

Chelmsford Cricket Club

Report for 2 & 3 June

It was a slightly better week this time round for Chelmsford, the highlight being an excellent win for the first team. The seconds lost for the third time in a row but it was another close run thing, losing by a single wicket. The thirds sneaked home but the fourths, fifths and sixths all lost.

Jack Sterland played an excellent innings to rescue the first team from a perilous position. Useful knocks from Paul Jones and Nisarg Patel helped Chelmsford to 198. Chelmsford's bowlers were in excellent form, Mark Drain and James Clifford picked up three wickets each and Patel took a brace.

The second team made a horrible start against some excellent seam bowling from Ikram (4-24) and Lancaster (2-27). Lee Cranmer played well for 36 and Fahran Mahmood plundered the support bowling to score 53 and boost the total to 165. As in the previous week, the visitors seemed to be cruising to a win when they reached 108 for two with Browne (59) in control. Matthew Poole and Olly Devenish then started to work their way through the batting to set up a nervy ending but South Woodford prevailed by one wicket. Poole finished with an outstanding five for 29, Devenish three for 59.

Neal Abhyankar and Miles Clark played the key roles as the third team just managed to beat Hainault & Clayhall. Dhamrat (48) and Prabhakar (37) were the main run-scorers as Hainault were restricted to 174, largely by Abhyankar's five for 39. A couple of early wickets would have made Chelmsford nervous of another disaster like the previous week. A good partnership between Clark and Liam Keaney (38) put Chelmsford in a strong position but wickets continued to tumble. Clark's dismissal for a well-made 57 was the first of three to fall for seven runs leaving 11 runs needed with two wickets left. Abhyankar completed a good day with an unbeaten 16.

It looks like being a long season for the fourth team who crashed to a heavy defeat at Hornchurch. Bradley Green (63) batted superbly in Chelmsford's total of 213. Some short bowling early on, several missed chances and some very impressive hitting from the batsmen took Hornchurch to a six wicket win. Lowell Mason had a great day for Hornchurch, taking five wickets and scoring 75.

The fifth team are another side looking for a first win. It was a close run thing at Stanford le Hope and whilst Martin Daniels (92) was at the crease a win looked to be on the cards. Stanford le Hope had scored 213 for six, Fuller (59) and Sewgobind (55) scored half centuries whilst Sam Trowell and Harry Green picked up two wickets each. Daniels was the mainstay of the chase but his dismissal ended hopes of a win and even worse, a wicket from the last ball handed Stanford-le-Hope victory. Sewgobind (3-32) and Knight (4-42) were the bowling heroes.

A young sixth team received a bit of a hiding from Liberty Casuals. Joiner scored 50 but Farrow really enjoyed batting against children as he smashed 109 not out. The target of 255 was well out of reach and Chelmsford could only manage 126 for nine, Tahir Khan (43) batting well.

The Sunday season continues to be a non-event. The third T20 fixture at Leigh was rained off following walkovers in the two earlier games. There has only been one Sunday fixture played at Chelmer Park this season and only one Sunday first team game.

Fixtures & Reports

Saturday 2 June

1st Team

Shepherd Neame Essex League Premier Division

Played at South Woodford

Chelmsford 198 all out

South Woodford 93 all out

(Chelmsford won by 105 runs)

Chelmsford 1st XI travelled to South Woodford on Saturday hoping to turn round the disappointment of the previous week's narrow defeat to Brentwood. Chelmsford won the toss and on the newly laid square at South Woodford decided to bat first despite damp conditions.

South Woodford got off to a strong start, led by the opening bowling pair of Shirt and Neicho, the former showing good pace and movement in both directions, and the latter showing excellent control over both line and length. The pair removed three of the Chelmsford top five cheaply, putting South Woodford firmly in control.

While the wickets fell at one end, opener Jones dug in to provide much needed resistance under the opening bowlers' pressure. Jack Sterland came to the crease after the third wicket fell and instantly demonstrated his good form from several innings at University during the week. The opening bowlers were replaced and Sterland and Jones increased the run rate, with Sterland showing particular class and timing on a tricky batting wicket, forcing South Woodford into several bowling changes.

