

The Toss

Important Dates

- July 25—29—Cricket Week
- July 27—Quiz Night
- July 28—President's Day
- Saturday July 30—Summer Ball
- September 8—Golf Day

The Soapbox

At the halfway point of the season things look pretty bleak. Four of our six league sides are in or close to the relegation spots and the other two are slightly off the pace.

There has not been a single league victory on the main square at Chelmer Park and six weeks without an away win.

It is important to reflect though that the purpose of the Club is to provide cricket rather than win trophies. The available talent should be more than enough to reach respectable positions and there are a few competitions in which there is the possibility of glory in this Bi-Centenary year.

The best feature of the season so far has been the progress of some young players. Lee Cranmer and Haris Mahmood have excelled in the seconds; Liam Keaney in the thirds; James Clifford in the thirds and fourths; Bradley Green and Aaron Beard in the fourths and Ben Clifford in the fifths. All of them have been key performers.

The main worry is complacency. This applies not just to the cricket but especially to the events that have been arranged to celebrate our Bi-Centenary. A lot of hard work has gone into organising a cricket week, a Dinner Dance, a History of

the Club, a Golf Day and a match at Lord's. Support really is crucial to the Club, so make sure you know what is going on. The information is in here.

It would be sad if the support was at the low levels of the Fantasy League or the Race Night. Both provided interest and enjoyment as well as funds to the Club but to a small number of people, which is dispiriting for those who put in a lot of hard work.



Of course, that brings round the issue that persuaded me a 'bonus' Toss was worth producing.

One of my memories as a youngish player was of an away game at Benfleet and finding a Suggestion Book in their bar. We looked through it and had a good laugh at what was in effect an outlet for one man's frustration at the lack of effort from the vast majority of the Club's membership.

The comparison to Ron Steed is flattering to me but I find myself in a similar place. A Club is only worth the sum total of what it members do and if there is a lack of success, it will be just desserts.

There's an enormous amount of effort that goes into running and financing a Cricket Club. The smaller the group of people doing the work, the less effective they will ultimately prove to be. This is exacerbated when there's a lack of support or appreciation for the efforts. If you can't be bothered to do anything - and that is a fair enough position - do at least have the courtesy not to criticize and badger those who do.

On a more positive note, for those facing a battle, the talent that each team has is more than enough to have a good second half of the season. Most of the players aren't old enough to remember the days when we were rubbish. In 2000, a considerably weaker First XI entered the second half of the season in a much poorer position and came desperately close to surviving. This team was so poor that there would only ever be eight names on the team-sheet at the start of the week with others cajoled or blackmailed into making up the numbers during the week. Even worse, one of those eight names was mine, a TFC specialist. Best of luck to everyone in the Second half of the Season and I hope to see you all on at least one occasion.

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Cricket Week

The Cricket Week runs from Monday 25 to Friday 29 July at Chelmer Park.

The bar will be open so please turn up to support even if you cannot or no longer play.

If you are available to play, let someone know or sign up to the sheets on the Noticeboard.

The week incorporates Social events in the form of the Quiz (on Wednesday 27th) and the President's Day (Thursday 28th). It is also hoped to have entertainment on at least one evening.

The Club's official history should also be available at some point during the week. This is the culmination of a large amount of research undertaken by Bob Shortman, Martyn Edwards and Tony Edney, plus a lot of work on scanning and retouching a lot of old photos, undertaken by Bernice Clark. Please give them some reward by paying over £5 to find out what they have discovered and hopefully to relive some classic memories of playing or watching days.

**Could It Be Magic?
How Do Our Reports Get
in the Papers?**

Monday 25 July

1st XI vs Essex Club & Ground

2nd XI v Margaretting

Tuesday 26 July

Chelmsford XI vs Gents of Essex

Wednesday 27 July

Colt's Day including Chelmsford U18 vs Sussex District; Chelmsford U13 vs Orsett and Central Essex U15 game

Thursday 28 July

President's Day

1st XI vs MCC

2nd XI vs Essex Over-50

Friday 29 July

6 a side competition

Saturday 30 July

Dinner Dance at the Ford County Ground

Now only £35

Thanks to the Golf Day Sponsors

Thank you to our Golf Day sponsors., so far:

**Aviva Financial, Tiny Tim's Tearoom - Canterbury,
Edmund Carr - Accts, EC Financial Services Ltd,
Gray & Sons, Legal & General,
Big Dog Consultancy Ltd, Bowling & Co - Solicitors,
Balches - Estate Agents, Phil Cunningham,
Keith Gilliver, Martin Daniels,
Lathcotes Farm, A&E Connock (Perfumery & Cosmetics) Ltd,
Hill & Abbott - Solicitors, Richton (New Kit & Design)**

We've Got To Get Out of this Place

You can tell how the first team's season is going by the length of Paul Jones' match reports. By the halfway point of the season they were really short.

