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The Newsletter for Chelmsford Cricket Club

The Soap Box

This was another year of outstanding success. All the league teams finished in the top three with the Saturday 3rds and 4ths winning their leagues. Promotion for the 5ths and the under-13s retaining the Essex Cup were the other highlights.

Looking through the averages, the two striking factors are the number of players that made important contributions and the number of players that came to the club via our Colts system.

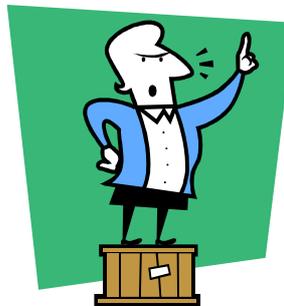
That is the congratulations over. What has been achieved over the last decade has been fantastic. There is a compelling argument that we are the strongest cricket club in Essex.

We have not arrived here by accident or by luck. A lot of hard work has gone

into things such as producing players, improving facilities, fostering a club atmosphere and keeping cricket affordable. It will not get any easier, these matters have to be attended to in order to run a healthy club.

There is no magic wand, no source of finance other than members just sweat, tears and toil (I think blood may be overegging it). The danger is that complacency will set in. The majority of officeholders have been in place for a long time, our colts numbers are down (this year we fielded 4 teams compared to 7 in 2009) and social events always attract the same crowd.

So have a think about how you might be able to help Chelmsford Cricket Club.



There are a variety of tasks that need doing; maybe bring a different voice to match reports,

organisational skills, coaching, even small amounts of finance are examples of things that would be a boon.

2011 should be an important and enjoyable year. Chelmsford CC celebrates its bicentenary and we should be strong again on the field. How much longer that success continues will be down to our own efforts or lack thereof.

Finishing Positions

Saturday 1st Team—3rd

Shepherd Neame Essex League Premier Division

Saturday 2nd Team—3rd

SNEL 2nd XI Premier

Saturday 3rd Team—1st

SNEL 3rd XI Premier

Saturday 4th Team—1st

SNEL 3rd XI Division 1

Saturday 5th Team—2nd

SNEL 4th XI Division 2

Sunday 1st Team—2nd

Spa Tec Essex Sunday League Premier Division

Volume 10, Issue
2

Autumn 2010

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• 2011 is our Bi-Centenary—find out how you can get involved

• AGM—Tuesday 16 November



CLUB AGM

Tuesday 16 November

7.30

@ the Clubhouse

Up, Up and Away The Saturday 1st Team

After a successful 1st season back in the premier league last year (4th place), many people were wondering if we could maintain the momentum or whether it would be much tougher this time. With a young, enthusiastic side I was hopeful, with the addition of a good overseas player, that we would again give a good account of ourselves.

It was perhaps a sign of how far we have come as a side and a club then that I was left with a feeling of disappointment in the immediate aftermath of the last game against Wanstead, knowing that we had finished in 3rd place. Able to look back on the season now, I think that was an excellent achievement in the light of some difficulties.

We started quickly with 3 wins on the bounce against Upminster, Colchester and Gidea Park. A miserable day at Upminster in the cold and rain was rewarded with a win helped by Rob Hayto's 6-43 and a fifty for Chris Prowting. Ross Dibartolo, our Australian overseas was certainly surprised that we played in such conditions and unfortunately never really found his confidence or undoubted ability as the season progressed and suffered from an attack of the 'yips' which was to blight his season. 70 not out from Paul Jones and 50 for Matt Thurston helped Chelmsford maintain their momentum against Colchester after a solid bowling performance. The

Prowting brothers combined at Romford in the run-chase with a high quality partnership, Nick with 79* and Chris 73* to make it 3 out of 3.

In fact, it was a feature of the season that more batsmen contributed to the cause this year. The 4 batsmen mentioned so far all scored over 400 runs and were consistent contributors. Paul with 582 @ 39, Nick with 540 @ 41, Matt with 526 @ 44 and Chris with 457 @ 51. This helped us achieve some consistent high quality run chases.

After a blip at Ilford, the side bounced back with a memorable win at Wanstead. After a bit of a mauling in the field (despite fine bowling from Paul Court 4-60 and Mark Drain 4-54), Chelmsford found themselves chasing a target of 291 after tons from John Chambers (as usual!) and Merv Westfield. This was made tougher by losing 8 overs to rain. A shellshocked home side saw their score chased down in 49 overs mainly thanks to a scintillating partnership between Rob Hayto (91) and Matt Thurston (56). It was a terrific knock from Rob, who needs to more consistency to develop next year.

Matt Thurston's fine form continued and he looked high class for the majority of the season with 72 in an otherwise abject performance against Loughton, 62 against Brentwood, 52* against Romford and a

superb 91* in the run-chase at Colchester. It was great to see Matt back to his best form and he really looked a fine player.

It was a feature of the side, that when the top order failed, the 'engine-room' bailed the side out. A fine example was at Brentwood where an important partnership between Chris Prowting (76) and Neil Fergus (63*) allowed Chelmsford to set a decent score of 270. Mark Drain bowled really well with 4 wickets but couldn't quite force a win with Brentwood 8 down. This proved to be crucial as at the time, we sat just behind them in the table and it would have been a great confidence boost. Wins against Romford and Colchester, where Nick also contributed a fine 80 kept the momentum going, before a disappointing loss to Upminster at home. This was mainly due to the knock of the year by Alan Ison with 120 not out, after good innings by Nick, 66 and Fergs, 53.

Paul Court produced his best bowling performance of the season at Upminster to set up a comfortable 8 wicket win. Courty was consistently good throughout the year with 32 wickets which saw him 3rd in the leagues bowling stats. Mark Drain provided variety at the other end with his away swing and took 28 wickets. Rob Hayto (the burglar) also contributed well with the ball with 25 wickets, often taking a crucial one. Mat Poole,

Up, Up and Away cont'd

Matt Poole, was the unsung hero with the ball. With 16 wickets, Matt provided control and built pressure for the other bowlers to capitalise on. He was an important cog in a good season. Neil Ferguson also contributed 16 wickets including some timely ones and provided much needed variety with the ball (and verbally – although not as much needed !)

