

TheT^{SS}

The Newsletter for Chelmsford Cricket Club

The Soapbox

It is a mark of the club's successes in the past ten seasons that the tone of some of the following reports make it sound as though it has been a barren year. With success in the Dukes T20 competition (for the first time) as well as the Essex Sunday League, in reality it may seem unusual for it to be described as that. There are many clubs in the league who would have been delighted to have had our season. Still, for only the second time since 2006 no Saturday League title had Chelmsford CC's name on it, and for the first time since entering the competition Chelmsford failed to win the Warsop T20.

Away from the club there were some very notable achievements. Aaron Beard made national headlines with five wickets for Es-

sex against the touring Sri Lankans, a performance that earned him a County Championship debut and certainly didn't harm his cause as he was subsequently selected for England U19s. Shona Keaney remains a regular for Essex women, whilst Sam Cook and James Clifford both appeared for Essex Second XI with Sam taking 16 wickets in the Second XI Championship at an average of just 21.

David Goddard was the hero of many Friday nights and Saturday mornings yet again as selection continued to be troublesome.

I have taken over in the editor's chair from Alistair Fergus, who did a first-rate job for 15 years (I think). In his final soapbox he did express the hope that I would manage more than one newsletter per

year. A self-described pessimist, he will perhaps be disappointed but probably not very surprised that I have not only failed to accomplish this, but the newsletter is in fact out later than ever before. Presumably, he relinquished the editor's role in order to lower his workload. He is still the most prolific contributor.

One thing that does return is production of the newsletter via Publisher. I have copied the formatting from the 2009 edition; there is a significant possibility that random metaphors/clip-art from 2009 (most of which went over my head, incidentally) will have been missed as I delete the 2009 content to replace it with 2016.

Individual Achievements

Most runs—Gary Chidley

Most wickets—James Clifford

Hundreds

2—David Thrist, Rob Catchpole, Jack Campion

1—Ed Cole, Jack Sterland,

Rob Hayto, Brad Green, Jordan Campion, Nick Bailey, Andrew Rycroft, Tom Iliffe

5 wicket hauls

3—James Clifford

2—Karamat Ali, Anthony Hill, Callum Rudd, Abra-

ham Kurian

1—Tom Halsey, Sam Cook, Rob Hayto, Stuart Everard, Ben Clifford, Harry Arnold, Craig Thompson, Shona Keaney, Steve Bond, Aaron Beard, Sean Sullivan, Phil Arnold

Winter 2016/17

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*For most of the Club
stats see:*

<http://chelmsford.play-cricket.com/home/home.asp>

The Saturday 1sts

It is a mark of the talent within this side that I write this report with a hint of disappointment after a season in which we finished 3rd in the Premier League, reached the League Cup Final and won the T20 cup for the first time. With four games to go and chasing just 142 to win against Wanstead at home for a win that would send bring us neck-to-neck with them at the top of the table, an unprecedented retention of the title appeared to be a possibility and at 139-8 the win appeared to be ours, but a bizarre turn of events led to a dispiriting one-run loss which ultimately was the beginning of the end of our title hopes.

The rise to prominence of Aaron Beard as both an Essex 1st XI squad player and an U-19 international left a large hole in our team, although perhaps surprisingly it was more his batting that we missed as much as his obviously outstanding bowling. As someone who is a big fan of statistics, I think that they speak volumes about the successes and failures of our season, with five bowlers (Sam Cook, James Clifford,

Anthony Hill, Karamat Ali and Aaron) averaging 18 and below with equally impressive strike rates of 30 and below too. In contrast, just three batsmen were able to average 30 runs and above, with Dan Hagen finishing at the leading run scorer with 486 runs at 32.4, a record that he will be keen to improve on.

Despite the rather negative tone of the report so far, there were some particularly pleasing moments and trends throughout the season. Anthony Hill (28 wickets @17.2) proved yet again why he is a proven consistent performer at this level, while James Clifford and Sam Cook bowled with control and maturity beyond their years to terrorise batsmen throughout the league. With the bat, Jack Sterland started the season in terrific fashion with constant runs scored with style and consistency, while James continued to develop as an all-rounder, finishing with over 400 runs to go with his 30 wickets.

