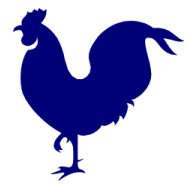


# Review of the 2019 Season

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## 1st XI

2019 brought in the return to Shenfield of Roy Smith as skipper in place of Jack Kliber, who stood down following the 1st XI's relegation from the Premier League. Players brought in included Chris Sains, Alex Karkowski, Haris Mahmood (returning), Rob Petchey and (following an early exit from the League Cup), ex England Test player Monty Panesar. Roy had led Hornchurch to an unprecedented triple the season before and hopes were high for an instant return to the Premier division of Essex cricket.

A brilliant start of six wins in our first six league games saw us rolling over teams and topping the league table. No side scored more than 215 runs or were able to bowl us out. A win in the Conference Cup against Hoddesdon, chasing 300 with nearly five overs to spare was as good as it got up to mid-June.

There then followed four defeats, which saw us drop to fifth (our lowest position) in the table due to poor batting (two innings of 115 & 122) and the inability to take wickets, married with some inept fielding suddenly made us look like some of the poorer sides we had punished so severely earlier in the season.

The losing run was stopped only by a scratchy 12 run win over Upminster in the final over. Our only cancelled match followed against local rivals Hutton, and then a win at Loughton seemed to put us back on track. But two more defeats, both at home to Fives & Heronians and eventual champions Colchester, meant promotion was out of our hands and we would have to rely on other results to go our way.

Our only draw was away to Gidea Park & Romford in the penultimate game of the season. It meant that we could still go up if we beat promotion rivals Woodford Wells and Harold Wood lost. Although we won convincingly, so did Harold Wood, leaving us 13 points behind them and finishing third in the league.

Despite scoring 21 50s, we only managed two centurions (Chris Sains, 100 n.o at Fives, match 5) and Khail Muhammad (113 at Gidea Park & Romford, match 17). Our only five wicket hauls were taken by Monty, 5-39 in match 2 at Upminster, Charlie Haddon, 5-30 in match 18 at home to Woodford Wells and Tom Ballington, 5-10 in T20 match v Hutton.

The progression of our younger players in the side (Charlie Haddon and Tom Ballington), plus the promotion of Max Bear to the 1s was a positive and another year will see them get better and stronger. Added to that the experienced players that are in the side, this can only stand us in good stead for next season.

**By**  
**Hugh Henry (1<sup>st</sup> XI Scorer)**

## 2nd XI

A season that promised much at the half way point didn't provide the top four finish that we coveted but there were still plenty of positives to take from another solid season in a very competitive 2nd XI Premier League.

The first five timed games perhaps showed where we are as a team. Week one saw a near faultless performance at league favourites Chelmsford which saw us fall one wicket short of a huge 25 points in a rain affected game. A dominant display against Upminster followed, including a brutal assault with the bat from Jack Newton (56\* from 18 balls), but only yielded a winning draw. Ilford were comfortably beaten with a professional performance in week three but batting collapses in the following two games against Brentwood and Hornchurch ensured it was a promising yet underwhelming start to the summer.

The start of the limited overs games brought a welcome change in fortunes, as four wins on the bounce got us right back in contention. A thrilling win at Woodford Wells, thanks to a match winning partnership between Henry Hazlewood (90\*) and Tom Austin (74), and victory against Wanstead due to 50s from George Ballington, Max Bear, Greg Larkin and John Walter before a solid all-round bowling and fielding display started us off. Then a comfortable win at Wickford and a high scoring success at home to Oakfield Parkonians, that saw Ballington score his second 2nd XI 100 and Ryan Plom take the bowling attack apart alongside him for 80, had us dreaming of a title tilt in the second half of the season.

However, a strong Chelmsford outfit beating us by seven wickets to start the second half of the season signaled the start of six matches without a win, with one particularly tough loss to eventual league winners Hornchurch in the last over despite having them 132-6 when defending 280.

We entered the third last game at Wanstead looking over our shoulders at the wrong end of the table but the ever consistent Ollie Castell bowled well in the heat to take out their key top order bats, and was well backed up by Jack Newton, Cam Spicer and James Borman to restrict the hosts to 174. A classy 60 from Plom and arguably George Pratt's best Shenfield knock of 32\* saw us over the line by four wickets on a tough surface to give us a much needed win.

