlight. Harry Arnold

starred in this competition with 3 fifties.

The numbers at a younger age were boosted by some successful pre-season coaching from Keith Goodman and Eddie Lawrence at Mildmay School.

Lots of good work has

been done during the year to build on this and there are good numbers at the pre-Christmas coaching sessions.

Thanks must also go to Miles Clark who helped Bob out at games, extra Sunday morning practices and on Friday nights.

MATCHPLAY CHAMPIONS

A fantastic display at the County Ground in late August saw an outstanding under-16 side fulfill their potential and clinch the Matchplay title.

There were nervous moments along the way. Rain meant half the group matches were rained off, adding an extra lottery element.

Wickford were blown away by a hat-trick in Haris Mahmood's opening over on his way to five wickets and he then smashed an unbeaten hundred in a 9 wicket win.

A solid team performance overcame High Roding but they won the group by virtue of having

played more.

This put Chelmsford on the harder side of the draw and meant a trip to South Woodford.

That tie was decided on a bowl-out. A bit of luck maybe but it reflected well on Chelmsford that all 5 players (Tom Arnold, Haris, Henry Clark, Matt Davis and Miles Clark) hit the stumps whilst South Woodford managed one out of ten.

The quarter-final was against a strong Fives & Heronians side and Chelmsford struggled just past 150 with Angus Turner and Miles providing the backbone.

An excellent bowling display kept things in the balance but a cru-

cial wicket from Tom swung it to Chelmsford and Angus and James Clifford ensured that momentum was carried through.

Angus and James then combined superbly with the bat as Bishops Stortford were comprehensively beaten in the semi-final. James made an impressive 146, the highest score by a Chelmsford player this season.

The final started poorly but Haris played a wonderful innings, scoring a century. Aaron Beard then led a rout with four wickets as High Roding were bowled out for 39.



Aaron Beard became the second Boswells pupil to win Colt of the Year

AWARD WINNERS

Colt of the Year

Aaron Beard

Most Improved Player

Connor Cheverall

Colt Clubman

Miles Clark

Stan Doe Trophy

(Outstanding Performance)

Haris Mahmood

Under 15 Players of the Year

Bradley Green

Ben Clifford

Sam Trowell

James Clifford

Under 13 Players of the Year

Tom Arnold

Harry Green

Alex Critchell

Jack Campion

Under 11 Players of the Year

Harry Arnold

Sean Sullivan

Matt Cole

Sam Tremelling



Caption describing picture or graphic.

FOUR ELEVENS—SATURDAY 4TH XI

Despite playing only 12 games, there were 44 players who turned out for the 4th team. This rather reflects the hard work that David Goddard had to do each week.

A worrying start was turned around and a respectable record of 6 wins, 4 draws and 2 defeats achieved.

That was enough to finish 4th and retain the accolade of being the top ranked 4th XI in the Shepherd Neame Essex League.

Batting proved to be a problem throughout the season with only 5

players scoring more than 100 runs. Rupert Redman's tally of 210 was the most.

Despite that the scoring was fairly consistent with useful contributions throughout the order.

Angus Turner was impressive in a limited number of games, especially a superb match-winning innings against Chingford.

James Arnold scored over 100 runs, in just 1 game. His century against Ilford denied the eventual champions victory for the

first time in 2012.

Neil Raisborough was the heart of the bowling attack, contributing 21 wickets and keeping things tight. Keith Goodman bowled with his usual skill and there were important displays from Ian Turner and Ken Jones too.

Bizarrely, the season ended with a very strong batting line-up. Six wickets from Ian Turner and an unbeaten 78 from Lee Cranmer rounded off the season with a win at West Essex.

Saturday 4ths**P 18****W 6****D 4****L 2****Pts 208****Position 4th****(Champions
Ilford 297 pts)****THE LADDER—SATURDAY 6TH XI**

The 6th team was a real mixture of youth and experience. The players were either very youthful or very experienced.

With the lack of Colts cricket it was a very useful proving ground for some players. Unfortunately, problems in higher teams meant some young players who might have formed the backbone of the side were helping out the 4th or 5th XIs.

The overall record of 4wins and 7 defeats was respectable in the

circumstances. Some of the games were complete mismatches and a few opposition players seemed to be more intent on personal milestones than playing a game of friendly cricket.