After a slim win in an eventful game against Ilford, Chelmsford suffered a disappointing end to the season. After a terrible performance at Hainault, there was an improved performance in a last ditch shot at the title against Brentwood. A couple of crucial missed opportunities made the difference as Brentwood won a tight match to secure the title. Ross scored a crucial 55 to give the home side a competitive score and an inspired start had Brentwood reeling at 21-3, but the killer blow could not be found and Brentwood ran home by 4 wickets.

A penultimate win at

Loughton set up a 2nd place play off at home to Wanstead. Unfortunately, despite a fantastic 97 not out by Nick Bailey Chelmsford produced an abject display to finish 3rd. John Chambers, again being the thorn in Chelmsford's side with another 100 !

I think it was a shame we didn't finish 2nd as I think our play deserved that throughout the season but 3rd is a very creditable performance. Other unsung heroes were James Redman who shared in some crucial opening stands with me, without ever going on to post a deserved big score. Also, a couple of excellent bowling performances by Stuart Everard, who remains difficult to persuade to play regularly ! It was also good to see Fahran Mahmood come through and show promise in the 1st team. The same applies to Jack Sterland, who I'm sure will benefit from his experience this year.

Extra thanks to Tony Edney for his ever reliable scoring and for keeping me in check with the off the

field duties. I also want to wish Ross DiBartolo well back in Australia – he was a lovely lad, liked by all but unfortunately wasn't able to show his true ability. I'm sure it will all click in place back on home turf !

From a personal point of view it was great to see the club develop again this year and great seasons for the 3^{rds}, 4^{ths} and 5^{ths} who are the future of the club. A testament to the hard work put in by the coaches and skippers of those sides. It's always easier for me to be able to pick the cream of the crop as the talent comes through.

Next season is a really important year for the club as we celebrate our bi-centenary. It would be great to think that we can win the league in our bi-centenary year but I know it will be extremely tough with the financial resources of other clubs. It will be my 8th year as captain but also my last so I would love to go out on a high in what promises to be an exciting 2011.

Paul Jones

Paper Tigers The Saturday 2nd Team

The second team suffered a fairly disappointing year but still managed a third place finish.

A failure to chase down targets that should have been achieved fairly easily proved the major problem.

Gary Chidley was leading run scorer but none of the regular batsmen averaged more than 34.

Craig Thompson, Imran Ahktar and Stuart Everard all took more than 20 wickets.

Fahran Mahmood did well

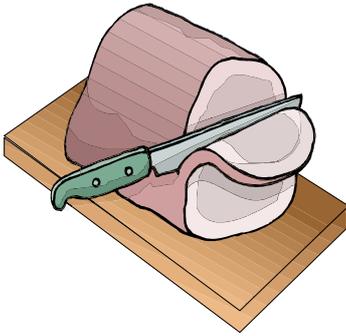
before promotion, virtually beating Fives on his own; eight wickets and 50 not out.

Lee Cranmer did superbly when he played at this level.

Form rather than talent was the problem, so next year should be a good one.

I would love to go out on a high in what promises to be an exciting 2011





Any Old Scorebooks?

Contact Paul Jones
See page 15

Two Out of Three Ain't Bad The Under 13s

The bare facts of the under-13 season were played 30; won 20; lost 10; Essex Cup winners and Central Essex League winners. Whilst not as spectacular as the previous year there was a lot to be satisfied with.

Unfortunately with so many A team matches and some late call-offs by other sides the B team only played 6 games; 4 wins and 2 defeats. These games should provide an opportunity for less experienced players to develop without too much pressure. The bowling was generally of a decent standard. With the bat, Connor Cheverall, James Burns and Shona Keaney all showed good quality.

In the A team, the Essex Cup showcased the talents particularly of the most experienced players. The local cup ended at the semi-final stage with a below par batting display.

The league was won with 7 wins and a defeat to Brentwood. James Clifford played amazingly in the first five games including an unbeaten 140 against Hutton (in a 20 over game). Matt Davis and Connor played the crucial innings in the next two wins. Ben Clifford's fine innings against Brentwood went unrewarded.

The Peter Coe campaign was disappointing for the performances rather than results although two wins and five defeats was not good. Essex commitments left the team below full strength but equally gave

other players the opportunity to lead. Matt did well, scoring two half centuries and bagging a five wicket haul in his four games.

For the rest it was only occasional flashes, admittedly against some good opposition. Tanner Bailey and Ben Turner had a match winning partnership at Harold Wood. Hugo Skepelhorn bowled superbly in that game too. Tom Blaker was unlucky to end 48 not out against Loughton.

In the early part of the season James Clifford's performances were titanic. Three fifties, 49 and a century in the first five league games. Another century in the Cup against Shenfield and good returns in the County Cup as well as tidy bowling set him up for a colossal season. In the latter stages the performances were more Titanic, perhaps too much cricket took its toll but still a spectacular season.

Bradley Green and Ben Clifford both showed terrific progress with the bat. Bradley started the year with a century in the first round of the cup and was not actually out in any cup match. Ben contributed very consistently, most notably and impressively in the Essex Cup run.

Matt Davis showed a lot of ability with bat and ball. In a tight league match against Springfield it was Matt who rose to the occasion with a brilliant unbeaten 63.

Aaron Beard pretty much always bowled well and is an excellent fielder. His batting will prosper with more opportunities.

Shona Keaney shows promise with bat and ball. With more confidence she will be a big contributor.

Tanner Bailey and James Baker are talented players and excellent in the field. With less confidence, they will be big contributors.

There are plenty of players who show promise for next year. Tom Urquhart did well in his first year with the club, his bowling being an important asset. Connor's batting looked to improve during the year from a solid base and his wicket-keeping was excellent. At times James Burns showed ability with bat, ball and in the field.

Jamie Matthews also made a decent impression, most notably taking a memorable hat-trick against Mildenhall at the Regional Finals.

From the under-11s Harry Green, Harry Arnold and Tom Arnold all did well in their appearances.

