

Chelmsford Cricket Club
Report for 1 & 2 September

It was a pretty good weekend for Chelmsford but there was little good news from elsewhere meaning that league positions are still to be determined in the final week of the season. The 1st, 2nd and 3rd teams all won chasing whilst the 4ths lost and the 5ths won by bowling Wanstead out with just 7 balls to spare.

Nisarg Patel was the star turn as the 1st team wrapped up a quick win over Woodford Wells. Patel returned five for 28 and despite Rory Ellison scoring his second unbeaten half century of the season against Chelmsford, Wells were dismissed for 129. A good opening partnership between Adil Dewan and Paul Jones (28) set Chelmsford on their way and Dewan saw things through, 54 not out in a seven wicket win.

It was Neal Abhyankar who picked up five wickets as the second team had an identical margin of victory at Woodford Wells. The home side were well placed at 146 for three, Briggs making 54 but then lost six wickets for 8 runs and only realised 171. Abhyankar's five for 45 was the first time that he has produced such a haul at this level. There were two wickets each for Craig Thompson and Matt Thurston. David Thrift and Gary Chidley scored undefeated half centuries for Chelmsford.

The third team were not really at their best and had a hard fought five wicket win at Hutton. Feeley batted extremely well for Hutton, scoring an excellent 79 but with the bowling resources they had, Chelmsford would have been disappointed to concede 172. James Arnold made 62 but when he was out it was 120 for five and there were a few nerves. Aaron Beard played some tremendous shots and his 35 not out took Chelmsford to victory.

The bad news for these three sides came elsewhere with their closest rivals all winning. Wanstead first team continue to enjoy a 16 point lead after winning by just 4 runs. Brentwood 2nd team and Woodford Wells 3rd teams both won to peg Chelmsford's leads in the divisions at 13 and 16 points respectively.

The fourth team had a real chance to beat Ilford who wrapped up the title some weeks ago as they dismissed them for 158. Useful late order runs from Devandran (35*) would prove crucial. Phil Arnold (3-26), Sam Trowell (2-20) and Neil Raisborough (3-55) picked up the bulk of the wickets. Devandran then picked up four wickets as a very strong batting line-up subsided to 65 for seven, James Redman making 31 of those. The lower order showed their quality but were eventually dismissed for 119.

Two leg spinners, Harry Green and Zameer Panjwani did the damage as the fifth team bowled out Wanstead to give them a good chance of achieving promotion. Micky Burns (54), Hyder Jeddy (36), Gary Cheverall (66*) and Tahir Khan (70*) all made good contributions to Chelmsford's 254 for three, this was Tahir's second unbeaten half century in succession. None of Wanstead's batsmen really got going and Harry Green (5-42) and Zameer Panjwani (4-53) worked their way through, taking the last wicket with just over an over to spare.

The sixth team lost by a couple of wickets against Rayleigh. Jack Champion (32), Colin Miller (31*) and Alex Critchell (23) enabled Chelmsford to reach 133 with Davies taking four wickets. Rayleigh's opening pair Chris Slough (42) and Connor Slough (32) set up the chase but there was a dreadful collapse before Billett (29*) rescued his team. Harry Arnold (3-29), Champion (3-45) and Critchell (2-18) shared the wickets.

Ollie Devenish made a half century and took two wickets in a comfortable win for the Sunday first team. East Essex bowled well to restrict Chelmsford to 174 for nine. However, their batsmen batted very impatiently and threw too many wickets away, subsiding to 94 all out with Alistair Fergus taking four wickets.

Reports & Scores

Saturday 1 September

1st Team

Shepherd Neame Essex League Premier Division

Played at Chelmer Park

Woodford Wells 129 all out

Chelmsford 130-3

(Chelmsford won by 7 wickets)

Chelmsford 1st XI hosted a Woodford Wells side on Saturday who were effectively relegated coming into the game, but for Chelmsford this was a must win game if there was any hope of catching Wanstead at the top of the league.

Chelmsford won the toss and on a lively pitch chose to bowl first, a decision that was immediately rewarded with a fiery spell from Fahran Mahmood (2-15) who exposed the Woodford Wells top order with pace, seam movement and well-targeted short bowling. Despite being under pressure, Woodford Wells added to their poor start with Daniel Magin gifting a catch at long off in an opening spell from Ollie Devenish (2-22) where he showed prodigious seam and swing movement.

With the middle order now exposed the spinners were introduced and with support from Tom Craddock, James Clifford and Rob Hayto, Nisarg Patel (5-28) bowled with control and spin that for the majority of his spell was too good for the Woodford Wells batsmen. With the other spinners adding to the pressure at one end, Patel benefitted from some poor shot selection while he beat the bat and had chances taken in the outfield.

Woodford Wells were bowled out for 129 and were saved from a really low score by the attacking but well thought out stroke play from Rory Ellison (53*), who showed that with application and a game plan it was possible to score quickly on this pitch.

Chelmsford started the second innings well with Paul Jones (28) back at the top of the order and showing signs of previous season's form. Jones was stumped with the score at 64, a position that with a few wickets could have made the run chase a closer affair than wanted for the Chelmsford spectators.