As a captain, I have always tried to give opportunities to people to show what they can do and as some key players begin to have other com-

mitments; it was pleasing to see what the future of Chelmsford CC has to offer. Brad Green proved himself to be a highly effective wicket keeper at this level while also offering glimpses of his batting ability, and Tom Halsey continued to confound batsmen with his own unique approach to leg spin. The last game of the season also highlighted another talent of the future, with Miles Clark showing maturity and skill to help negotiate a tricky situation to help us to victory against Buckhurst Hill.

There are some games that stand out in my memory for very different reasons, ranging from excellent team performances to bizarre chat on the sidelines (mostly from BC.) The most dominant victory of the season was probably against Chingford, whereby we scored 301-4 before bundling them out for just 94. A similar level of dominance looked likely against Hornchurch after bowling them out for just 74 (Hill 5-16), but a combination of rain and frankly baffling umpiring saved their blushes and the game was eventually abandoned with us need-

Saturday 1sts (cont'd)

ing just 11 for victory. The Wanstead game will unfortunately go down as a lasting memory for all the wrong reasons, as we managed to get ourselves into a dominant position, a terrible position, back to dominance and then a loss all within the space of 20 overs.

The experience of Karamat living in Chelmsford thanks to Neal Abhyankar kindly agreeing to put him up was entertaining both in terms of cricket and socially, as Karamat clearly enjoyed feeling more like part of the club. Personally, it was a turning point for my batting form having him living in Chelmsford as he brought a heightened level of intensity to net sessions that prepared me well for facing spin-heavy attacks on Saturday. Sadly, not everyone was as keen as I was to get in the extra practice.

To be honest, it was worth paying the £9 every Saturday just to observe the trials and tribulations of the characters of Chelmsford CC 1st XI. The comedy duo of Sterls and Dev provided a constant source of entertainment, primarily as they couldn't decide whether it was time to

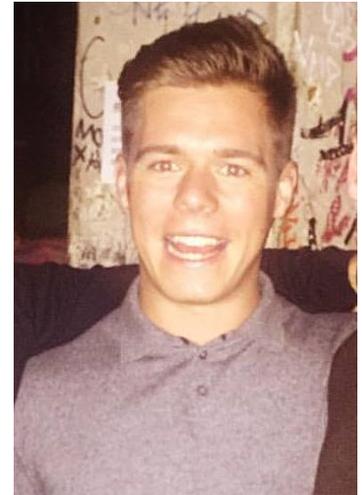
come out of the closet as an official couple or whether it was time to come to blows as (they claim) almost happened. For anyone who hasn't had the pleasure of playing alongside BC, just listening to him describing what he is thinking about or what he has done in the week is almost likely a comedy sketch show, while his ever-expanding catalogue of impressions can brighten up even the most dismal performance. The rise to prominence of Jacob Hagen as a key member of the squad was pleasing to watch, with Dan constantly fighting a battle between enjoying letting him run around and worrying about him running onto the pitch and getting hit by a ball or fielder.

It is with a lot of sadness that I have decided to step down as 1st XI skipper, as with the birth of my first child impending I don't feel like I can commit the time required for the post. It has been a pleasure to manage such a talented group of players, many of whom have far more ability than I can ever wish to have. I would like to save my

final words to pay my respects to the Prowting brothers, Nick and Chris, whom I have been outstanding players for over a decade and probably don't always get the credit they deserve. It is not just their ability on the pitch, but the 'hard but fair' approach to the game that has instilled an ethos throughout the squad that we can be proud of. They have provided me with frequent advice and support without which I could not have done the job.

Nick Bailey

So then, Bailey will wield his axe no more, as skipper at least. Less than two pages of prose from him this year, as opposed to last year's four-and-a-bit. Evidently he only really sings when he is winning, although in fairness he did submit his report first. It is an indication of how delayed publication is that, as I write, the birth of Nick and Rebecca's first child, Euan, is no longer impending but in fact occurred almost three months ago. Congratulations to them.