Of the less experienced under-13s; Sam Craig, Jordan Champion and Zameer Panjwani did well and showed a good appetite for playing.

Thank you to all the parents who helped out with scoring, transport, hospitality and umpiring. In particular, thanks to Micky Burns who did most of the umpiring.

Alistair Fergus

Sixth Sense The Saturday 6th Team

Another cricket season has reached its Autumnal report writing stage with memories of further successful league performances by our 3rd XI and 4th XI teams, both league champions and the 5th XI runners-up; congratulations to Barry, David and Alex in maintaining your success.

The competition for places in these higher teams has been reflected in the results of the Saturday 6th XI; 9 wins, 1 draw and just 1 defeat. The only minor blip was the frustration of having 6 matches cancelled due to various reasons such as rain, no pitch!, no fixture and opponents crying off.

One of the objectives of the 6th XI is to introduce youngsters to the delight of playing the longer game and we were pleased to be able to give a debut to Sam Craig(13), William May(13), Ben Daniels(15) and Connor Thomas(15) who all adapted well.

As usual we encourage the colt members, in every match, to take the lead roles during play and accept responsibility which has resulted in some outstanding individual performances and team results.

For example the season started with an outstanding victory at Westcliff, recovering from a precarious 30 for 7 to reach a declaration at 133 for 9 and then win by 17 runs. Player of the match was Adam Chantry with 39 runs and 6 for 34 but a superb recovery by all concerned set the positive tone for the season.

There were some outstanding batting performances. There were 6 half centuries scored of which 3 were maiden scores; Ben Clifford (12) 53 v Bille-ricay, Tanner Bailey (13) 64 v Rayleigh and Darren Butt with 81 not out v Hutton. There was also 3 centuries scored, two in the home match v North Weald in which Angus Turner (14) with 174 not out and Liam Thrift with 109 shared an opening partnership of 292 against one of our tougher opponents! Liam in addition scored another superb undefeated 125 v Stock later in the season.

Bowling duties were shared around, however Tanner took the most wickets with a total of 17 including an outstanding and sustained spell of bowling v North Weald in the return match in which he bowled 19

overs and took 9 wickets for 55 runs. Darren and Adam both snared 13 wickets apiece whilst my trump 'persuader' Colin amazed everybody except me by his tally of 10 'victims', just too juicy to block indeed!

Whilst 18 boys and girls from the under 16 register gained important match experience we so much depend on the senior members to support and cajole the younger members of the team and we are fortunate to have a great bunch of cricket enthusiasts who enjoy this role. My thanks go to my ever present vice skipper Colin, Dickie, Abraham, David and Darren to name a few. To conclude I need to apologise to my veteran pal Peter Marshall who once again turned out at short notice in 2010 to which he proudly confirms that his first appearance for the Club was in the 50's as a schoolboy so this year 2010 now makes it his 7th decade of playing for the Club which I am more than pleased to update everybody. Roll on 2011, a bicentenary year and much to enjoy.

Bob Shortman

The Game

Looking back now, my favourite game of the season was the 4th team's opening fixture against Wanstead.

In a new league and it was important to hit the ground running and we did, largely because DG took us in the wrong direction and we were late.

It was also the coldest day that I've ever played cricket on. It turned out to be a draw but the groundwork for a very good season was laid.

Ian Turner played well but Haris Mahmood played brilliantly on debut, contributing 49.

The fielding was then really good, a stark contrast to 2009 with a run out in the second over and good catches from Navin Mahendren (another player making his bow), Francis Kyan and me keeping us on top. Fantastic teas too.

Memories of Playing for Chelmsford?

Contact Alistair Fergus,
See page 16



It was usually the younger players who played the significant role in our performances

Rising Tide The Saturday 5th Team

Last year in my season review I promised to purchase an Essex map book so that we did not get lost travelling to far-flung away games. It was mission accomplished on that front, with no unplanned detours this year, although given the state of some grounds when we arrived, I'm not so sure our team and spectators were always entirely grateful for this. When, as a 5th team, we visit some of the more poorly-maintained grounds around the county, we have all the more reason to be glad of the good quality pitches provided at Chelmer Park. However ironically the standard of our home pitch arguably cost the team the chance of the league title this season. Unbeaten away from Chelmer all season, with victories over all of the other competitive teams in the league and only a washout at Upminster preventing a clean sweep of away fixtures, on occasion it proved tricky to take ten wickets or control the flow of runs given the high quality of the wicket and the fast outfield on our own pitch, leading to three relatively high-scoring draws and a defeat at home. Not playing on a 'result pitch' arguably contributed to us finishing runners-up in the league, although perhaps not as much as Wanstead having three matches conceded by the opposition, to our one. Nevertheless, promotion being achieved in a league which featured some competent teams, alongside a couple of poor

sides, was a fine achievement for a young team.

The team received a blow at the start of the season, with my former vice-captain Steve Clifford completing a high-profile transfer to Sainsbury's. However it was notable throughout the season that with the honourable exception of Peter Drain, it was usually the younger players who played the significant role in our performances, which makes the continued success of the side all the more promising for the future. 13 year-olds James Clifford and Bradley Green took on the high-pressure role of opening together eight times, and made several significant first-wicket stands, including two century partnerships. James and Bradley contributed three half-centuries each, both averaging in the thirties, and further contributions with the bat from youngsters came from Angus Turner, with three 50s from just five innings, and Max Balmford, who made regular lower-order contributions including a key 50 against Wanstead. Sam Hollingsworth, restricted to just three appearances due to exams and a nasty injury, made telling contributions in each innings, with two 50s and a splendid unbeaten century at Gidea Park, and hopefully Sam will be fit and able to make more appearances next year, there being no reason why he cannot progress to play at a higher level. In addition to Sam's century there were

two scores in the nineties, from the experienced pair of Peter Drain (99 vs Leigh) and Steve Clifford (94 vs West Essex), and also 85 from Peter Marshall against Wanstead at home, the latter two of these innings all the more impressive for they came from players who had been called up on the day of the game, in Steve's case at half past twelve. By a quirk of fate we didn't win any of these three games, however it was reassuring that on the odd occasion that the youngsters didn't provide a major innings there was a contribution from a senior player when it was needed.