Chelmsford didn't need to worry as Adil Dewan (54*) kept Woodford Wells out of the game with what is becoming a characteristic innings of patience mixed with timely and powerful hitting, and

brought Chelmsford to the winning total of 130 for three. Woodford Wells struggled to find penetration in the field but credit goes once again to Rory Ellison (2-25) who bowled with the control and prodigious turn that was seen from the Chelmsford spinners.

Chelmsford were unable to gain on the leaders this week (Wanstead who won against Colchester) and will travel to Buckhurst Hill for the last game of the season, knowing that they are relying on Wanstead to lose convincingly to stand a chance of taking the title.

2nd Team

Shepherd Neame Essex League Premier Division

Played at Woodford Wells

Woodford Wells	171 all out
Chelmsford	173-3

(Chelmsford won by 7 wickets)

3rd Team

Shepherd Neame Essex League Premier Division

Played at the Polo Fields

Hutton	172 all out
Chelmsford	173-5

(Chelmsford won by 5 wickets)

Chelmsford were given a tough game by Hutton but prevailed.

For once, Chelmsford's opening bowlers were a little untidy but the introduction of Alistair Fergus brought about the breakthrough. He removed both openers in his first two overs, the second a brilliant leg side stumping from Bradley Green. Fergus and Tom Halsey exerted some pressure and the score subsided to 59 for four.

Payne reacted by going on the attack and inevitably Fergus (2-26) buckled under the pressure of conceding runs. Keith Goodman entered the attack and Payne was unable to get after him, eventually hitting one miles up in the air. By that time though, Feeley had started to play really well, hitting Halsey (2-42) out of the attack.

Aaron Beard (2-43) removed a couple of Feeley's partners but Read stuck up in with him and he kept the score going at a reasonable rate. At 164 for seven with six overs remaining, a score of around 200 was a possibility but Feeley holed out off Goodman, who returned an excellent two for 33. The last couple of wickets struggled to gather runs, Ben Clifford (1-26) got the ninth wicket and the last man was run out in the 52nd over with the score at 172.

The first four Chelmsford wickets all put together solid partnerships but Hutton kept picking up wickets to keep things interesting. Most regrettable of these was a silly run out that ended Green's innings. James Arnold was in fine form and played some sparkling shots as he passed a half century in quick time.

When Rickard (3-38) struck twice in quick succession, the wickets including Arnold for 62 the score was 120 for five and the game was in the balance. Chelmsford found a great combination of youth and experience though. Tom Iliffe dug in and Beard played his shots, some of which were superb. A couple of chances went begging and the target was passed with 10 balls to spare. Beard finishing 35 not out.

4th Team

Shepherd Neame Essex League 3rd XI Division 1
Played at Chelmer Park

Ilford	158 all out
Chelmsford	119 all out

(Ilford won by 39 runs)

5th Team

Shepherd Neame Essex League 4th XI Division 1
Played at Fairlop Oak

Chelmsford	255-3
Wanstead	170 all out

(Chelmsford won by 85 runs)

6th Team

Friendly
Played at Chelmer Park

Chelmsford	133 all out
Rayleigh	135-8

(Rayleigh won by 2 wickets)

Sunday 2 September

1st Team

Spa Tec Essex Sunday League Premier Division
Played at Chelmer Park

Chelmsford	174-9
East Essex	94 all out

(Chelmsford won by 80 runs)

After being severely tested with the bat, Chelmsford ultimately won comfortably. A half century from Ollie Devenish was the key to Chelmsford achieving a reasonable total.

Fahim and Ahmed Shabbir bowled very good opening spells to make things really difficult for the batsmen. The innings was in a bit of trouble at 38 for three when Jack Sterland (19) became the

third player to edge to the wicketkeeper. The position could have been even worse if four chances in the slips had not been spurned.

Chris Prowting and Ollie Devenish consolidated and gradually began to pick up the rate. Prowting fell for 40 but the innings had been given some foundation. Devenish began to take control but after reaching 50 he perhaps misjudged the situation and was out playing an overambitious shot.

Miles Clark (18) played some good shots to ensure that a reasonable score was obtained. The returning Fahim (3-34) and Shabbir (4-21) had made scoring difficult. On a pitch that offered assistance to the bowlers a score of 174 from 40 overs was reasonable enough.

The chase got off to a decent start thanks to some rubbish bowling from Alistair Fergus. Fortunately Paul Jones (1-12) bowled well and deservedly picked up the first wicket. When Fergus (4-33) finally found the line and length that made trundle a difficult prospect on this pitch, the batsmen continued to go after him and gifted four wickets away.

Ollie Devenish (2-8) picked up one wicket with a spiteful ball and then another to place the innings in tatters at 56 for seven. The lower order hit some good boundaries but a run out and wickets from Tom Halsey and Rob Hayto rounded things off.

Fixtures

Saturday 8 September

1sts: Buckhurst Hill (A)	SNEL 12.00
2nds: Fives & Heronians (H)	SNEL 1.00
3rds: Upminster (H)	SNEL 1.00
4ths: West Essex (A)	SNEL 1.00
5ths: Epping (A)	SNEL 1.00
6ths: Benfleet (H)	F 1.00