Jones (33) and Sterland (63) were dismissed with 20 overs to go but had left the middle order with a platform to build on. Nisarg Patel (36) batted with composure and aggression, with Chris Prowting (20) and Rob Hayto (24) providing good support, allowing Chelmsford to post a competitive score of 198 all out. The highlights of the bowling were the opening pair with Neicho (2-17) and Shirt (3-25), with credit also going to Cooper (2-32) who contained the Chelmsford middle order well.

South Woodford's batting got off to a good start, as they did in the first innings, with Browne scoring an aggressive 26. This onslaught was quickly halted as Drain (3-16) blew away the top order with some fantastic swing bowling.

Chelmsford quickly called on their spin quartet to increase the pressure and dominate the South Woodford batting line up. Clifford (3-21) was back to usual form, bowling his attacking line and frustrating the batsmen into several catches at mid-on, Patel (2-16) showed control and teasing flight, Craddock (1-16) bowled with aggression and variation, and Hayto (1-0) came on at the end to finish the innings in usual style. South Woodford were bowled out for 93 giving Chelmsford a well-deserved 20 point victory and placing them joint top of the table.

This Saturday Chelmsford host Wanstead CC at Chelmer Park for a top of the table clash in the last of the limited overs matches.

2nd Team

Shepherd Neame Essex League Premier Division

Played at Chelmer Park

Chelmsford 165 all out

South Woodford 166-9

(South Woodford won by 1 wicket)

3rd Team

Shepherd Neame Essex League Premier Division

Played at Chelmer Park

Hainault & Clayhall 174 all out

Chelmsford 178-8

(Chelmsford won by 2 wickets)

4th Team

Shepherd Neame Essex League 3rd XI Division 1

Played at Britannic Lodge

Chelmsford 213 all out

Hornchurch 214-4

(Hornchurch won by 6 wickets)

A very good innings from Bradley Green was the one plus point in a miserable day for Chelmsford. Hornchurch's Lowell Mason particularly enjoyed himself with five wickets and 75.

Wickets in successive balls of the seventh over put Chelmsford on the back foot but three good partnerships brought them back into the game. Liam Thrift (24) and Angus Turner consolidated and then Green dominated a partnership with Turner (20) before Green and Rupert Redman (31) put Chelmsford into a decent position. Green fell for an excellent 63, an innings that contained some very fine shots.

Ken Jones (25*) and Stephen Drain (20) took the score past 200 but the innings ended badly as Mason dismissed the last three batsmen for ducks, finishing with five for 17.

After taking an early wicket the Chelmsford bowlers offered up too many short balls allowing Rowe and Mason to score freely. Both offered chances that were spurned and by the start of the final hour Hornchurch were over halfway to the target with nine wickets left.

Every time the bowlers managed to string some dot balls together it seemed that the batsmen would react by successfully launching a big hit. The dismissals of Rowe (42) and Mason (75) might

have applied some pressure but the eight overs that Clark was in the middle was time enough to score an undefeated 55 with some clean hitting taking his side to a resounding win.

5th Team

Shepherd Neame Essex League 4th XI Division 1

Played at Stanford-le-Hope

Stanford-le-Hope	213-6
Chelmsford	203 all out

(Stanford-le-Hope won by 10 runs)

6th Team

Friendly

Played at Chelmer Park

Liberty Casuals	255-3
Chelmsford	126-9

(Liberty Casuals won by 129 runs)

Fixtures

Saturday 9 June

1sts: Wanstead & Snaresbrook (H)	SNEL 12.30
2nds: Wanstead & Snaresbrook (A)	SNEL 1.00
3rds: Shenfield (A)	SNEL 1.00
4ths: Hadleigh & Thundersley (H)	SNEL 1.00
5ths: Horndon on the Hill (A)	SNEL 1.00
6ths: Old Chelmsfordians (H)	F 2.00

Sunday 10 June

1sts: Hadleigh & Thundersley (H)	ESL 2.00
2nds: Stock (H)	F 2.00