In fact, the report for the draw at Hainault was not so much short as wrong. On looking at the attachment it turned out to be the win over Hainault in 2009. I've no idea whether the paper published it in that form.



Things started so well, a competent performance gaining a seven wicket win over Hadleigh & Thundersley in the Cup then a brilliant eight wicket win over league champions Brentwood in the second round. Jack Sterland and Nick

Prowting batted superbly in that game.

A win in the first league game of the season at South Woodford had confidence soaring. Then Brentwood exacted crushing revenge.

From then on, it was a case of letting strong positions slip. Woodford Wells and Ardleigh Green recovered after being in parlous positions. The Loughton performance, aside from Nick Bailey was pretty poor.

Iford and Wanstead were restricted to scores that should have been achieved but were not and rain arrived with the team in a strong position against Colchester.

The first half of the season finished with the better of a draw at Hainault & Clayhall after Jack Sterland, Nick Prowting and Rob Hayto made half centuries.

The team were bottom of the table but very much in touch with two or three teams.

With the bat, the outstanding performance was Nick Bailey's century against Loughton in what

was otherwise, a very poor day.

Paul Court has bowled really well and took a hat-trick at Ardleigh Green. Matt Poole has also bowled well, tight in the limited overs games, taking wickets in the timed matches.

The Cup hopes are still alive, another good knock from Jack Sterland helping to see off Westcliff. A semi-final against Woodford Wells or Shenfiled awaits.

The first ever win in T20 cricket was achieved and in spite of defeat by Westcliff; wins over Old Southendians, Southend and Leigh meant progress to the quarter-finals.

Wanstead will be the opponents there.

There is certainly good reason for hope and a mid-table position should be well within reach for a talented side.

Or could it be that someone spends several hours on a Sunday night collating and typing scores and performances?

Cricket Weak

The Sunday first team has had a hard time of it. Easy wins in friendlies against Harlow (twice) and Benfleet perhaps set the wrong tone for the season.

One walkover win in the league is all that they have managed plus one rain off and four defeats. That puts them in real danger of relegation. Availability has been poor so help for the final games would be appreciated. We can hardly claim the League is rubbish if we keep getting beaten.

Rob Hayto hit a century at

Hadleigh & Thundersley in a fairly decent match.

The Sunday seconds have rather bucked the trend with a few away wins. Old Southendians were routed by Darren Butt's seven for 29, Canvey Island were well beaten with Miles Clark getting a half century and Stock beaten thanks to a century from Lee Crammer and 82 from Rupert Redman. Results at home have not been so good but it has been a fine effort to get sides out on weekends when the Matchplay side

is also playing, particularly given the lack of commitment to the firsts.

Special thanks must go to Keith Cranmer for turning out at Stock and showing off some fancy footwork in the field.

Silly Season

Another team to be struggling this year is the seconds although they are in a tightly congested and very competitive league.

This is a team with a great deal of young talent, if precious little idea of how to apply those gifts properly.

Teenagers Lee Cranmer, Olly Devenish and Tom Witham have shown genuine ability at times and rank stupidity at other times. Lee and Olly both posted maiden hundreds against Brentwood.

Haris Mahmood could teach them a thing or two but at 15, it should be him who is receiving lessons from his elders. With four fifties in 8 innings, Haris has been outstanding. An experienced head to show the importance of singles (before the 6th ball of the over) is badly needed. In this regard (and others), David Thrift's injury has been a great loss.

Fahran Mahmood has bowled consistently without a great deal of luck and Stuart Everard has started to come into

form. Ian Hare has probably been under-bowled and Rob Hayne has added more consistency to the attack.

More than one win will need to be achieved in the second half of the season for survival. This should be done but time does run out quickly.

Position after 9 games—8th

The Full Range

The fifth team's season has been very erratic. At the halfway stage it was four wins, four defeats and one abandonment.

As much as anything else that probably reflects the wide divergence of standard in Division 1 of the fourth team league.

The defeat in the first game at Billericay was due to a very poor batting display. A paltry 117 nearly proved enough but Billericay scraped home by 1 wicket.

Brentwood, Upminster, Benfleet and Fives & Heronians were all beaten comfortably.

The win over Upminster though was largely due to a brilliant unbeaten 184 from Martin Daniels—he looks like he might have played at a higher level. Barry Green then took five wickets although Upminster's last pair resisted for fourteen overs.