On the bowling front, at times we were even more indebted to the youngsters to contribute wickets, especially with Ben Clifford suffering an unfortunate shoulder injury early in the season (I know he's been around for years Alex but Ben is only 12), and my own form all year rarely being better than disappointing. The ability of colts to maintain discipline and control even when under pressure was particularly heartening. An excellent example of this was our away game at Wanstead, where the home side looked strong at 180-1, and the previous seven or eight overs, bowled by myself and Max Balmford, had disappeared at a rate of around nine an over.

Rising Tide cont'd

In the circumstances I did the only thing I could as a senior player and withdrew myself from the attack, leaving my young spinner in the firing line. Max was rewarded for continuing to bowl an attacking line and made the breakthrough, then strangled the new batsmen and continued to apply pressure, finishing with 3-49, whilst he was supported by James Clifford, who bowled with control and accuracy to take 2-12. Having been poised to post a huge score, Wanstead lost 7 wickets for 25 runs and declared having limped past 200, leaving a chaseable total on the board. Whilst some opposition sides (and indeed captains) seemed to lose heart when they noticed some of our players could bat a bit, the continued application of our young bowlers I believe played a large part in our success. The undoubted star of the attack this season was Aaron Beard, who contributed 19 league wickets at a shade over 10 apiece, including an astonishing 5-1 against Wickford, and a fine hat-trick against Hornchurch, and was always economical. Aaron was well supported by Max, with 15 wickets at 14 apiece, Andrew Shepherd played a fine supporting hand with the slow bowling, returning 13 wickets at 13.69, including 5-36 against Gidea Park in the first game of the season, whilst with a handful of appearances each Alistair Fergus took 13 wickets Adi Vohra 10 and Matthew

Davis 9, all at an average of below nine.

There are several other anecdotes I could go into greater detail on, including GPR's 14 year-old medium-pacer with a 20-yard run-up, how I hit someone on the chest against Hornchurch who it transpired was recovering from his seventh heart attack, or how Leigh on Sea scored 250 runs more in their first match against us than they did in the rematch. However I have to squeeze in some thank yous before this becomes a novel. My thanks to each of the 35 players who played this year, those who drove, those who scored (particularly Maureen Green), Dave and especially Bob for their help with selection travails, tea providers, people who answer their phones to a desperate captain on Friday evenings, and anybody else I have forgotten. With promotion secured this season, for next year I hope to see youngsters continue to prosper, senior players continue to defy birth certificates, and parents come to appreciate that their boys will learn more from me than any Longman's revision guide. I always found cricket to be a good break during revision periods, and it certainly didn't harm my results albeit there was little positive impact apparent on my cricket. This season alone I taught the boys what a coronation chicken sandwich is – certainly more useful than trigonometry. Meanwhile I

will be spending the winter working out how to build fake profiles on Twitter in the names of @AaronBeard; @BradleyGreen and @CliffordBoys before launching Azeem Rafiq-style foulmouthed tirades against the Essex colts set-up – there must be some way to undermine these tours which deprive me of players for weeks each season. Given that next season includes trips to Walthamstow, Stanford le Hope and a return to Upminster's Astro turf, I'm sure the boys would rather be there than playing at Taunton.

Also on the subject of next season, I still lack a vice-captain, so if there are any volunteers make themselves known to me – whilst a cricket team isn't a democracy (ask Barry – although at least I believe in democracy as a concept) – it would be nice if more people were willing to speak up with suggestions for me to listen to / politely ignore. And finally, I would like to apologise to all concerned for the main reason we didn't secure the title this season, that I am a completely useless tosser. Much like unjust umpiring decisions, it is sometimes hard to believe that these things even themselves out over time, but we shall see..

Alex Bailey



Club Dinner
 Friday 12 November
 @ the Clubhouse



The 4th XI was improved from the 2009 “pensioner” vintage... (due to)...the emergence of high calibre colts

4 x 4

The Saturday 4th Team

2010 has been a superb season for the 4th XI, and all players should take great satisfaction from their contribution to the side’s success. In capturing the 3rd XI Division One title, the 4th XI achieved its fourth ascending divisional trophy on the bounce, though this time there will be no promotion as league rules prevent two sides from the same club playing in the same division.

Success was all the sweeter for the narrow margin of victory, and the consistently strong performances that had to be produced to take the title. At the end of the 18 match campaign the division was won with a single point advantage over Hutton 3rd XI, and reflected a fine run of results that saw us win 9 of the last 11 games. Arguably, the crucial result towards the close of the season was a draw at Hutton when fielding a below strength batting side. A defiant display denied the opposition 20 victory points.

The 2010 4th XI was an improved side from the 2009 “pensioner” vintage, and this progress reflected on the overall strengthening of the club, and especially the emergence of high calibre players from the colts section. Liam Keaney (U15 colt), Haris Mahmood (U14), and Miles Clark (U14) were routine members of the side and all made a substantial impact. Angus Turner, another U14, did very well in his 3 games in the side, and especially so when defying the Hutton bowlers in that important late season draw. These young players all have great potential, and over the coming years will command

positions in the club’s higher sides.

For the record, it was a case of played 18, won 11, drew 4, lost 2, with 1 abandoned. 6 of the 11 wins were made when chasing targets and, year on year, it was the batting aspect of the side which improved quite markedly. The successful chases away at Fives & Heronians (221-6), and Harlow (246-6) were challenging and well executed, with the other chases being less pressured after the bowlers had restricted the opposition. Apart from the miserable batting effort when beaten away at Ardleigh Green, we always managed to put decent totals on the board with 250 being exceeded on 5 occasions when batting first.

