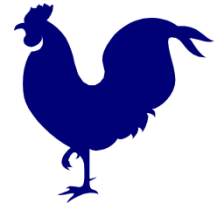


Review of the 2013 Season



1st XI

After three defeats to start the league programme, even the most loyal of Shenfield backers would have balked at putting money on us being in a Premier League title decider on the last day of the season. However, after those opening three reverses a superb run of eight wins in nine games put Jack Kliber's team in with a real title winning shout.

Finally getting off the mark at home to Buckhurst Hill paved the way for an excellent win at perennial title contenders and local rivals Brentwood. The hosts were restricted to 160, with Hussnain Kazmi taking 5-45 and after some early wobbles we prevailed by 3 wickets thanks in the main to the captains unbeaten 41. This led to 6 wins from 7 in the timed format, the highlight probably being a return win against Brentwood as we chased down 317 with half centuries from Jamie Walton and Arshad Ali, before Kliber again threw his weight about to complete the win.

A crushing win at Upminster sent us to the top of the table entering the crucial month of August. Ali was in superb form in July with 3 five wicket hauls, the last of which helped tie up his old club for 174. He then scored a typically brisk 51 before being outshone by Daniel Jacob who plundered 69 off only 24 balls, including 7 sixes.

The run in didn't start too cleverly though. We subsided to 143 all out at Chelmsford chasing 150, after being in a relatively comfortable position of 122-5. A draw at Chingford was followed by a convincing win at home to Ilford, where Matt Salisbury starred with 81 and a new ball burst of 4-14. A comfortable defeat of Colchester set up the winner takes all clash at Wanstead, but sadly it wasn't to be. Kliber won the toss and batted, but a pretty lame display with the bat saw us bundled out for just 95 and the end was thankfully swift. The final performance really didn't do justice to a fantastic effort all season and there was more disappointment as we slipped back to third place in the final table.

Daniel Jacob led the sides run scoring with 571 runs to vastly improve on his below par first season with us. Ali scored 4 half centuries, whilst there was solid contributions at times from Rana Arslan, Ollie Ekers, Jamie Walton and the skipper. Ali's 48 wickets and often miserly run rate was a massive factor in the sides success, whilst everyone else chipped in with the ball and some athletic fielding by amongst others Jacob and Tom Austin supported the hefty presence of the captain behind the stumps.

1st XI Team



Back Row: O Ekers, H Kazmi, M Salisbury, M Hindley, D Jacob, A Ali
Front Row: R Arslan, S Sarwar, J Kliber (Capt), J Walton, T Austin

2nd XI

The 2nd team experienced a season of 2 halves. After 11 games the team was top of the league and in fact should have been further ahead. The second half was a complete disaster with the team only winning one out of the last 9 to disappointingly finish 6th.

The team started the season with some excellent early season victories and didn't suffer its first defeat until the 12th game of the campaign. A last over win against Woodford Wells provided the team with some early confidence which they took into the next games bringing good victories against Chingford, Hornchurch and South Woodford.

The game against Wanstead was one that definitely got away from us. We bowled superbly to limit them to a very gettable target and were cruising at 2 wickets down with Allen and Fulk both batting well, but some excellent death bowling from Wanstead meant that a double wicket maiden was bowled in the last over where only 5 runs were required and we had to settle for a draw.

There were some excellent performances both individually and team wise. James Burgess' identical twin that plagued his 2012 season luckily decided to disappear in 2013. He batted superbly all season scoring 620 runs at an average of 51.67. Martin Allen had a very decent season with the bat at the top of the order with 366 at 37. There were also some very useful contributions from James Borman, Garry Sapsford (to go with his outstanding glove work), John Walter and Jamie Walton.

Adam Winder (30 wkts) and Mitchell Fenn (23) opened the bowling superbly all season with a number of excellent performances. Winder's pace working incredibly well in tandem with Fenn's swing. Jon Hammond, Alex Rickenback, Chris Chapman and Cameron Spicer also performed very well with the ball.

3rd XI

The 3rd XI endured a less than average campaign, bumbling about in the lower reaches of the table and only confirming their top flight status for 2014 with a week to go of the season. Only four games were won all season and there were some pretty abject defeats along the way. There was the odd highlight though. Joe Hedden's 6-38 set up a tense last ball, one wicket win at Ilford whilst Lee Rich recorded the season best figures of 7-40 in the win at Fives. Steve Roach hit 6 half centuries in his return of 482 runs, but a lot of the time he wasn't supported by the rest of the batting. Hedden and Rich shared the bulk of the bowling with Hedden's return of 30 just outdoing Rich. All in all a pretty disappointing season for a side that have the talent to finish a lot nearer the top of the league than the bottom.

4th XI

After back to back promotions the 4th XI consolidated with a mid-table finish in division 1. The batsmen made good use whenever the deck was favourable - Lewis Southcott and Tom Ballington both hitting maiden tons. The bowlers exploited whatever green tops they found with Naqvi, Rasool and Franklyn leading the wicket takers. The team as a whole put away the weaker sides succumbed to the stronger ones, but always fought hard under Dave Castell's tireless leadership.