

Chelmsford Cricket Club

Report for 25 & 26 August

A magnificent performance from the Under-16s made it a weekend to remember for Chelmsford. A quite outstanding century from Haris Mahmood carried the score past 200 after early difficulties. The bowlers then got to work and shot out High Roding for 39 with Aaron Beard grabbing four wickets.

Aside from that it was a rather frustrating experience, all five league matches were abandoned as a result of rain. Fortunately most of the Essex League programme also fell victim to the weather, so relative positions were unaffected.

The five games were all in fairly similar positions, as Chelmsford had batted first and were in reasonable shape. The only game to be played was the sixth team, who somehow escaped the rain and beat Old Chelmsfordians. Some other young players were on the mark, Jack Campion scoring 49 and Harry Arnold 46 in Chelmsford's 170 for eight, Cass taking four for 34. Tom Blaker picked up three for 31 as the home side were restricted to 135 for six.

Jack Sterland was starting to look in commanding form when the rain arrived at Ardleigh Green to end the first team's match. After a difficult start, Dan Hagen (35) and Sterland stabilised things and the score stood at 131 for three with Sterland unbeaten on 41 at what turned out to be the finish.

The second team also recovered from a poor start. Upminster reduced them to 8 for two before Miles Clark and Matt Thurston worked hard to recover things in a useful third wicket partnership. Thurston's dismissal for a good 45 brought Paul Jones (42*) to the crease and he looked in fine touch both before and after a rain break. Gary Chidley (51*) also began to play well and the score raced to 180 for four before a declaration. Unfortunately, the declaration proved to be the last action.

An excellent partnership between Andy Rycroft and James Arnold had put the third team into a decent position at 177 for six against their closest rivals Woodford Wells. The top order got in but none made a significant score and at 106 for five, they were under a bit of pressure. Rycroft played some crunching shots in making 34 whilst Arnold played very sensibly and steadily to reach 35 not out. Lightning in the area forced a stoppage and the rain arrived soon after to make sure the game was over.

Chris Drain (39) and Rupert Redman (30) gave the fourth team a good foundation and Angus Turner and Lee Cranmer improved things further. Turner looked in danger of posting only the fourth score of over fifty in the fourths this season when rain intervened. Turner was 44 not out and the score was 148 for four.

Two under-15s recorded impressive unbeaten half centuries for the fifth team. Connor Cheverall showed the strides he has made his year with an excellent 76 not out and Tahir Khan made his maiden league fifty, in a commanding unbeaten 80. The innings was closed at 211 for three and just as with the seconds, the declaration proved to be the last act.

Chelmsford 211-3
Brentwood
(Match abandoned)

6th Team

Friendly

Played at Bedford Playing Fields

Chelmsford 170-8
Old Chelmsfordians 135-6
(Chelmsford won by 35 runs)

Sunday 26 August

Under-16s

Essex Matchplay

Played at the Ford County Ground

Chelmsford 201-7
High Roding 39 all out
(Chelmsford won by 162 runs)

Chelmsford's under-16s produced a fantastic performance to hand out a heavy defeat to High Roding. After a sticky start, Haris Mahmood produced an innings of the very highest quality and deservedly recorded a century. Chelmsford's bowling and fielding was then of an equally high standard.

High Roding bowled well in the early stages to put the batsmen under pressure and that told as the score slid to 28 for three. Throughout the season, Chelmsford had boasted of the long batting order that they had and it looked likely to be tested here.

Mahmood and Bradley Green played sensibly and consolidated the position, taking the score to 58 for three at the halfway stage and ensuring that any panic had been averted. Green (16) fell shortly after the drinks break but Mahmood had settled in and was starting to score fairly fluently.

Henry Clark (11) gave Mahmood some useful support and their partnership of 56 provided a foundation for the lower order. Two wickets fell in quick succession but Sam Trowell and Mahmood produced the third significant partnership of the innings and really disheartened the fielding side. Trowell played some very fine shots in his unbeaten 17 but Mahmood was completely dominant.

Mahmood had reached his half century from 62 balls but his second fifty came from just 34 and included some memorable shots. His innings finally ended in the last over, caught trying to find another boundary for 110. With Ben Clifford hitting the last ball of the innings for four, the score went past 200, much higher than Chelmsford hoped for earlier in the day.

The High Roding bowling and fielding was generally of a good standard. They used eight bowlers and seven of them got a wicket.

High Roding's opener Jack Hebron had scored a high tempo century in their semi-final but played and missed a couple of times in Aaron Beard's opening over. Then in Beard's second over he edged one and wicketkeeper Miles Clark produced a wonderful catch.

The other opener C Allington (17) reacted by playing shots, cracking a six and a couple of fours but that tactic did not succeed for long and Beard had his second wicket. From 20 for one, the score crashed to 26 for six, James Clifford taking the third wicket, a ridiculous run out then two players clean bowled by Beard (4-14).

From that point, the odd single and extra was all that was mustered, James Clifford finished his eight over spell with two for 15, Ben Clifford entered the attack and took two for 10. Henry Clark's spell only lasted four balls as his fine return catch ended the innings at 39.

This was a really good performance from a very fine Colts team. All the members of the squad came up with significant performances at some point in the campaign.

Full team: Haris Mahmood (c), James Clifford, Angus Turner, Miles Clark (w), Bradley Green, Henry Clark, Aaron Beard, Sam Trowell, Ben Clifford, Matt Davis, Tom Arnold; James Burns, Harry Green

Fixtures

Saturday 1 September

1sts: Woodford Wells (H)	SNEL 12.00
2nds: Woodford Wells (A)	SNEL 1.00
3rds: Hutton (A)	SNEL 1.00
4ths: Ilford (H)	SNEL 1.00
5hs: Wanstead (A)	SNEL 1.00
6ths: Writtle (H)	F 1.00