

Monthly Newsletter

◆
June 2024



2024 is proving to be one of the wettest years on record...

With that said, thanks to the sterling work of Dave and the wider grounds team, there's been a fair amount of cricket at The Meadow, Coleshill and Chesham Bois.

Results, as ever, are proving a mixed bag. There's been some great wins, a few close losses and a couple of more chastening ones to boot.

If you have been down to The Meadow on a Saturday afternoon through May, you really have been treated to some superb cricket.

Richard Levi blasted a 70 ball ton vs Thame Town in round 1, the 2s won a nail biting topsy-turvy game against Hayes in round 2, before the 1s fell just 10 runs short against Harefield last Saturday.

We were delighted to welcome back the Southern Vipers 2nd XI in May. The semi-professional women were once again very complimentary about our ground and were excellent guests.

June brings hopefully better weather and the season really gets into full swing. Juniors emerge from exam-induced hibernation, the leagues start to really get going, and Buckinghamshire 1st XI will host arch-rivals Berkshire at The Meadow.

Meanwhile our friends over the fence hosted the prime minister on the campaign trail where he tried out his football skills. He didn't stop in for a net but new members are always welcome upon payment of subs.

Hope to see you down at the club some time this month.

In this newsletter you can expect:

Senior team reports

Women top of the Super 8s!

Club Memorabilia

When Hampshire came to town

June preview

Under 11s report



Top of the League!

Our Women's XI are currently sitting pretty at the top of the Home Counties Women's League Super 8s Competition.

They now have one eye on finals day on 9th June. Will they make it through? Watch this space.

Under 11s

The poor weather has failed to dampen the enthusiasm of the under 11s during May.

The age group has over 30 members with healthy numbers in attendance at training each week. Not surprisingly a couple of fixtures have been lost to the weather but with 3 teams entered into the Bucks League there will be plenty of opportunities for valuable game time.

The A team have started the season in very impressive fashion with victories over High Wycombe and Wendover.

Scoring over 170 in both games they backed this up with accurate bowling and keen fielding to restrict the replies. In the only other league game played the C team lost a great game to Beaconsfield Under 13 Girls by 3 runs.

If you're interested in playing women's cricket at any level we have a spot for you. If you're not sure where you might fit, please get in touch (cheshamcc.women@gmail.com), or come along to one of our hard ball or soft ball cricket training sessions to try it out.

There is also the women's soft ball festival on 7th July, great fun and a great place to start your cricketing journey!

5th XI round up

The 5th XI's season started with a loss to Amersham. 3 wickets for Pranav Mahesh and 26 for Justin Torr were the highlights.

The game vs Old Merchant Taylors is one that got away. OMTs were kept to 188-7 off their 40 overs.

Mark Haines hit 65 and Srinivas Gutta 51 in reply, but four ducks killed the run chase dead, with Chesham 30 runs short.

Senior Subs

Our junior section have led the way with paying subs, thank you. The seniors have left a little more to be desired!

If you fail to pay, you may not be selected. Please consider yourselves warned.

If paying in full is a challenge, we are very open to discussing arrangements, with your confidentiality fully respected.



Hampshire opener Barry Reed playing a typical scoring shot. His batting on Saturday was among the most memorable ever seen in the town. His 143 not out took

him within a see of Geoff Boycott's Gillette Cup record and earned him the Player of the Match award from former England opener Bill Edrich. Reed and South

African opener Barry Richards put Hampshire well on the road to victory, scoring their first hundred in 67 minutes and 25 overs.

When Hampshire Came to Town

Some of you may have heard a rumour that Bucks' 'showdown' match against professional Leicestershire was due to be hosted at The Meadow. Unfortunately, the rumour remains just that. Whilst there were discussions, scheduling issues mean that the Foxes are reluctant to travel, and instead have offered to host Bucks at their Grace Road ground.