Champions—T20

Knowing the difficulty of raising a side for midweek games, I would be lying if I said I wasn't slightly concerned when DG emailed me in March with a T20 group that contained both Brentwood and Hornchurch. However, the performances of a group of lads throughout the competition who really showed the depth and fight we have as a club, proved this concern to be unwarranted.

All did not start so swimmingly. Our first game was against Brentwood at home and resulted in an embarrassing 9 wicket defeat in which we were completely outplayed by a typically strong Brentwood side. A performance that does not need any more to be written about it. Let's just say the only was up.

Next up was Hornchurch away on a Thursday night and, thankfully, we decided to turn up. A solid bowling and fielding performance restricted a powerful Hornchurch batting line-up to 143. In reply, James Clifford led the chase, showing his class with an excellent display of ball-striking, scoring

56 off 24 balls. Our first win was on the board and this set the tone for how we would continue.

The final group game was a comfortable 10 wicket win against Billericay, an expected but nevertheless impressive victory which saw us progress to the knockout stages.

And so, on to the quarter final against Woodford Wells. A strong batting display saw us post what I thought was a par score of 156. This was set up predominantly by Dan Hagen who made an impressive 60 at the top of the order. In reply, our bowling performance here was high class, and Wells were never really in the chase. The game was won inside the power play with James Clifford bowling superbly and Ollie Devenish picking up key wickets at the other end. Wells were bowled out for 80 and we were through to finals day.

This was our third appearance at finals day as a club and having been losing finalists on the previous occasions, there was a sense that we had a point to prove. I think

in previous years we had viewed the occasion as a bit of a day out and I was conscious to remove this attitude going into it this year; we were there to win it.

Having lost to them twice in the league, we knew a semi-final draw against Shenfield would require us to be at the top of our game. After winning the toss I decided to stick to our preferred game plan of chasing. On a typically good Billericay wicket, we restricted Shenfield to 128. At times Shenfield threatened to get away from us but tight bowling and impressive fielding kept Shenfield to what was a below par total. Over to the batsmen and we managed to chase down the target convincingly in the 13th over.

The final turned out to be against Brentwood. Not that any of us needed a reason to get up for this game, but a quite ridiculous celebration to their semi-final win against Colchester certainly focused the lads into making sure this would not be repeated 40 overs later. After again electing to field

T20 continued

first, the bowling performance could not have gone more to plan. From a wicket with the first ball, to 4 wickets inside the power play, to 92 all out, it went perfectly. I would go so far as to say it is the best bowling and fielding effort I have been involved in by a Chelmsford side. Chasing 92 to win, there is really only one way to go about it and, despite my own personal fair share of luck, we managed to knock them off inside 11 over.

Two thoroughly comprehensive victories saw us crowned Essex champions for the first time. On a personal note, it was nice to have some success with the bat but both these games were really won with our bowling and fielding performances. Both efforts in the field were absolutely fantastic and as a captain, I couldn't have asked for any more.

After winning the county competition, we progressed into the regional Finals Day at Reading CC. In the semi final we played North Middlesex. Unfortunately, we were unable to replicate our performances

in the previous rounds and we were comprehensively beaten.

Despite this disappointment, I can look back now on a highly successful and thoroughly enjoyable T20 campaign, and it was an absolute pleasure to captain this side throughout the season.

A few special mentions: firstly Tom Halsey bowled excellently throughout the competition. It is a testament to his skill and temperament that opposition batsmen are still unable to play him, despite now having faced him several times. The novelty factor has worn off and he has become a fine T20 bowler. On another note, James Clifford was brilliant as always, both on the field, and in helping to organising tosses and warm-ups whilst I was rushing to get to the group games after work. Finally youngsters such as Harry Green and Sheraz Shahid put in fine performances when called upon throughout the season.

I must thank everyone who played throughout the season and we can all be very proud of our T20 suc-

cess this year. Next year, no complacency, same drive and hunger, and I see no reason why we can not do it again!

Jack Sterland

A report that is considerably less succinct than the first draft ("Sterls gunned it") from Jack Sterland.

