

Chelmsford Cricket Club Report for 11 and 12 August

Defeat for the first team in a game that could have been won put a dampener on an otherwise fairly positive weekend. The second and third teams had comprehensive wins and the fourths once again pulled together superbly as a side to win.

Nick Prowting and Jack Sterland recorded half centuries but Chelmsford would have been slightly disappointed to only record 226. Arshad Ali (76) gave Shenfield a positive start but wickets fell regularly as the batsmen adopted a very positive approach and at 166 for eight, Chelmsford seemed likely to win. Salisbury (61*) played very well and Lugg (32*) rode his luck to guide the home side to victory.

Craig Thompson and Stuart Everard destroyed Shenfield as they were bowled out for 90. Thompson picked up early wickets with three for 25 and Everard ripped through the tail, claiming four for 6 in just three and a half overs. Only Burgess with 32 put up much resistance. David Thrift played well, scoring an unbeaten 57 as the target was passed for the loss of two wickets.

Paul Keaney with an unbeaten century and Jack Moss (81) shared a third successive century partnership as they made light work of a target of 214. Taker held the Brentwood innings together with 111 and a late flurry took the score to 213 for six. Keaney and Moss shared a partnership of 188 to put Chelmsford well on their way to a nine-wicket win.

The fourth team showed their resilience with a five-wicket win over Brentwood. Neil Raisborough, Ian Turner and Adi Vohra all picked up three wickets but some late order runs from Wood (50*) took the score to 201. All the batsmen contributed to the chase, Chris Drain's 42 was the top score, his brother Mark and Rupert Redman made 34 each and Barry Clayden's unbeaten 35 took the team across the line after Bell (3-22) had picked up a few wickets. Nine games into the season, there have only been three scores of 50 or more but four wins have been recorded.

West Essex's four wicket win checked the fifth team's recent momentum. Hyder Jeddy (49) continued his good form but the innings foundered against Kamal (6-47). Huw Davies (4-35) made a great start with four wickets but Ahmed (88*) and Baxter (41) put together a match winning partnership.

Sean Sullivan had a fantastic day at West Mersea, top scoring with 30 and taking four for 8. Unfortunately, West Mersea managed to sneak home by three wickets, Goodridge's undefeated 62 proved to be the key performance.

There were also a couple of wins on Sunday. A half century from Bradley Green helped the under-15s beat Woodford Wells and advance to the semi-final of the Essex Cup.

The Sunday first team gained a six wicket win over the very sociable Cosmopolitan. A century opening stand from Ollie Devenish (40) and James Clifford (50) laid the foundations in pursuit of visitors 201 all out.

Results & Scores

Saturday 11 August

1st Team

Shepherd Neame Essex League Premier Division

Played at Courage Playing Fields

Chelmsford 226 all out
Shenfield 227-8
(Shenfield won by 2 wickets)

The Chelmsford 1st XI travelled to Shenfield on Saturday looking to get back to winning ways and put pressure on Wanstead at the top of the table. Chelmsford won the toss and chose to bat first on a good pitch in the long awaited sunshine.

Shenfield started well dismissing the Chelmsford opening pair, which brought Nick Prowting and Jack Sterland to the crease just as the Shenfield opening bowlers were finding their rhythm and making it tough to score. Prowting and Sterland battled through the initial pressure to then score more and more freely against the Shenfield spinners. The pair put on partnership of 111 by the time Sterland was dismissed for 54, and with the score at 120 for three Chelmsford had big hopes of posting a highly competitive score.

Unfortunately Prowting was given little support from the Chelmsford middle order who offered too many wicket taking opportunities which were taken by the Shenfield spin pair of Arshad Ali (4-57) and Suhaib Sarwar (4-45). Having suffered a hamstring injury when running between the wickets, Prowting was eventually dismissed for 94 as he tried to hit out (while he could still stand) which effectively ended the Chelmsford innings as the lower order struggled to find the boundaries against the Shenfield spinners.

Chelmsford limped to a below par 226 all out, a score that Shenfield would have taken at the beginning of the game given the batting friendly conditions.

With a low score on the board Chelmsford needed a big start, and they got it with a wicket in the first over. However Shenfield, and in particular Arshad Ali, had different ideas and Ali proceeded to take the attack to the Chelmsford bowlers launching 9 sixes on his way to 76 off just 49 balls. The bowling side had few answers to Ali's big hitting until Devenish (2-42) was rewarded for his good opening spell with his wicket to bring some order back to the innings.

