

27th April 2019

Shenfield CC - 1st XI LC v Leigh-On-Sea CC - 1st XI - LC

Comfortable win for 1st game of the season

The first game of the season is always a potential banana skin as you don't know who's available and what sort of side the opposition might produce. For some, it was the first time they had been near a cricket ball since last year, whilst some had been playing all winter.

New captain Roy Smith lost the toss and was invited to bat on a typical April afternoon - cold and cloudy with the prospect of rain during the game. Losing Jack Kliber in the first over could have been a worry, but Ollie Ekers and debutant Haris Mahmood warmed to the task very quickly, putting on 107 before the fall of the second wicket. Jack Potticary was run out when there wasn't a run there and shortly after the skipper was brilliantly caught and bowled by his opposing number, diving to mid off.

With Haris falling five short of his century, at 146-5 there was the potential for Leigh to take control of the game, but all it seemed to do was invigorate the lower order. A 50 from fellow newbie Chris Sains and an unbroken last wicket partnership of 88 from Charlie Haddon and Cameron Spicer took us to 338-9 at the break.

Charlie had obviously had his three Shredded Wheat before leaving home as he opened the bowling and removed the opening bat's off peg with a gem of a delivery. He finished up with 3-45 but was eclipsed by yet another new face in Rob Petchey, who took three wickets in an over and helped reduce them from 21-1 to 30-6!

With the light starting to fade and the likelihood of a late shower, the game was finally wrapped up at 7.35pm. Leigh were bowled out for 170 with nearly eight overs to go, achieving one run more than half our total. A good workout for us, but sterner tests are to follow, starting with Hadleigh & Thundersley in round 2 and before that, the same opponents in the National Cup.

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