Benfleet scored nearly

200 but Sam Hollingsworth's unbeaten 130 completed that chase inside 20 overs.

Fives & Heronians were bowled out cheaply and beaten by nine wickets before tea.

A strong Stanford-le-Hope side proved too good and one very good bowler at Walthamstow made the difference.

The closest game was defeat to Wanstead by 15 runs in spite of an heroic personal best innings of 83 from Alex Bailey.

The most encouraging aspects of the fifth team's displays have been the high standard of fielding with Peter Drain's catching especially good and the quality of Ben Clifford's game. Matt Davis has also done well in his more restricted appearances.

The 6th team this season has been very young as it is the only level at which under-12s can play.

Harry Green has done well with bat and ball including a first fifty in adult cricket and Tom Arnold has made genuine progress with his bowling.

There have also been personal bests from Connor Cheverall and Tahir Khan who managed scores in the 80s.

Tight matches against Rayleigh (lost by 1 wicket) and Stock (won in the last

over— R Shortman 50+ not out) will have hopefully provided a valuable cricketing education.

The Under-16 Matchplay has qualified for the Quarter-Finals

Back to the Noughties

Despite occupying the lowly league position of 8th at the halfway stage of the 2011 campaign, the 4th XI can point towards plenty of positive moments, as well as being optimistic for the second half of the season. Thirty-two points separate 3rd from 8th in the league, so there is ample opportunity to make progress up the table.

For the record, the nine games to date have seen us record one victory, four draws, three defeats, and a rain abandonment. In three of drawn games we had the opposition hanging on nine wickets down, and we should have chased down the 223 target set by Harold Wood in the other drawn match. The team put up a good performance in the four wicket defeat at Hadleigh & Thundersley, and the heavy defeat at Hainault & Clayhall was more a reflection of the importance of winning the toss that day, rather than any great disparity between the sides.

In reporting on the 2010 season, it was a pleasure to comment on the success and impact of the colts players, and this season has been no different. Quite deservedly, Haris Mahmood, Liam Keaney and Miles Clark have successfully stepped up to higher sides, and the colts progression has seen Angus Turner, James Clifford, Bradley Green and Aaron Beard all occupying specialist positions in the side.

In the case of James, the 4th XI was just a temporary home before quickly moving up to the 3rds where his performances with both bat and ball have impressed. Angus, either opening or batting at No.3, has two fifties to his name with a total of 172 runs at an average of 34.4. Bradley, batting regularly at No.5, has been a model of consistency with two fifties in a total of 263 runs averaged at 32.88. Furthermore, Bradley has done a great job as wicket-keeper with eight dismissals to his name, improving as the season has gone on, and providing continuity to the standard that Miles established last year. With the new ball, Aaron has bowled aggressively and accurately in all the games, and has regularly discomforted opposition batsmen. His efforts probably deserve more than the 12 wickets taken at 18.83. His economy rate of 2.79 from 81 overs gives an indication of the control that Aaron provides. Many opposition players have commented very favourably on the talents of our younger players.

Outside of the colts, the expected faces have been to the fore with strong performances. Ian Turner is having a terrific season, scoring two centuries within a personal total of 518 runs made at an average of 64.75. Ian destroyed the Brentwood bowling in his undefeated knock of 155, and then followed it up with a fine 116 in more

testing conditions at Ardleigh Green. Navin Mahendran is also going well with the bat, making an excellent 95 in the drawn game with Wanstead. Rupert Redman with a battling 52 in the same Wanstead game is showing a pleasing return to form this year, and Steve Pleasant, just returning to the side, has looked in good batting form.

With the ball, Neil Raisborough retains his position as the senior bowler with 14 victims to date. Keith Goodman (8 wickets) continues to demonstrate his mastery of length and subtle variations in delivery. Neal Abhyankar with figures of 4-47 nearly bowled us to victory against Wanstead, and new member Abhijeet Kumar deserves a mention for his fine spell of 2-37 in the defeat at Hainault.

As indicated above, there is plenty to be positive about going into the second half of the season. The good team spirit generates both enjoyment and a competitive approach which lasts the duration of the game.

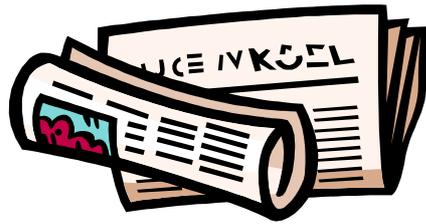
In addition to thanking all those players who have turned out so far for the 4ths, our gratitude is due to Sue Hollingsworth for scoring a good number of our games, to Martin and Shane for preparing such good pitches, and to Angela for sustaining us so well at tea.