Sandwiched between the first and last games of the campaign were some genuinely outstanding performances from the T20 side, who thoroughly merited their success in the Dukes Essex League T20. It was unfortunate that we could not provide a better account of ourselves versus North Middlesex, but it was an excellent campaign nevertheless.

In spite of the contents of the first draft Jack has actually been rather modest here, neglecting to mention his 254 runs for only three times out in the Dukes competition. This performance earned him the club's T20 player of the year award.



*Dan's (Cornell)...
combined figures were
19-8-37-11*

The Under 13s

With only three players who had played fairly regularly in the A team in 2015, it was likely to be a learning experience this year. Despite their tyro status, the team performed pretty well, winning half of their ten games and putting up a decent fight in four of the defeats. This was achieved with a policy of giving everyone a bowl and not allowing anyone to bowl a full four over spell.

The highlight of the season was a win over a strong Springfield side. Some good fielding put Springfield under pressure and Tanuj Mukherjee's hat-trick helped bowl them out for around 50. The top order was blown away but Mo Ahmed and Jim Iliffe dug in and passed the target in the penultimate over.

Most of the games were close run things. Defeats to Stock and Shenfield could easily have gone the other way but so too could the wins over Stock, Old Chelmsfordians and Billericay.

The most pleasing aspect of the season was the pro-

gress that was made. The Mukherjee brothers made the biggest strides and Tanay played a couple of fine innings towards the end of the season. Every player made a useful contribution at some point and I would hope that the likes of Joe Bateman, Mo Ahmed, Drew Johnson, Josh Abraham and Jay Odedra can do well in under 15 and adult cricket. Joe's wicket-keeping was especially useful to the side.

Of those who will stay in the under 13s, Luke Wilson showed a great deal of talent whilst Jim Iliffe's tenacity was impressive. Nabeel Asghar, Josh Lapidus and Aditya Kuzhupilly all have raw talent that can develop well as they grow and at OC's Will Bidwell suddenly demonstrated some strong hitting.

The performances were even better when considering that two of the three experienced players missed a lot of the matches. Both Sam Tremelling and Will Boyden showed their quality, particularly with the ball. The other old hand, Dan Cor-

nell had an incredible season. Dan's bowling was superb, his combined figures were 19-8-37-11, yes 11 wickets for 37 runs at less than two an over. He also led the run scoring charts, improving his game over the season and playing four crucial innings.

From a personal point of view, it was nice to deal with a fairly lively and intelligent squad, even if lively is a synonym for annoying. The parents were also keen so it was usually easy to raise a side.

Finally, thank you to Tom Iliffe for umpiring or scoring in most of the games, especially as this so often involves listening to terrible and derivative chat. Please, no more 'wicket ball' in 2017.

Alistair Fergus

Under 15s

When I first saw these boys train I had mixed thoughts about the direction we should take. After a few more sessions it became apparent that two things this side lacked the most were fielding standards and showing a bit of fight.

Every training session was structured to improve both of these with a heavy emphasis on fielding once the nets were done. The first few games in the league were a bit rusty but that was expected. We managed to string a few wins together with the side really starting to gel. However holidays came and unavailability became a major issue. With Derek and Anthony's organizational skills we managed to field a side even when the odds were stacked against us. This led us to winning a few more games whilst other clubs suffered. We managed to officially finish second, however there has been some debate to

the legitimacy of the table and results. For a side playing 2 or 3 years above their age group they constantly impressed me with both their skills and attitude. It was an absolute pleasure coaching these fine young men and even more pleasing to see them transition to Men's cricket with some ease.

The Matchplay team was almost a carbon copy of the 15s. Once again the scheduling of this tournament hampered with availability. We unfortunately had to forfeit one game but the remaining 3 we won. This meant we qualified for the quarter finals away at Wickford. There were chances in the match that we were unable to capitalize on. We lost by quite a considerable margin, however the boys should be proud of their achievements throughout the tournament and I feel as a group will be better in the long run.

