

Matt Salisbury, who took the wickets of both Chelmsford openers and scored 12 runs from 10 balls at the end of Shenfield's innings.

Shenfield Cricket Club 1st XI defeated Chelmsford Cricket Club in the Essex Cricket League Cup semi final on Sunday 14th, Shenfield's third Premier League club scalp of the run, and look forward to their first final since winning the competition back in 1999.

Chelmsford had made the semi-final themselves by defeating current Essex Premier League leaders Brentwood CC, so were favourites going into the match which turned out to be a very one sided affair in Shenfield's favour. Shenfield skipper John Walter lost the toss and was asked to bat first by Chelmsford's captain Paul Jones. Openers Jon Powell and Charlie Sutherland got off to a solid start and negotiated the swinging orange ball well and punished anything too full to the boundaries in the first 10 overs. Powell (23) and Sutherland (13) were both dismissed by sharp catches off the bowling of Court, bringing Australian overseas player Elliot Richtor and wicketkeeper Jack Kliber to the crease. Richtor, looking to play a lengthy innings was run out early on but Kliber batted on to consolidate for Shenfield, making a solid 54 off 75 balls. The in-form Tom Austin came to the crease and added a fluent 25 with some hefty blows to accelerate the scoring during the middle overs. The dangerous Arshad Ali was dismissed early, leaving the Shenfield lower order to work hard to get up to a final score of 184 at the tea interval.

The Shenfield seam attack then really took control of the game, led by Matt Salisbury's excellent 2-24 and Austin's 2-7, reducing the Chelmsford reply to 26-4. The Shenfield spinners then got in on the act, the ever reliable Ali (2-20) kept the procession going, supported by a faultless catching display and a sharp run out by Powell for the prize wicket of Nick Prowting for 24. Chelmsford were finally dismissed for 79 inside 22 overs to complete the victory. Shenfield captain John Walter commented afterwards, "At tea we felt we were maybe 15-20 runs short but the new ball bowlers did a fantastic job putting the Chelmsford top order under pressure and forcing mistakes. We have been playing some good cricket this season and are excited about the final on the 29th August. I think it's a just reward for the boys' disciplined and committed approach, particularly with the ball and in the field. We are hoping to bring the League Cup back to Shenfield to make it 2 trophies in 2 seasons, following the Bertie Joel Cup success in 2010." The final, against Upminster CC, is to be held at Wanstead Cricket Club on Monday 29th August starting at 12.30pm.