

# Historic Day Caps off Dream Season for Shenfield

Only 48 hours after securing promotion at Hadleigh & Thundersley, Shenfield headed to Wanstead CC to take on Upminster in the Shepherd Neame League Cup final. After two remarkable innings from Elliot Richtor and Jon Powell, Shenfield successfully defended 269. Bowling out Upminster for 238, making this a highly memorable weekend for Shenfield Cricket Club.

After his heroics in the Hadleigh game, skipper John Walter came good again by winning the toss and electing to bat, on a cool and cloudy afternoon. So began a partnership which was truly one for the ages. A combination of some inaccurate bowling with the orange new ball, and positive running in the early overs, Jon Powell and Elliot Richtor were allowed to settle by the Upminster attack. A large number of the early runs filling the extras column. Having settled towards the end of the 12 over powerplay, the two Shenfield openers started to branch out with some more expansive strokes, reaching 100 for no loss before 20 overs. The Upminster slow bowlers fared the same as their new ball colleagues as Powell and Richtor continued their controlled aggression, with Richtor then Powell passing 50 in quick succession. With a variety of strokes, the Shenfield pair continued on their way passing 200 without loss. This was quickly followed by Australian Elliot Richtor passing three figures. True to the form of the rest of the innings, Jon Powell was quick to follow with his own century. After a few more imposing straight blows by Richtor in the final overs, he was eventually caught in the deep for 128 off the bowling of Rahman (The 7th Upminster bowler used). Powell was then joined by the Mongoose wielding Ryan Lugg who unfortunately failed to reach the boundary in his brief innings, though it was not due to a lack of effort on his part. Shenfield finished their 40 overs, 269 for 1. Powell finishing 107 not out. Both Powell and Lugg were warmly greeted back to the pavilion by the large Shenfield supporting contingent who had taken advantage of the Wanstead bar opening as play began. As the Shenfield elder statesmen reminded the rest of the crowd that Powell and Richtor's stand was a record partnership in the 1st XI for the opening partnership.

After setting Upminster 270 to win from their 40 overs, Shenfield started positively with Tom Austin dismissing Wyatt for just 3. The Upminster second pair of Jabar and Rahman looked in good touch hitting boundaries of the Shenfield opening attack. Captain Walter turned to the ever reliable bowling of Arshad Ali. Ali bowled both Jabar and Rahman in quick succession to bring Alan Ison to the crease. Ison too started with boundaries, including a massive straight six but he too fell before he could make serious inroads into the Shenfield total, being caught by John Walter on the second attempt after his initial parry took a lot of the speed off the stroke. Ali and Lugg bowled numerous tight overs in the middle passage with regular wickets being taken, as Lugg finished with season best figures of 4 for 46, and Ali with 2 for 36. Each from a completed 8 overs. These figures were somewhat spoiled by the weighty blows from Upminster's lower order as their captain, Peck struck some significant boundaries on his way to a quick fire 34, before he too fell to Shenfield's spin attack. He was caught on the boundary by Richtor off the bowling of the evergreen Dave Wright. Upminster's number 9 bat continued to play positively on his way to an unbeaten 60 though his efforts were in vain as some very accurate death bowling from Matt Salisbury and Elliot Richtor claimed the last two wickets. The win could well have been more comfortable if not for the work of Garry Sapsford down at long on, who despite a great deal of 'encouragement' from the Upminster faithful, struggled to deal with the Wanstead outfield. None the less Shenfield won by 31 runs capping off a wonderful season's cricket for the club.

Before the team could join their supporters for a few well earned refreshments, the "Man of the Match" was awarded a brand new bat. This went to Richtor, whose 128 certainly was one of the highlights of a wonderful day's cricket. The season is not yet over for the 1st XI as a win against Orsett on Saturday and other results going their way could lead to promotion to the Premier League as champions.