Many thanks to the U/13s who filled in for one game and played out of their skins. A massive thank you to Derek and Anthony for running the show behind the scenes and getting everything organised. It wasn't easy but your efforts and commitment weren't in vain. To all the parents, thank you for your support. It definitely was a fun journey and I hope you enjoyed watching these young men develop into more rounded cricketers and individuals.

They say the strength of a club is determined by the quality of juniors coming through. If this is the case then Chelmsford will remain a strong club for quite some time. Thank you to everybody for making me feel welcome.

Bring on 2017.

Chris Thanos

An Australian Abroad

Up until Walkabout recently opened I was pondering where I would find some solace after quite a tumultuous period in my life. It wasn't until I first graced Chelmer Park and met member of the club that I knew I had found my home away from home.

Playing cricket in England has always been a boyhood dream of mine, the mild weather, lush green fields and the tea. This dream was almost cut short when my first outing for the club was played in 3 degrees at Leigh on Sea with sporadic bouts of hail. It was this moment whilst the hail was falling that I seriously considered my decision. "Welcome to England" was yelled by RCP standing 9 meters away at point. What a welcome it was. I guess to

appreciate the good moments overseas and in sport you must be willing to experience the worst.

As the season progressed and the showers got steamier the bonds of friendship grew. There were many highlights throughout the season and I couldn't pinpoint one particular moment that stood out. The whole experience was unbelievable. Coming to such a strong and successful club was honestly a bonus. The players, supporters and everybody involved in the club made it memorable for me. Despite the constant bullying and belittling I copped for being "backwards" it was definitely worth it.

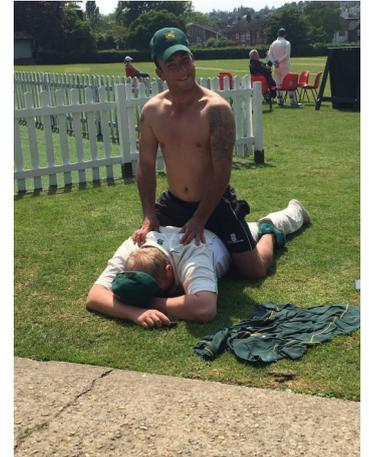
Thank you to everyone for making it memorable. I'm not going to waf-

fle on too much as An Aussie abroad version 2.0 will be written at the conclusion of this season. All I can say is lets knock Wanstead off the mantle of being the best club in the league.

Chris Thanos

I am sure it will be to Chris's slight annoyance that I have censored some of the content of that last sentence.

Chris has been an excellent addition to the club, not only fitting in and contributing well from the playing side of things but also putting in work in the youth sections as well as taking on the Warsop T20 captaincy.





The 3rd Team

When 13 wins from 17 games constitutes failure, your standards are pretty high. It was an odd season for the 3rd team, several experienced players had fairly poor seasons or hardly played and yet the record still looks good. A second place finish was no disgrace given the exceptionally high quality of champions Wanstead.

In truth given the ridiculously high number of players used and the at times baffling selection policy of the 2nds, it was something of a triumph. Craig Thompson had a decent season as captain, making his mark in one discipline or the other taking in a couple of match winning innings along the way.

It was encouraging to see some new players make significant contributions. Chief amongst these was Harry Arnold who bowled some excellent spells. Sheraz Shahid generally bowled

well too. Matt Davis, Jay Smith, Sam Trowell, Connor Cheverall, Charles Garrard and most pleasingly, Adi Vohra each played a couple of outstanding innings but availability was rather sketchy.

With these new younger players, one might have expected the fielding to be good. One would have been horribly mistaken. Fielding can't be that difficult, Alistair Fergus can do it and indeed this seemed to be the only reason he was in the team.

There was one regular, experienced player who had a tremendous season, Dave Thrift played superbly with well over 600 runs. It would have course have been more had his partners been alive to quick singles.

There were a few games to forget, notably Loughton away (dreadful to get to, dreadful changing rooms, appalling wicket, abysmal outfield, awful game). However the season

ended with an exciting one wicket win.

Highlights were a good team performance at Upminster, a well judged chase (by Matt and Adi) at Brentwood. Individual highs were a superb spell by Harry Arnold against Upminster, David's two centuries and Steve Bond's seven wicket haul. Moment of the season was undoubtedly Tom Halsey bamboozling and tormenting former Essex wicketkeeper Rob Rollins.