But in one of those seasons where everyone in the league seemed capable of beating anyone on their day, we still needed one more win to be sure of safety, despite still having a top four finish in our grasp at the same time.

The last home game of the season against Wickford started well with Ballington looking in supreme touch for 54, but we endured a spectacular collapse to finish on a disappointing 154 all out. Leading wicket-taker Castell then produced a brilliant spell down the hill and was joined by club veteran Mike Hindley's arm balls at the other end to bowl them out for 117 and earn a crucial 25 points.

A sixth placed finish is by no means what we were aiming for but taking into account injury and availability issues, and regular changes in captaincy due to the elected captains increasingly unreliable health, it's a decent return.

It was great to see promising under 16s Max Bear and later in the season, Alfie Griffin, make their 2nd XI debuts. Special mention to leading run scorer George Ballington (446 - runs started to flow after stepping down from the captaincy in his own fantasy team), leading wicket taker Ollie Castell (28) and all five captains (Pratt, Austin, Borman, Abson-Bennett and Walter) who were a massive help on and off the field throughout the campaign.

With stronger availability and a bit of luck (Pratt's ability to lose the toss was remarkable, he won 1 out of 8...), a higher finish could be on the cards in 2020.

**By**

**James Salisbury (2nd XI Captain)**

### **3rd XI**

The newly promoted third XI came in to the season on a run of 15 wins. The skipper's poor tossing cost them early in the season, but the team mounted a strong title challenge to eventually finish third.

In the 1st division it had been Shenfield's batters who shone. In the premier it was the bowlers, who often defended modest scores. Frank Austin led the club with 41 wickets at a shade over 11 with Ollie Todd, frequently making life unpleasant for batters, picking up 22 wickets. The batting stars were Paddy Griffin with 377 runs and Arun Gauthum with 298.

Two under thirteens also fought their way into the side: Will Howard showed his potential with a debut 50 and Tom Arnold caused problems for batters with his left arm wrist spin.

**By**

**David Castell (3<sup>rd</sup> XI Captain)**

### **4th XI**

A season where a lot was learnt by an influx of talented under 13s.

Dillon Small was the highest score in one match and Evan Ackerman scored a half century opening the batting in another game. Joel Ackerman was the most improved player this season going from 4th change bowler to opening the bowling later in the season. Max Toolan gave good all-round performances. Tom Arnold was superb with left arm leg spin causing chaos against the opposition. Alex Freeman, Adam Pryor and James MacCallum really developed their bowling, taking wickets and very low runs against their overs.

Adam Munday did a sterling job as Vice Captain and a great job opening with the bat.

Freddie Wren played in the last match taking 2 wickets and Josh Kirby established himself as a key player to the team.

Again, a big thanks to the adult mainstay, for sterling batting and bowling performances, Neal Gilbert, Richard Small, Tahir Ramzan and Asmat Ullah. Thanks also to all the other players who have helped throughout the season.

**By**

**Owen Southcott (4th XI Captain)**





### 1<sup>st</sup> XI

**Back Row:** M Bear, C. Haddon, T. Ballington, R. Petchey, J. Potticary, K. Muhammad, Hugh Henry (Scorer).

**Front Row:** O. Ekers, J. Kliber, R. Smith (Capt), T. Austin, M Panesar.



### 2<sup>nd</sup> XI

**Back Row:** J. Salisbury, M. Hindley, R Petchey, G. Ballington, T. Austin, O. Castell, R. Plom, J. Borman.

**Front Row:** C. Haddon, G. Larkin, G Pratt, M. Bear, J Newton.





### 3rd XI

**Back Row:** L. Southcott, A. Gauthum, O. Ives, G. Sapsford, F. Austin, D. Watts.

**Front Row:** J. McLean, D. Castell, (Capt), A. James, A. Griffin, O. Todd.



### 4th XI

**Back Row:** J. Ackerman, R. Small, S. Flowers, O. Southcott, (Capt.) I. Southcott, L. Southcott.

**Front Row:** G. Boast, A. Munday, K. Dunleavy, A. Freeman, D. Stare.