At 100 for four the game was in the balance and the Chelmsford spin trio of Craddock, Patel and Clifford were back to their usual form with some quick wickets to reduce the home side to 166 for eight.

The 8th wicket brought Ryan Lugg to the crease to join Matthew Salisbury who was already looking in good form on 33*. The pair batted extremely well, taking some controlled risks and making the most of the attacking fields, to take Shenfield to a 2 wicket victory and leave the fielding side stunned that they had lost the game from such a strong position.

Chelmsford will host Colchester on Saturday at Chelmer Park and still sitting 2nd in the table will hope to get back to winning ways.

2nd Team

Shepherd Neame Essex League Premier Division
Played at Chelmer Park

Shenfield 90 all out
Chelmsford 91-2
(Chelmsford won by 8 wickets)

3rd Team

Shepherd Neame Essex League Premier Division

Played at Brentwood

Brentwood 213-6

Chelmsford 214-1

(Chelmsford won by 9 wickets)

A competent performance in the field and an accomplished batting display led the third team to a comfortable win.

Brentwood made a decent start but the scoring was checked by a couple of wickets from Alistair Fergus. Fergus bowled rather too many poor deliveries, allowing Taker to keep the scoreboard moving but Phil Arnold (2-50) bowled very tidily at the other end and was eventually rewarded with a couple of wickets.

The fall of the fifth wicket brought Dawes to the crease to join Taker and some big hitting put momentum into the innings. A rather better second spell from Fergus (3-63) slightly retarded that and he dismissed Taker for a very pragmatic 111. Dawes finished on 46 not out and the score at 213 for six. Chelmsford would certainly have settled for that on a small ground and decent pitch. Chelmsford's fielding was of a good standard throughout, helping to back up another thin bowling attack.

Paul Keaney and Jack Moss proved that the score was inadequate with a superb partnership of 188, their third successive century partnership. Moss eventually fell for a fine 81. Keaney progressed to an unbeaten 100 and Gary Chidley also looked in good order as the target was passed for the loss of just one wicket.

4th Team

Shepherd Neame Essex League 3rd XI Division 1

Played at Chelmer Park

Brentwood 201 all out

Chelmsford 205-5

(Chelmsford won by 5 wickets)

5th Team

Shepherd Neame Essex League 4th XI Division 1

Played at Chelmer Park

Chelmsford 155 all out

West Essex 156-6

(West Essex won by 4 wickets)

6th Team

Friendly

Played at West Mersea

Chelmsford 114-6

West Mersea 115-7
(West Mersea won by 3 wickets)

Sunday 12 August

1st Team

Friendly

Played at Chelmer Park

Cosmopolitan 201 all out
Chelmsford 203-4
(Chelmsford won by 6 wickets)

An enjoyable friendly match was won fairly comfortably by Chelmsford.

Stephen Drain (2-10) and Alistair Fergus bowled useful opening spells to reduce the visitors to 17 for three. A change of attack to spin proved to be to the liking of Daniel and Charles who played some fine shots in a century stand.

Jack Sterland bowled a tidy spell but some of the other bowlers took some punishment. A big score looked in the offing but Daniel was run out for 68 and then Charles holed out for 53.

Although S Stanley contributed 28 the rest of the order could not push on and Fergus returned to close out the innings at 201, finishing with three for 10.

Ollie Devenish and James Clifford were tested early on but began to flourish as they settled in. After posting a century opening stand it was a surprise when both fell in the same over, Devenish for 40 and Clifford for 50.

Bradley Green (27) and Gary Chidley (26) shared another useful partnership but both were bowled attempting overly ambitious shots despite the run rate not even being an issue. Chidley was the third victim for J Stanley (3-52).

The spectators were treated to a cameo innings from cult hero Tom Halsey. In his first half dozen overs at the crease Halsey looked like a man who had never picked up a cricket bat before but he ended with some good hits and in combination with Craig Thompson took Chelmsford past the victory target.

Fixtures

Saturday 18 August

1sts: Colchester (H) SNEL 12.00
2nds: Colchester (A) SNEL 1.00
3rds: South Woodford (A) SNEL 1.00
4ths: Harold Wood (H) SNEL 1.00
5ths: Wickford (A) SNEL 1.00

Sunday 19 August

2nds: Thurrock (A) F 2.00