The season ended well with an exciting one-wicket win over Rayleigh, Jamie Matthews playing a fine innings and Ed Cole finishing things off.

Zameer Panjwani bowled well, picking up one five-wicket haul before being elevated to the 5ths

where he also enjoyed success.

Sean Sullivan, Harry Arnold, Jack Champion, Ed Cole, Sam Taylor and Alex Critchell were the regular players, all of them under 13. Each of them played well at different times and will hopefully feel the benefit in future years.

As usual thanks must go to Bob and Colin Miller for running the team and to the parents who helped out and on occasion, played.

NOT MUCH—SUNDAY 2NDS

The problems getting sides on a Sunday meant that the 2nd team only played five matches and only once when the 1st team also had a game.

There were two wins and three defeats.

A horrible batting display at Sawbridge-worth got the season off to a bad start.

Craig Thompson and David Goddard played well at Writtle and a comfortable victory was achieved there.

On a rare hot day, temperatures were raised anyway in a traumatic game at Great & Little Warley. A series of dropped catches helped the home side to a narrow win. Miles Clark had played a very dominant innings to put Chelmsford in a strong position.

Another good innings from David Goddard was not enough to stave off defeat by Stock on the one day when the 1sts and 2nds played.

Some brainless play from Frenford on 1 July gave Chelmsford a win in another close contest. This game featured excellent batting from Connor Cheverall and Dave Thrift and a fine five-wicket burst from Stephen Drain.

It also proved to be the last action in the year. With it proving difficult to raise one side on a Sunday, let alone two, the fixtures for August and September were scrapped.

ANNUAL DINNER

Despite a prestigious guest, Essex Captain James Foster, the attendance at the Annual Dinner was disappointing.

Please do try to make an effort to attend social events as these help raise funds and spirits in the club. A lot of hard work goes into organising these events.

The annual Award Winners were:

Outstanding Individual Performance

Adil Dewan

Allen Jerman Trophy (Batting)

Dan Hagen

Spencer George Trophy (Bowling)

Alistair Fergus

All Rounder of the Year

Nisarg Patel

Fielder of the Year

Jack Sterland

Most Improved Player

Ollie Devenish

Team of the Year

Saturday 2nds

Rawsthorne Trophy

(Outstanding Young Player)

Miles Clark

Thompson Cup (Outstanding Colt)

James Clifford

Prowting Hollamby Smith Trophy
(Highest score)

James Clifford

Shirley Carter Trophy (Clubperson)

Shirley Bailey

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If anyone has an article to contribute - and this obviously includes the captains and managers who have not done reports—please continue to send them to me. They can be included in the next edition of the Toss.

**Remember to check the website for news and (my) views
www.chelmsfordcc.co.uk**

Putting the Village in
Chelmer

**Full stats on league games and some friendlies can be found at:
<http://chelmsford.play-cricket.com/scoreboard/teamStats.asp>**

NUMBERS GAME

Highest Total

For: **304-6** Under 16s v
Bishops Stortford

Against: **255-3** Liberty
Casuals v Saturday
6ths

Lowest Total

Against: **39** High Roding
v Under-16s

For: **47** Sat 5ths v West
Essex

Highest Score

146 James Clifford
U16s v Bishops Stortford

Hundreds

2—Adil Dewan, Nick

Prowting, Haris Mahmood,
Paul Keaney

1—Nisarg Patel, Dan Hagen,
Miles Clark, Nick Bailey,
James Arnold, Phil Arnold,
Chris Prowting, James Clifford

Best Bowling

7-27 Keith Goodman
Sat 4ths v Upminster

Five-wicket Hauls

3— Neal Abhyankar

2—Nisarg Patel, James Clifford,
Phil Arnold, Harry Green,
Zameer Panjwani

1—Tom Craddock, Matt Poole,
Stuart Everard, Matt Thurston,
Ian Hare,

Alistair Fergus, Keith Goodman,
Ken Jones, Neil Raisborough,
Ian Turner, Barry Green,
Stephen Drain, Haris Mahmood

Hat-Tricks

Nisarg Patel

Rob Hayto

Haris Mahmood