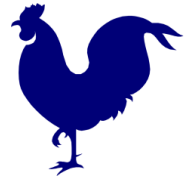


Review of the 2020 1st XI Season



A truncated season was better than no season at all. The Essex League decided to try and make the divisions more localised and we ended up in a division where only Hutton and ourselves were the only non-premier division sides. No dressing rooms, no teas and six over “sanitisation breaks” gave the matches a surreal feeling.

We started off with the visit of Colchester who put us to the sword after having them at 19-3, eventually losing by 75 runs.

Our next game was away to Harold Wood. A competitive score of 182-5 meant nothing as the game had to be abandoned due to prolonged rain. Our score was the second highest in 1st XI cricket there during the season (beaten only by Hornchurch in the last match of the season) in the SIX home matches that they had.

We then lost at Billericay by 80 runs, due to a chanceless 166 not out by Essex player Paul Walter on a dead pitch before getting our only victory of the season at home to Hornchurch, winning by one wicket with one ball to spare, bringing an enormous cheer from those present.

The game against local rivals Hutton only lasted ten balls before being washed out. We then played Buckhurst Hill at home where another Essex player, Cameron Delpont, smashed 118 from just 65 balls as we lost by 91 runs.

Our last three matches were against the sides that had finished second, first and third in the premier league last season and were occupying the top three positions in this division. Wanstead, Brentwood, and Chelmsford showed the gulf between them and us as they all managed comfortable victories, despite us getting the upper hand in the early part of all three games,

This was a season of consolidation, with a chance to try out players and give players valuable 1st XI experience. We lost Roy Smith and Jack Potticary, whilst Charlie Haddon couldn't play all season due to a back injury. Ex-captain Jack Kliber had his first foray into fatherhood which also limited his availability, so we played more in participation than anticipation.

Highlight of the season was Jack “Isaac” Newton taking five wickets against Hornchurch, then hitting the winning runs. Altogether, the guys knew what they were up against but remained upbeat, which should stand us in good stead for next year.

Hugh Henry