

Chelmsford Cricket Club Report for 21 & 22 July

After a very disappointing day on Saturday, Chelmsford achieved some succour from the weekend with a good win on Sunday.

Dreadful weather in Chelmsford on Friday put paid to the hopes of most of the sides for Saturday. Chelmer Park was still in an unplayable condition early on Sunday morning as the rain simply had nowhere to go. That meant the 2nd, 3rd and 5th team games were all abandoned. Southend had also suffered and the 4th team game at Hadleigh & Thundersley was also abandoned, the fifth time that the 4ths have suffered this fate in 11 rounds.

The Metropolitan part of Essex did not take such a heavy battering from the weather and the 1st team played their top of the table clash against Wanstead. They must have wished it were otherwise though, as they were heavily beaten in spite of a good contribution of 63 from Dan Hagen. Wanstead's win takes them past Chelmsford to the top of the table.

Chelmer Park was just about playable on Sunday thanks to the groundstaff, Bernice Clark who was able to obtain some sawdust and Warsop who opened up their premises specially to provide this. A fine century from Chris Prowting set Chelmsford up for a comfortable win. Rob Hayto played a good supporting role and 14 year old Aaron Beard impressed in a two-wicket burst.

Reports & Scores

Saturday 21 July

Shepherd Neame Essex League Premier Division
Played at Overton Drive

Chelmsford	138 all out
Wanstead & Snaresbrook	139-0

(Wanstead & Snaresbrook won by 10 wickets)

Chelmsford travelled to Wanstead this Saturday for a top of the table clash. They were lucky to play one of only two games that was not abandoned due to bad weather in the Premier league this weekend.

Despite damp conditions Chelmsford won the toss and decided to bat first, a decision made in light of their recent form at bowling sides out in the second innings. Wanstead instantly took the initiative with some of the best opening seam bowling seen this year from Maurice Chambers and Zain Shahzad.

Chambers dismissed Adil Dewan and had in form Nick Prowting dropped in the first over of the match. He then adapted to conditions, bowling fuller than usual and was rewarded by dismissing three of the top four at a cost of just 17, leaving the Chelmsford middle order exposed to the Wanstead spinners.

The spin duo of Fayyaz (3-38) and Ellis-Grewal (3-36) never let the batsmen settle and in tough batting conditions the Chelmsford middle order never managed to fire. There was a procession of Chelmsford batsmen coming in and struggling to find fluency on a tough pitch and against some accurate bowling.

The Chelmsford innings was pinned together by Dan Hagen (63) who once again showed patience and gritty determination whilst wickets fell around him. Chelmsford ended the innings 138 all out – a score that was seen to be well below par on a pitch that had dried out through the afternoon.

Chelmsford picked themselves up for the 2nd innings and came out with renewed energy as the sun shone across the ground – a rare sight in recent weeks for anyone trying to play cricket in Essex. Neither the Chelmsford seamers or the (normally ever reliable) Chelmsford spinners could make inroads into the Wanstead batting line up and the home side cantered over the line to 139 without loss to give them the 20 point victory.

The opening pair of John Chambers (44*) and Arfan Akram (83*) rode their luck and played strokes freely - on a pitch that now favoured the batsmen – but were determined not to let Chelmsford back into the game.

Chelmsford now sit 2nd in the league, 5 points behind Wanstead, and will host Ilford at Chelmer Park on Saturday where they hope to get back to winning ways.

Sunday 22 July

1st Team

Spa Tec Essex Sunday League
Played at Chelmer Park

Chelmsford	208-7
Orsett	105 all out

(Chelmsford won by 103 runs)

An excellent innings from Chris Prowting and a competent bowling display were enough to give Chelmsford a comprehensive win.

With the pitch and outfield still damp, Orsett were elated to win the toss and instantly put Chelmsford in. Some accurate opening bowling particularly from George Pavitt (2-17) made things tough and he was rewarded with the wickets of both openers.

Chris Prowting was able to settle in and punished any loose balls. He and Rob Hayto began to prosper and raised the run rate against the support bowling. Shortly after posting the century partnership, Hayto was dismissed for 48.

The rest of the Chelmsford order had little time to play themselves in and just tried to score quickly and provide Prowting with support. Bhandari bowled a pretty useful spell of leg spin and picked up three wickets for 45.

Prowting achieved a very well put together century in the penultimate over and fell for 109 in the last. Given the conditions, the score of 208 for seven from 40 overs was fairly pleasing.

The Orsett openers took a very aggressive approach but Ollie Devenish made the breakthrough in the fourth over and Stephen Drain picked up the second wicket.

Plom looked as if he could be dangerous for Chelmsford, playing some good shots and looking very positive in making 31. The entry into the attack of 14 year old Aaron Beard

brought an end to his innings though and Beard returned two for 14 from 6 impressive overs.

Hayto also picked up a wicket opening up the way for Alistair Fergus (2-10) and Tom Halsey (3-17) to clean out the tail. Fergus picked up the sixth wicket with an absolute pie, Halsey got the seventh and eighth wickets, Fergus produced a rather better ball for the ninth and Halsey rounded off proceedings by dismissing the obdurate Smith (19), fittingly caught by Prowting.

Fixtures

Saturday 28 July

1sts: Ilford (H)	SNEL 12.15
2nds: Hornchurch (A)	SNEL 1.00
3rds: Gidea Park & Romford (H)	SNEL 1.00
4ths: Chingford (A)	SNEL 1.00
5ths: Fives & Heronians (A)	SNEL 1.00
6ths: Westcliff (H)	F 2.00

Sunday 29 July

T20: Rankins (Hatfield Peverel)	Warsop T20 Semi 10.00
1sts: Aztecs (A)	ESL 2.00