It would be nice to think that this season will encourage better availability, a more open selection system and improved fielding. Of course as a miserable old (insert own word of choice) I am incapable of such thoughts.

Alistair Fergus

4th Team

Another successful season for the Saturday 4th's punching above their weight against predominantly 3rd XI teams. Fourth position in the league was a great achievement with 45 players (at the last count) contributing during the season.

The season started with one of the best away fixtures at Southend. A great win with Callum Rudd taking 6 wickets and showing his real potential as an opening bowler. The next notable victory came against Wanstead 4th XI. Having been bowled out for 90, and looking down the barrel of a heavy defeat to one of the leagues stronger sides, Shona Keaney produced the spell of the season taking 7 wickets for 25 runs with Wanstead being bowled out for 85!

As we entered the second half of the season Jay and Luke Smith appeared on the scene with Jay scoring 93

not out and Luke taking 4 wickets against Southend. Unfortunately we fell one wicket short of a deserved victory. Upminster at home produced another victory. The reliable Sohail Shahid contributed with 66 runs and Anis Rahman was as consistent as ever taking 4 wickets, however, the main highlight was the long overdue contribution from Simon Evans scoring 53!

One memorable victory that cannot go unmentioned was the game against Harold Wood 3's. Chasing 238 Tom Iliffe scored a match winning 113 not out despite playing on with a broken thumb for the majority of the innings following being hit by a ridiculous beamer bowled by a sulking opening bowling. I should probably mention that Andy Rycroft contributed with 60 not out!

The last completed game of the season against Col-

chester (the final game was abandoned to rain) Ed Cole came up from the 5th team and played a fantastic innings scoring 109 not out. This was a chanceless innings and his first century. Alongside this performance Callum Rudd ended the season as it started by taking another 6 wickets.

To summarise, despite the frustrations of only fielding 10 players on two occasions, and the constant rotation of players, the season was enjoyable and very rewarding seeing some of the younger talent performing and hopefully positioning themselves for greater things next season!

Phil Arnold





The Second Team

For the second year in succession, the second team missed out on the title by a handful of points to Wanstead, but with such a talented squad that arguably constitutes failure. It made it more frustrating that what was at one point a commanding forty point lead was tossed away via sloppy performances. Wanstead proved too relentless to chase down, but adding to the frustration that the one occasion they dropped points (other than against ourselves), so did we, away to Ilford.

With six batsmen averaging north of thirty (albeit two of those played less than half of the games) and three bowlers averaging below 20 neither of the main disciplines seemed an obvious weak spot but the old cliché of not winning the key moments proved accurate.

Brad Green had another outstanding season, with 391 runs @ 78.2, deservedly going up and spending a large part of the season in the first team, his 147* vs Southend being a treat to watch. The other outstanding performer with the bat was Rob Catchpole, who made two cen-

turies out of 551 runs @ 50. This included a superb 105* vs Wanstead to defeat them and briefly raise hopes of reeling them in to win the league.

Everyone played their part in the attack, doing at least a reasonable job. It is fair to say though that as has been the case for years, we relied predominantly on spin. Of the six bowlers to top 10 wickets four were spinners, Harry Green leading the way with 26.

Two moments, in the main, have been looked back on as moments which helped cost the league. A collapse to 226 all out from 155-2 (chasing 243 to win) against Ilford saw us drop 13 points; we finished just seven shy of Wanstead. The other close call was the failure to take the final wicket away at Colchester in the first game of the season, which also cost 13 points.

The other main disappointment, as far as performance went, was a poor display that saw us thoroughly outclassed to the tune of six wickets away at Overton Drive.

On a more positive note, there were moments that can be looked back upon fondly. Most notable of these were the two victories over Brentwood, both of which went down to the wire.