David Goddard

**The 1st Team has
reached the semi-final
of the Essex League Cup**

This is the Brief Review for the Thirds

This season's friendlies were played in superb weather and the pitches were in terrific condition. A new fixture against Richmond, the current Middlesex League 3rd X1 champions, was a welcome addi-



Read All About It

tion. They made 262-7 with Ant Holland taking 4 for 51. Their over-confidence riled Paul Keaney and he responded with an excellent century but the most impressive part of our performance was an outstanding partnership by his son Liam (42*) and Miles Clark 22* as we won in the last over. Our final warm up game at the picturesque Brit-tanic Lodge ground was a comfortable 59 run victory (Haris Mahmood 54* and Ant Holland 4 for 39).

Our first league fixture against Fives was at a new venue, Whitbread Sports Ground. Despite directions from the AA website and slavishly following Sat Nav instructions we could not locate the ground! Thankfully Javed's Tom Tom got us there. My warm up was doing the toss as the square must over ¼ mile from the pavilion! Nigel Bond used the strong breeze to his advantage taking 6 for 34 from 20 overs, featuring a spectacular catch by Paul Keaney at backward short leg that left Keith Oram dumbfounded. Haris made another half century and PK helped himself to

72 not out.

I missed the next two league games after advising Kathy to book a holiday following her health scare. Jack Moss took charge against Brentwood. He was advised that he

needed to win the toss as they are notorious for blocking out draws, he failed.. Despite spending the previous Thursday evening advising him of the need for a challenging

declaration, he succumbed to the influence of 'the older brigade' and delayed his declaration until 285-5! Haris made a fantastic 178 and that is the last we shall see of him in the 3rd X1! True to form, Brentwood meandered to 217-7 and claimed that we never gave them a chance of winning.....

Bondy became the stand-in captain to win since I took over when we comfortably beat Upminster. Their 177 was never going to be enough but Nigel's imaginative use of Neal Abhyankar as an opening bowler was rewarded with 5 for 35, although all his wickets came in his second spell. Liam Keaney has taken over the run scoring in the family and produced a very mature unbeaten 74.

Rain always seems to intervene at Shenfield. We put them in, intending to restrict them to less than 200. At 147-8 we should have achieved this and won easily. However dropped catches and some bizarre batting by their captain enabled them to total 204-9. We even missed a simple run out at 199. Our reply

never got going and it was Liam and Miles again who achieved the objectives of not losing and then a third bonus point with an unbeaten partnership of 58. My attacking instincts cost us the game against Gidea Park. After losing the toss, I declared early at 247 for 4 with Chris Drain (72) the leading scorer and Liam making 58. Gidea Park's openers rode their luck, captain Craig Bray surviving two simple chances, and we were well beaten.

I always look forward to playing West Essex, as they adopt a positive and sporting manner. I took no chances this time batting for 52 overs as we made 260-6 with Andy Rycroft (64) finding some form. At 100-2 West Essex could have won the game but Jack Moss, bowling his new off breaks, took 5 for 40 and James Clifford, on his 3rd X1 debut, chipped in with 2 for 42 as the innings finished on 198 following a silly run out.

We missed another opportunity to inflict defeat on one of our rivals at Woodford Wells. Ant Holland bowled 16 overs taking 6 for 64 and James, once again, bowled well taking 2 for 42. We let them recover from 117-8 to post a total of 190. At 41-5, with me dropping down the order as my back had gone into spasm whilst fielding, we looked to have no chance. Liam (30) helped put on 85 for the sixth wicket and James then batted beautifully leaving us well placed requiring 29 from 8 overs when the heavens opened leaving me 40+ not out for the third consecutive week.

Cont'd.../

Coming Soon
The History of
Chelmsford Cricket Club
Yours for £5

Heavy rain on Friday night made it imperative that I won the toss against Hutton. Needless to say, I lost it! Their young openers were wayward allowing us to accrue some early runs. They then turned to their three experienced seamers and it became a struggle. James (25) again batted well but we were indebted to Rupert Redman, whose attitude is first class, for top scoring with 28 allowing us to reach 145. This was always going to be a difficult proposition and our spinners Tom Halsey (3-52), James Clifford (2-22) and Jack Moss (2-41) finished off the good early work of Ant (2-22) as we

bowled them out for 125. We have set the bar high having won the Premier Division Champions for four consecutive seasons. We are a team in transition having seen Ollie, Lee, Haris and Tom Witham move up to the Second X1. It is our job to develop players who can move up through the sides. It good to see them all having success at that level, Ollie and Lee have both scored centuries whilst Haris and Tom have both posted scores over 70. We have not seen players come down from the seconds to replace those who have moved up but there is still plenty of talent in the side.