Run scoring was ideally spread across a good number of players. Ian Turner with 503 runs (5 x 50s) was top scorer for the season, getting us off to a great start in the opening game at Wanstead, and then setting us up for victory in the away match with Fives. Ian’s innings were always high tempo which prevented opposition bowlers from settling into any control. Haris Mahmood, with 471 runs averaged at 52.33, exceeded the high expectations surrounding his arrival in the side and his excellence was a pleasure to watch. Haris has a very sound batting temperament which dictates his precise shot selections, and he punished opposition captains that failed to recognise his strengths. Darren Thompson with 368 runs (average of 36.80) had a fine season, and was at his best in the home

game with Hornchurch when scoring an unbeaten 109. This was one of two centuries recorded by the 4th XI, the other coming from Chris Drain when taking an unbeaten 124 off the visiting Wanstead bowlers. Chris only played in 6 of our games but rattled up 300 runs (at 75.00), and his 58 was an important effort in our successful chase at Harlow. Steve Pleasant with 255 runs will be disappointed with his final total having started the season well, though he pulled us back into the home game with Hutton with a fine 79 when a deep collapse was underway. Steve took a number of good catches (10 in all) across the season, and his running and diving grab in the deep off Gooders’ bowling in the same Hutton game was outstanding. Liam Keaney did well in the No.5 slot, finding good form from late June and throughout July, scoring 175 runs at an average of 58.33 in this period, with a fine 66no at home to Fives, as well as keeping us on track with a crucial 29 in the pressured away win at Harlow. Liam will be disappointed with his final total of 212 league runs, but has made good progress and will build on the experiences of this campaign. New member Navin Mahendran has proved to be a great addition and put in some fine performances for the 4th XI. Navin’s 210 runs (at 30.00) included two vital fifties, firstly (58no) when joining Steve Pleasant in their fight back against Hutton, and then when making 53 in the last game of the season against Hadleigh & Thundersley.

4 x 4 cont'd

Miles Clark with 156 runs at an average of 52.00 made important contributions, and showed himself to be a clean striking and destructive batsman. Miles' 19no in the home game with Hutton enabled us to reach 200 and take 2 extra batting points, and his 34 in the final game with Hadleigh was a big factor in enabling us to reach a defendable total. Finally, Tom Witham and Jack Moss made good runs in their single appearance each.

This improved 2010 batting certainly took some pressure off the bowlers, though the performances were as strong as the previous season. Oppositions were bowled out on 9 occasions, in 2 games we had sides 9 wickets down, and in 3 other matches we had teams 8 wickets down. Combined with high batting totals it meant that we picked up decent bonus points (49 in total) in the 6 games we failed to win.

Neil Raisborough headed the wicket takers again (27 @ 18.00). There were no 5 wicket hauls for Neil this year, though on 3 occasions he picked up 4 in an innings, and a best of 4-20 away at Hainault & Clayhall. The edge was passed on many occasions, but that's all part of Neil's quality. Ken Jones had a fine season (23 wickets @ 18.96), and a best of 4-27 in the home game with Ardleigh Green. Ken's 2-20 away at Hutton was a high quality spell, and deserving of more wickets that day. Alistair Fergus bowled consistently well (21 @ 20.19), at a generally good economy rate. Alistair's best was 4-26 in a fine spell at Hornchurch

in the penultimate fixture. Keith Goodman (11 @ 11.00) only played in 8 of the fixtures but achieved the best average and economy rates. Keith certainly had Wanstead puzzled at Chelmer Park in his match winning spell of 4-5 from 9 overs. Lee Cranmer, Keenan Gallas, Danesh Dewan and Anthony Holland also made important contributions.

As with the batting, the bowling was spread across more shoulders in 2010, and the side had a number of all-rounders to bring into play. Navin Mahendran took 19 wickets (@ 16.74) and was the only bowler to record a 5 wicket haul, with 5-54 in the win at Westcliff. Liam Keaney with 7 wickets bowled some good spells, and was unlucky not to get more wickets, at times generating good rhythm and pace. Darren Thompson, (6 @ 17.67) bowled really well when called upon in the games at Fives, Ardleigh Green and Hornchurch. Finally, Ian Turner (16 @ 14.94) has to be applauded for his devastating 4-21 from 6 overs in the final game. It was an all or nothing effort from Ian, and put us firmly on the road to winning that decisive last game.

A further point to mention is that we were a much improved fielding side in 2010. Despite some younger outfielders we were not necessarily any more athletic than last year but we seemed to hang on to more catches, field the ball more cleanly, show greater awareness, and generally looked a much neater fielding outfit. Miles Clark made a terrific impact

behind the stumps with his 22 dismissals (16 catches & 6 stumpings), and all-round glove work. There's no doubt that good fielding lifts both bowlers and fielders, and Miles has had a very positive bearing on the side's success.

In all, 26 individuals turned out for the 4th XI and I would like to extend my thanks to you all for making it another successful and enjoyable year.

Thanks are extended to the Chelmer Park staff who have produced good pitches, and last, but by no means least, Bernice Clark deserves a big thank you from all of us for her first class scoring, overall organisation, and support for the side.

David Goddard

I would like to echo Dave's comments. Winning Division 1 of the 3rd XI league is a considerable achievement and for the first time, we can say that we were the top placed 4th XI in the Essex League.

It was great to see three young players make significant contributions and cement their places.

Liam Keaney impressed with a really good attitude and has genuine all round promise.

Haris Mahmood's shot making ability was a pleasure to watch.

Miles Clark's wicket-keeping skill made a huge difference to the team and his batting was a revelation.



for the first time, we can say that we were the top placed 4th XI in the Essex League



South
Woodfordcollapse
Harold Wood...reduced
to 30-3
Horndon ..a typical
Chelmsford collapse
Ardleigh Green...Roll
on the collapse

Maturing Nicely? The Sunday 1st Team

A second place finish in the Sunday league is pleasing but with the squad of players at my disposal it is still disappointing. The majority of players will be hoping to improve next year as we look to win the league.

The season had its high and low points, starting terribly on a day that I certainly want to forget at Roding Valley. Rain allowed us to escape with 6 points for the game being abandoned when our poor attitude deserved to see us slaughtered.

