

Chelmsford Cricket Club

Report for 7 & 8 July

The first half of the season ended in the same manner as it started. For the first team this was good news as they secured a win over Ardleigh Green to retain the top position in the league. For everyone else it meant no cricket.

Heavy rain in the morning meant that the start of the first team match was delayed and another heavy shower threatened to end the match. However, some splendid bowling particularly from Nisarg Patel and some busy activity with the covers and pitchforks ensured that there was sufficient time for a six-wicket win.

Of the other sides, the fifth team started their match at Brentwood but only managed about an hour's play before further rain closed proceedings. The hosts were 61 for three at the time.

In terms of positions, both the first and third teams are top of their leagues with the seconds in second place. The fourths and fifths are both around the middle of the table and their priority will be staying clear of the bottom two rather than anything lofty.

Sunday's programme was also washed away.

Reports & Scores

Saturday 7 July

1st Team

Shepherd Neame Essex League Premier Division

Played at Chelmer Park

Ardleigh Green	90 all out
Chelmsford	94-4

(Chelmsford won by 6 wickets)

Chelmsford hosted Ardleigh Green on Saturday and despite the poor weather conditions managed to get a win from the game to keep them 13 points clear at the top of the league.

Chelmsford won the toss and chose to bowl first after a delayed start due to the rain. Ardleigh Green started well with opening batsman Paul Hurworth taking the attack to the opening bowlers with some aggressive stroke play. Chelmsford started badly as Hurworth was dropped three times before reaching double figures.

The introduction of spin turned the tide. Both openers were dismissed in Tom Craddock's second over, Hurworth stumped by Chris Prowting for 38.

The controlled left arm spin of Nisarg Patel (5-9) proved particularly beguiling. Patel bowled with flight and turn and the Ardleigh Green batsmen struggled to get any momentum against him. With support from Tom Craddock (2-31) and James Clifford (2-7) the visitors were all out for 90.

There was little resistance from most of the Ardleigh Green middle and lower order with all ten wickets falling for 47 runs from 43 for nought. As usual, Roy Smith (22) looked dangerous but he was nicely beaten and bowled by Patel. The sixth wicket pair had played well until Adel Dewan and Patel combined to effect a run out.

With some very dark skies overhead, Dan Hagen tried to play give the innings some impetus but after three fours in an over he was caught off Anthony Hill for 13. The score had advanced to 27 for one when a very heavy shower hit. At that point there was no sky to see so the prospects of further play looked bleak.

Fortunately the bad weather blew through pretty quickly and Chelmsford were still left with plenty of time to accumulate the remaining 64 runs. Hill (2-34) continued to bowl with fire and was rewarded with the wicket of Dewan.

Nick Prowting (33) and Rob Hayto (24*) played sensibly to see the home side most of the way to the finish line. Prowting continuing his form from his hundred the week before and Hayto showing some signs of a return to form. A couple of late wickets did not really take the gloss off a competent win in difficult circumstances.

Credit must go to both sides and the umpires for getting in a good game of cricket despite heavy rain on the morning of the game and also shortly after tea.

Chelmsford will host Brentwood at Chelmer Park this Saturday where they hope to maintain their place at the top of the league.

Fixtures

Saturday 14 July

1sts: Brentwood (H)	SNEL 12.15
2nds: Brentwood (A)	SNEL 1.00
3rds: Fives & Heronians (H)	SNEL 1.00
4ths: Upminster (A)	SNEL 1.00
5ths: Old Parkonians (A)	SNEL 1.00
6ths: Brentwood TTC (H)	F 2.00

Sunday 15 July

U16: South Woodford (A)	Matchplay
2nds: Bickley Park (A)	F 2.00