The first of these victories, away at Brentwood on a difficult pitch, literally could not have been any closer. The final wicket, taken by Harry Green, came from the final ball of the match thanks in part to player-umpire Matt Bell's very commendable sportsmanship in upholding an LBW appeal. The return game at Chelmer Park was another tight affair, Rob Hayto taking the final catch off of Liam Keaney's bowling to ensure victory by four runs.

With the possibility of one or two new faces joining the club next year in addition to the obvious ability of the side as it already is, there is all the talent required to go one better than last season's second place under new skipper Lee Cranmer.

Tom Halsey

The Fifth Team

2016 was a year of change at 5th team level. The Essex League decided to regionalise leagues at our level meaning that our away games were played in Southend/Basildon area rather than East London.

Not content with one change, the league then changed the playing conditions making ours an 85 over game with a maximum of 45 overs in the first innings.

In the early matches it became clear that opposition captains had not grasped the mechanics of the changes so it was a case of trying to manipulate the game to our best advantage! Throughout my time as captain it has always been an advantage to bat second and chase a target rather than have to bowl out the opposition in the second innings. This became more apparent with only 40 overs to bowl out a team in the second innings. That is a strike rate of a wicket every four overs which is asking a lot!

It did not help that I only won the toss on three occasions and that on the first two we were rained off whilst bowling second! We were generally asked to bat first and could only try to put up a score and then apply scoreboard pressure upon the opponent. To this end it helped that we hit upon a successful opening partnership in Jordan Campion and Ed Cole who built excellent opening partnerships on a number of occasions. Ed also developed

as a wicket-keeper and it was inevitable that they would be promoted to the 4th team where they both flourished.

These two were replaced by a combination of the 'old guard' of Paul Tremelling, Bharat Odedra and Neil Parrish. They all contributed scores at important times and helped guide the many youngsters in the team. Abe Kurian and Andy Cole also added maturity to the team. Alex Bailey missed a number of games due to injury and we missed his aggression and pace?! Jack Campion did not kick on from his outstanding season last year but did score one century. Ben Turner added enthusiasm and no little skill and we were a better team when he played.

It is always the youngsters that excite us in the lower teams. This year was no different with the emergence of Dan Cornell who is some prospect. He bowled quick left armers and swung the ball late hitting the stumps three times in five overs the first time I saw him bowl at Hadleigh and Thundersley. He has raw pace and bundles of talent that we need to harness as he is a prospective 1st XI player of the future.

Sam Tremelling made his debut in the same game and is another to watch. His skill in playing out a draw at Billericay spoke wonders of his temperament and ability. Add to that an excellent season by all-rounder Matt Cook

and the improvement showed by Matt Cole and the club is in good hands with much to look forward to.

I wish to thank all those that have supported DG and myself in fielding teams each week. The commitment of 5th team players was very good and, I believe, that we could have developed a very good team spirit had we managed to field a settled team. However, commitment in teams above ours was not as good, meaning that players moved up to higher teams and we could not formulate a consistent game-plan. I have decided to stand down as captain having stood in for Alex Bailey whilst he worked on his Master's Degree. It is not known at this stage who will take on the captaincy duties.

Finally, I would like to thank all those people that make Chelmsford such a great club. I may be biased but I believe Shirley does a fantastic job, Eddie and his Committee put in hours of unpaid work, Julie and her staff do a great job behind the bar and our tea ladies never let us down.

Winter well.

Barry Clayden





Under 11Bs

Following on from their success as U9's in 2015, the bulk of this squad graduated to the U11's with this team forming the U11B's while the Year 6's (managed by Dan Prabhakar) had the pressure of performing as the U11A's. The teams played in separate leagues within the local competition so did not meet in the middle so to speak.

I looked after the U11B's in their games through the summer with all games being played in the Terrier format meaning all the players got the chance to bat and bowl. In my opinion, this is the best form of cricket for children of this age (and older) to play as everybody gets to participate and goes home having done something; some having done more than others.

Playing in what was effectively a reserve League, I expected my team to be playing against many of the players they had played against the previous year in the U9's. This they did and I was (pleasantly) surprised at the results with all of the League matches

being won by large margins.