The next batch of youngsters, featuring Liam, Steve Drain, Miles and James will all be given opportunities to thrive. Selection has been hard this season and I am grateful to those guys, particularly Rupert and Javed, who have come into the side at short notice. There is a good deal of work to do if we are to retain our league title. We won seven of our last nine games last season and may need to do the same this year if we wish to be successful. It won't be for the want of trying.

Barry Clayden

Young Folks

The season in Colt's cricket has been something of a mixed bag.

The under-16s have led the way with some outstanding performances in their return to the Matchplay. Six games have been won, all chasing, one won by walkover and one rained off. That is enough to qualify for the quarter-finals with one game left.

Most impressive individual performances have been an extraordinary spell of 7.4-7-0-6 from Henry Clark against Stansted Hall and Haris Mahmood's cool batting against Colchester. From a team point of view, the win over Brentwood was superb. All the batsmen played well with James Clifford and Liam Keaney scoring half centuries as a stiff target of 229 was achieved with

more than 2 overs in hand.

The under-15s progressed to the Essex Cup semi-finals but ran out of under-15s; seven under-13s turned out against Brentwood in the semi-final. James Clifford and Haris Mahmood led the way in these matches as the team won well in horrid conditions against Upminster and South Woodford.

After two successive Essex Cup triumphs the under-13s were beaten by a useful Orsett side.

Ben Clifford, Aaron Beard and Shona Keaney have shown that they are very accomplished players, Aaron making a maiden century at Maldon. Ben batted brilliantly in a win over Brentwood.

There is plenty of other talent but it is very raw. The most pleasing aspect has been the progress made by Tom Arnold's left arm spin.

With the bat, a lot of players need to realise that a flashy 20 does not win games. Congratulations to Jamie Matthews and Jack Champion who posted maiden half-centuries.

The under-11s are on a very steep learning curve but are showing some good signs. Harry Arnold scored a half century in the Cup win over Stock.

To get on another high horse, did the Club put you through a level 1 course? If the answer is yes, what coaching are you doing?

The Toss

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Email: alistair.fergus@btinternet.com

Remember a Club stands or falls on its members and what they put in.

Have I said that before?

You can read a bit more about ups and downs in the History of Chelmsford Cricket Club.

Golf Day—Thursday 8 September

The maximum teams we can accommodate for the Golf Day at Channels on 8 September is 30 teams of 3. We can also accommodate a further 30 for dinner making a total of 120 including all players. We have had commitments for 25 teams to date and about 18 for dinner only and I would like to ask those who have committed but yet to fill in and return their entry form to do so as soon as possible. For those who intend to participate one way or another, and have yet to advise me, please contact me as soon as possible in order not to be disappointed. An Entry Form can be found on our website but if that is not possible then use the form attached to this newsletter.

If you do not play golf please consider coming for the day and staying for dinner. We need club members to be in and around the clubhouse to act as informal hosts to our golf playing guests as they arrive and finish their round of golf. Early finishers could have up to an hour or so in the clubhouse prior to dinner so it would be nice if we could have some of you available to chat to them during this social period.

The dinner will be in the Channels Golf Club Barn. We will have prizes for the Golf, an auction (includes a signed picture of Phil 'The Power' Taylor, Ian Poulter's signed golf shoes, James Foster signed cricket shirt and an England shirt signed by Jimmy Greaves and Martin Peters), raffle and a professional after dinner speaker in Bill Pirie.

Richard Dench - denchjrd@aol.com tele - 01245262201

ENTRY FORM

CHELMSFORD CRICKET CLUB BI-CENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS

GOLF DAY CHANNELS GOLF CLUB

Thursday 8 September 2011

TEAMS

Cost 3 x £60 (includes evening dinner) **£180**

Names of Players

(H/cap)

1)..... (.....)

2)..... (.....)

3)..... (.....)

INDIVIDUAL PLAYER (To be placed in a team of 3 on the day)

Cost (includes evening dinner)..... (H/cap) **£ 60**

DINNER ONLY - name **£ 25**

I enclose a cheque for £..... payable to Chelmsford Cricket Club in respect of my commitment as above

Signed

Name.....

Address.....

.....

Tele No.....

E-mail.....

Please return to Richard Dench, 62, Patching Hall Lane, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 4DA

Email – denchjrd@aol.com