A solid performance against South Woodford was wasted due to a collapse that the Pakistan team would be proud of. Even after that, Craig Thompson and Tom Halsey had seemingly got us home with 2 to win from 6 balls only for Halsey to tell Craig "you need to hit the winning runs as I won't be able to" Craig tried, failed and we lost. The next 3 games were won with some exceptional performances along the way. Craig started to pick up wickets with ease; Keenan Galas, Tom "I'm batting where I want or I'm not playing" Witham and I found some form with the bat. Nick "God" Bailey also showed his class and scored runs with his usual flair and style. Ollie "annoying" Devenish

chipped in with runs and wickets but he will be hoping to vastly improve on his stats next year. A modest 217 was successfully chased against an under strength Shenfield side. IBWIIW was again in the runs. Chelmsford looked in serious trouble against current champions Harold Wood when they were reduced to 30-3 in 3 overs but Gary Chidley and I saw us in with ease, both trying to beat the other to a century. Just as things were looking, we received a reality check via a thrashing from overall champions East Essex. We didn't bowl well, Bailey dropped important catches off my bowling and we lost. Jack Sterland batted positively on his way to a superb 47. Keenan strolled to 33 as the curtain came down on his illustrious Chelmsford career. President's Day saw us host Horndon on the Hill, and we put on a fantastic show for the people in attendance. Horndon made a positive start until the spinners pulled things back, eventually posting a competitive 207. Jack got off to a flyer smashing 55, endangering and scattering spectators with some powerful pull shots. A typical Chelmsford collapse would normally cause panic but NOT

when you have "God" strolling in at number 6. "God" and IBWIIW set about chasing the target down, almost leaving the skipper with severe pad rash. With two games to go, the title was still up for grabs. Ardleigh Green posted 226. On a great batting track with a strong batting line-up, it shouldn't have been enough... it was though. Cruising at drinks, I departed playing an unnecessary slog sweep. Roll on the collapse, some average bowling was rewarded with dreadful batting and young debutant Miles Clark was the only high point. Halsey again called for a promotion up the order, slogging 21. Some harsh words from the senior players were richly deserved. We finished the season with a tremendous win over Waltham. On a very lively mud track we posted a respectable 190. Steve Drain and Jimmy Arnold spearheaded the attack and put Waltham under enormous pressure, bowling tidily and picking up wickets. With only 13 needed off the last over and all the bowlers bowled out, Lee Clayden-Cranmer stepped up to the pressure and stopped Waltham getting over the line.

Maturing Nicely? cont'd

With some enjoyable friendlies along the way, Sunday cricket in 2010 was a very good foundation to build on next year. James Arnold picked himself up and was always solid with the bat and ball (yes Jimmy, you were!) James Redman was typical James Redman, got in... looked brilliant.... got

out. Tom Witham, Gary Chidley, Jack Sterland and myself were the main contributors with the bat as others chipped in along the way. Tom Halsey, Craig Thompson and Jimmy Arnold led the way with the ball and it was a huge bonus having Australians Ross Di Bartolo and Keenan Galas in the side to contribute as

well. Ollie also turned up sometimes and prepared a decent track for us.

Lee Cranmer's fielding was brilliant throughout.

A big thanks to everyone who played this year and also congratulations for a successful season. Let's win it next year.

Rob Hayto

Home Comforts The Sunday 2nd Team

The one small benefit of the failure to enter a Matchplay team was a full programme of games for the Sunday 2nds. 20 games were played, 12 won, 2 abandoned, 1 drawn and 5 lost.

At home it was a very strong record—10 wins from 11 completed. An unfortunate injury to Sam Hollingsworth stopped that being 11 from 12.

Away some of the opposition was stronger, 4 defeats in a row before 2 wins and a draw to round off the year. Of the 5 defeats, 3 could be ascribed to strong opponents, basically first teamers playing the big fish. In those games, the players acquitted themselves well. The defeats at Wickford and Broxbourne were unimpressive though.

The performances were very good. Darren

Thompson and Steve Pleasant led the run-scoring with Darren anchoring 3 successful chases and Steve blasting two hundreds.

Youngsters who made a good impression with the bat were Sam Hollingsworth, Liam Keaney, Bradley Green, James Clifford, Adi Vohra, Angus Turner and Miles Clark. All of them managed to pass fifty at some point with Miles' century against Hadleigh being the highlight.

With the ball, Alistair Fergus led the way, bowling tidily and picking up wickets consistently. Perhaps he should have taken it as a compliment when in the one game that he conceded 5 an over, he was described as getting smashed; he didn't though. The skipper also got some wickets in all action spells.

Aaron Beard really impressed in the games he played and Matt Davis performed well with bat and ball.

The fielding was a mixed bag as always but Miles' wicketkeeping was impressive throughout.

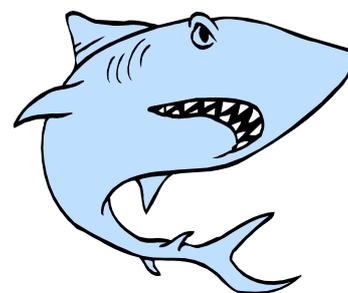
Moments to cherish include Paul Jones showing the team that the Saturday 1sts can't be that good a standard with 3 dropped catches before being bowled playing a forward defensive. Another unselfish sacrifice of dignity in the cause of the club.

There was also Leigh's overseas player coming off his full run after Alex Bailey hit him for four.

Or there was the Mountnessing player who decided to open the batting because we had a team of kids. Aaron proved far too good for him.

Any Photos of Old Chelmsford Teams?

Contact Bob Shortman





Matt was so surprised
that he neglected to
run himself out

Best Defence The Under-13s Essex Cup

After getting through to the semi-final of the local Cup, Chelmsford earned the chance to defend the Essex Cup. It was in this competition that the under-13s showed their quality in a series of almost identical games.

The two local Cup games had seen Bradley Green in spectacular form, a century in a rout against Little Baddow and an unbeaten 70 against Shenfield. James Clifford scored a brilliant century in the Shenfield match but with only 10 men it was hard work in the field. Shenfield were well placed in the chase but crucial spells from Sam Craig and James saved the day.