The boys as players appeared to have really developed their skills and awareness from 2015 and a good example of this was against Bentley who we only narrowly beat in 2015 (4 runs from memory) whereas in 2016 the winning margin was far more emphatic.

Our performance against Bentley started with what was our worst performance with the bat during the season but was then followed by a fine bowling performance. The teams out cricket was/is their strength with the bowling often too much for the opposition batters. Losing 6 runs a wicket in this form of cricket can really bring the score down.

I thank all the boys who played for their exemplary behaviour and commitment but shall not mention the players by name as I should mention them all if I mention one so it's easier not to name names. I also offer my thanks to the parents for their continued support through the season particularly Neil Fergus who as my assistant had the hon-

our of umpiring while I sat in my chair observing from the boundary.

Looking ahead to the coming season, this team will now become the U11A's and will compete in the main local league. The standard will be better but this test will be good for the boys as they need to play against good/better players in order to improve.

Eddie Lawrence

The Sunday 1sts

The Sunday first team wrapped up another league title (the third such success in four seasons), and for good measure won the inaugural post-season playoffs as well. The season was far fuller than that of 2015, in which only five games were actually played.

The familiar problems with selection were there again, and more than 40 players played a league game this season, so to lose only one game and win the league with some comfort was actually quite an achievement.

The season started in extremely cold conditions some two weeks before the start of the Saturday league season, with a victory away at Harold Wood. Gary Chidley, with 87, and Harry Green, with four wickets, were the main contributors.

The one defeat came in the next fixture away at Belhus in a poor performance. The openers had got Belhus off to a flyer but the change bowlers then reduced the home side to 125-5. They rallied to finish on 229-8 though, which proved to be 20 runs too many for us in spite of another 50 from Chidley.

A routine victory over Great & Little Warley followed before the first of two meetings with Waltham. On a flat deck with a small boundary at Loughton, we had looked slightly below par until James Clifford launched an incredible 76 not out, from just 22 balls to propel us to 252-6. The chase always looked like it was going

down to the wire, but with 13 runs required off the final over, Waltham could muster only eight.

Upminster were swept away for 82 in the following game, which unusually also doubled as a League Cup match. The wickets and the runs were shared about as an eight-wicket victory was obtained.

The remainder of the league season passed in the main fairly uneventfully, as five routine victories came our way. Again this was no mean feat as more than one of these matches clashed with the Dukes T20 competition, meaning weaker sides were fielded.

With the league won, we entered the post-season playoffs fairly confident of triumphing. Our semi-final opponents were Goresbrook, and due to a delayed start and further poor weather forecast, the match was reduced to 30 overs. Dan Hagen made 58 and some other useful contributions was us reach 177-7; a useful score but certainly chaseable. Goresbrook, though, were never really up with the required run-rate, and could only muster 155-5 from their 30 overs in the face of tight bowling from all of our attack.

The final pitted us against Waltham, who were always likely to be a strong side. However a superb bowling and fielding performance restricted Waltham from the outset. They struggled to 132 all out, James Clifford taking four wickets and new boy Ben Waring taking two. 74

from Dan Hagen and 38 from Brad Green ensured that this target was easily attained.

The at times variable nature of the side meant that at various points many different players contributed. Gary Chidley led the way with the bat, contributing 296 runs in just five matches, including three fifties. James Clifford, Chris Thanos, Rob Hayto and Karamat Ali also all contributed over 100 runs at an average of over 40 or above.

The most successful with the ball was Ben Clifford, who took 12 wickets @ 8.67. Much like the batting, the wickets were shared around, with no fewer than seven players claiming between five and eight wickets.

James has decided to step down as captain in 2017, in light of his being at Loughborough University. He has done an excellent job in his two years as skipper, winning the league title in both seasons. Liam Keaney will take over as captain next season.

Tom Halsey





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Award Winners

Batsman of the year—Rob Catchpole

Bowler of the year—James Clifford

All-rounder of the year—Brad Green

T20 player of the year—Jack Sterland

Most improved player—Ed Cole

Most promising young player—Harry Green

Outstanding colt—Harry Arnold

Clubman of the year—David Goddard

Highest score—Brad Green

Team of the year—T20 XI