Round 1 of the Essex Cup was a trip to Orsett. One of the features of the Cup is the players asking me what the opposition will be like. For information, I do not have a series of scouts scouring the County.

Orsett were stuck in and quickly showed some talent with the bat. They made a great start before a retirement and useful spells from the small Harrys (Arnold and Green) retarded progress. Aaron Beard also bowled tidily at the death, to restrict the final score to 115.

James and Ben Clifford gave the chase the ideal start with James quickly reaching his 30. Matt Davis ran himself out but Bradley Green played well. Ben also retired and Bradley guided the team home, hitting the winning runs with 21 balls to spare.

Brentwood were next up, they also batted first and made a good start. This time it was Tom Urquhart who bowled the tidy overs in the middle before Aaron again closed out well. Brentwood scoring 119.

The reply got off to another great start, James retiring inside 6 overs. Matt ran himself out, Ben retired and Bradley hit the winning runs with 27 balls in hand.

Hadleigh & Thundersley were the semi-final opponents. Fitting with the pattern they batted first but made steady progress throughout rather than ever really getting going. Useful spells from Tom and Harry Green in the middle and Matt at the death kept the score down to 104.

The Cliffords again made a good start but shockingly James got out. Matt was so surprised that he neglected to run himself out, seeing it through with Bradley after Ben retired. It was Matt who scored the winning runs, with 29 balls left.

Goesbrook provided the opposition in the Final. The bowling was tight from the start but the second wicket partnership made good progress before a retirement brought that to an end. Further progress was held back by some tidy bowling—especially from James and Matt - some excellent fielding (4 run outs) but most spectacularly by Aaron's 4 wickets in 4 balls, leaving 99 to win. James was out early on

but Matt and Ben put together a good partnership to steady things. The normal pattern resumed after that, Matt ran himself out, Ben retired and Bradley played really well, hitting the winning runs with 22 balls still to go.

The impressive part of the campaign was that only six wickets were lost—three of them run outs. This did have the slight disadvantage that only 5 players scored any runs. Ben and Bradley were undefeated throughout the campaign, both batting very well and with maturity.

On the bowling side, most of the team made a good contribution at some time. Shona Keaney, Tom Urquhart and Harry Green bowling some tidy spells. Aaron led the attack superbly, taking at least one wicket in every match.

Tanner Bailey, Harry Green and James Baker were outstanding in the field although James Burns had the best individual moment with a brilliant run out in the Final.

The players can be really proud of their achievements in this competition. It is only the second time that Chelmsford has won this Cup.

It is a shame that so many were unavailable for the Regional Finals but after a nightmare batting display at the start of the day, the performances there were excellent. Matt Davis' batting and captaincy; Aaron Beard's and Jamie Matthews' bowling catching the eye.

Short Summer The Under-11s

The under-11 season was pretty short. The pool of players was small. Some of those proved unreliable and Essex commitments reduced the options even further.

Only 6 games were played with just 1 win. One of those games was played with just 6 players.

There were some decent performances. Tom Ar-

nold did very well with the bat. Harry Green was excellent in the field and with the ball. Jack Campion showed good all round skills including wicket-keeping. Harry Arnold and Lizzie Davis were good with the ball.

With Andy Shepherd working hard with a younger age group it is to be hoped that things will be healthier in the next

few years.

After a number of years in charge, Peter Drain has decided to stand down as manager. Peter has done a fine job and hopefully there are a lot of youngsters who enjoyed their introduction to cricket.



Blink and You Missed It The Under-15s

The under-15 season was also disappointingly short. Availability was a problem at this level as well.

Late call-offs meant a very young side was sent to Hutton and they experienced an agonising 1 run defeat to the side that went on to win the compe-

tition.

Three league games of which 2 were won and a defeat in a friendly rounded out the season.

Haris Mahmood and Angus Turner got half centuries. Ben Clifford did well with the bat when he played whilst Miles Clark

showed his talent with the bat and gloves.

With the ball, perhaps the most eye-catching performance was Shona Keaney's two wickets against a strong but obnoxious Brentwood side.

**Colt of the Year:
James Clifford**

Award Winners

Colt of the Year:

James Clifford

Stan Doe Trophy:

Ben Clifford

Most Improved Player:

Matthew Davis

U11s

Batsman of the Year:

Tom Arnold

Bowler of the Year:

Harry Green

All Rounder of the Year:

Jack Campion

Fielder of the Year:

Harry Arnold

U13s

Batsman: **Bradley Green**

Bowler: **Aaron Beard**

All-Rounder:

James Burns

Fielder: **Tanner Bailey**

U15s

Batsman:

Haris Mahmood

Bowler: **Liam Keaney**

All-Rounder:

Angus Turner

Fielder: **Miles Clark**



GOLF DAY
Thursday 8 September
2011
Channels Golf Club

2011 Golf Day 8 September 2011

2011 will see a return of the Chelmsford Cricket Club Golf Day as part of our celebrations of the clubs' Bi-Centenary.

We have held a number of Golf Days at Channels, usually as part of a benefit year for County Cricket players. The first of those was for John (JJ) Lewis who was originally one of our Colts, left to join Essex CCC and finished his first-class career as Captain of Durham CCC. The last Golf Day we organised was for Paul Grayson who is now the 1st team coach for Essex CCC.

This Golf Day is simply to celebrate the 200th anniversary of Chelmsford Cricket Club. It is an opportunity to have an excellent day's golf, play with some familiar friends and colleagues and have a rare opportunity to meet and chat with some of our ex-players and supporters.

As you can see we have an impressive series of events throughout 2011 and the golf day is the main fundraiser for this programme.

This is where we would like all our members to look at ways in which they can help.

In the past we have had a major sponsor who headlines all literature and advertising material. Other sponsors have either simply donated or specifically sponsored a hole of golf, an event within the round of golf or provided raffle prizes. If you have your own business or work in a business which could see some merit in being involved please see if you can bring them on board. A local business could benefit substantially from the exposure we could generate.

Obviously if you like to play golf you can take part

either as an individual or as part of a team of 3. If you do not enter as a team we will place you within a team of 3.

Following the golf there will be a dinner in the Channels Club Barn. This will include entertainment, raffle, auction and presentations. Wives, partners, mistresses etc are welcome to attend.

Early next year we will be seeking firm commitments and writing to you with full details. In the meantime please try to help us attract as many sponsors as we can. The golf sub committee is Peter Anstee, Roger Prowting, Mike Vandome and Richard Dench. Most have varying degrees of advanced senility but if you can help at this stage please contact Richard Dench on 01245 262201 or denchjrd@aol.com

Paul Jones

4 x 3 The Saturday 3rd Team

The 3rd team won the league for the fourth time in a row. This time it was a very close run thing, Shenfield finished level on points but more wins gave Chelmsford the title.

There were 12 wins in total with just 2 defeats (both to Shenfield). This included 9 wins in the last 10 games.

Four batsmen had very good years; James Arnold, Paul Keaney, Olly Devenish and

Barry Clayden all made over 375 runs at an average in excess of 40.

Chris Drain, Darren Thompson, Tom Witham, Lee Cranmer, Andy Rycroft and Imran Ahktar all contributed half centuries.

With the ball it was the usual story of the seamers being employed to get the shine off the ball and get the spinners on.

Tom Halsey, Chai Pandya and Neal Abhyankar were the leading wicket-takers. Tom taking 36 wickets at under 15 apiece. Chai with 27 wickets generally did the stock bowling role.

32 players turned out for the 3rds, some of them seemingly emerging from the Twilight Zone.

Planning is well underway for a fantastic year of festivities next season celebrating 200 years of Chelmsford Cricket Club.

Timetable of events :-

Cricket Week w/c 25th July 2011

Mon 25th - Chelmsford 1st X1 v Essex X1, Chelmsford v Margaretting

Tue 26th - Chelmsford X1 v Gents of Essex

Wed 27th - Colts day (2 or 3 fixtures)

Thu 28th - Chelmsford v MCC (PRESIDENT'S DAY)

Fri 29th - 6 a side competition

Sat 30th July 2011

Bi Centenary Dinner/Dance

This will be a fantastic celebratory occasion held at the County Ground, Chelmsford. Tickets will be available to players, ex-players, partners, guests etc.

Entertainment will include a band/DJ, guest speaker and raffle draw. As demand will be high, don't delay when tickets become available.

Thursday 8th September

Bi-centenary Golf Day

The golf day returns to help us celebrate our bi-centenary. We are looking for teams of 3 to play on the day, followed by a Dinner, raffle and auction. It promises to be a fantastic day.

TBA - September

Cross Arrows v Chelmsford X1

We have secured a prestigious fixture against the MCC's Cross Arrow side at Lord's Nursery Ground in September.

Plenty of support welcome for what will prove to be a great day out !

Please get involved in the celebrations by putting the dates in your diary now !

How else can i support ?

Raffle - We will also be having a season-long raffle with some great prizes to be drawn at the bi-centenary dinner on 30th July. If you are able to help in the way of prizes, both for this raffle or the auction at the golf day, please contact Paul Jones or Bernice Clark (details at bottom of page)

Sponsors - We will be having a celebratory golf day on 8th September. We are looking for potential sponsors. Please see separate article on the golf day.

Support - Your actual physical presence supporting the club in some or all of these events will help make it a year to remember and create a special atmosphere for all involved.

History - We will be producing a brochure highlighting the history of the cricket club and updating the photos in the clubhouse. If you are harbouring any club photos from the past or have any interesting stories please contact one of the committee below.

There will also be some new **club clothing** available with bi-centenary logo - whites, coloured clothing, tracksuit bottoms, shorts, casual clothing for players and supporters to purchase.

Contact:- Paul Jones 07711291428

Pmj174@hotmail.co.uk

Bernice Clark 07947013475

berniceuk63@hotmail.com



Chelmsford Cricket Club

43 Riddiford Drive
Chelmsford CM1 2GB

alistair.fergus@btinternet.com

WEBSITE

www.chelmsfordcc.co.uk/

Bi-Centenary

As part of the Bi-Centenary, we will be producing a brochure about the history and achievements of Chelmsford Cricket Club. As part of this and also in an effort to create an archive, we would like to receive any old memories, fixture cards, photos and scorebooks.

If you have anything in this line, please contact Bob Shortman, Paul Jones or Alistair Fergus. Contact details are on the website or for Paul, see page 15, for Alistair see aside.

The Numbers



Highest Score: 337-1

Sat 6ths v North Weald

Highest Score Against: 331-3

Shenfield v Sat 2nds

Lowest Score: 52-8

Sat 6ths v North Weald

Lowest Score Against: 18

Leigh on Sea v Sat 5ths

Highest Individual Score:

174* **Angus Turner**

Sat 6ths v North Weald

League: 125 **James Arnold**

Sat 3rds v Gidea Park

Centuries

2—Liam Thrift, Steve Pleasant

1— James Arnold, Chris

Drain, Darren Thompson, Sam Hollingsworth, Ross di Bartolo, Miles Clark, Angus Turner

Best Bowling:

9-55 **Tanner Bailey**

Sat 6ths v North Weald

League: 8-45

Fahran Mahmood

Sat 2nds v Fives & Heronians

Five Wicket Innings

2—Stuart Everard, Darren Butt

1—Rob Hayto, Fahran Mahmood, Craig Thompson, Imran Akhtar, Tom Halsey, Navin Mahendren, Aaron Beard, Adi Vohra, Andrew Shepherd, Alistair

Fergus, Adam Chantry, Tanner Bailey

Hat Tricks: Aaron Beard

Oddities

No centuries for Saturday 1st or 2nd teams

Highest Score in 1sts— Nick Bailey 97* v Wanstead;

in 2nds— Nick Bailey 98 v Brentwood

Number of hundreds by Chelmsford players in Premier League: 0 (3 seasons)

Number of hundreds in Premier League by John Chambers v Chelmsford: 3