This means that the last time Chesham hosted a fully professional side remains in 1970, when Bucks hosted Hampshire in the Gillette Cup. The Gillette Cup was at the time the premier one-day competition in the country, Bucks having qualified off the back of an excellent Minor Counties season in 1969. A first round win over Bedfordshire at High Wycombe set up a mouth-watering clash against the professionals.

Some 1,300 people crammed into The Meadow (the bank no doubt packed) to see a Bucks side containing three Chesham players (Tom Hickling, Fred Harris and Colin Lever) take on a Hampshire side containing names such as Barry Richards and Trevor Jesty. Richards was one of the great players of his generation, who thrilled English crowds after his international career was halted due to South Africa's ban from international sport. Richards visited Chesham again in 2009, and recalled facing the late Fred Harris' opening spell, during which he was dropped at first slip.

As the Bucks Examiner put it '*Buckinghamshire openers Fred Harris and Tony Waite contained them successfully for the first few overs, but the majestic off-side play of South African Test cricket Barry Richards took the attack apart*'.

Hampshire finished on 278-3. Bucks' reply was described as '*never really up to the challenge*', and they were skittled for 136. Former England test cricketer Bill Edrich awarded Hampshire's Barry Reed the man of the match award for his unbeaten 143.

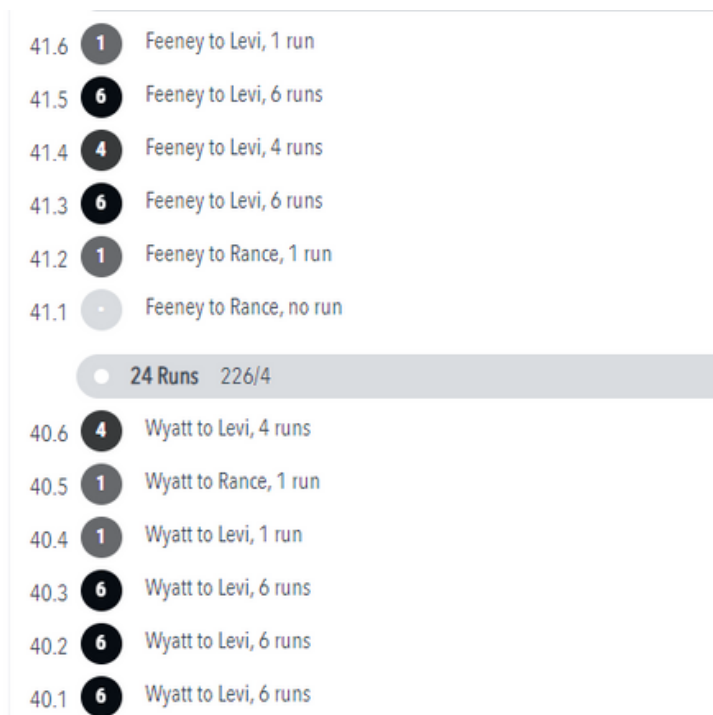
Hampshire went on to lose to eventual champions Lancashire in the next round.

With thanks to Dave Allen, historian at Hampshire CCC, for his active assistance in locating information about this match.

Volunteers Needed!

You don't have to join the committee to volunteer!

We really do need some more help around the club, no ongoing commitment necessary. Please contact **Brendan O'Donovan** in the first instance if you can help.



The ball-by-ball tells the story of Richard Levi's destruction vs Thame Town...

1st XI round-up

The 1st XI made something of a statement in week 1 of the Home Counties Premier League, defeating Thame Town at The Meadow by some 225 runs. Is this a record 1st XI league winning margin? Please let us know.

Batting first, Henry Moore (47) and Andy Goddard (30) set an excellent platform. Richard Levi took full advantage of that with a blistering 122* off just 73 balls. The former Protea hit 8 fours and 10 sixes, going from 50-100 in just 16 balls and causing the Chairman to faint due to the cost of lost balls. Jason Rance hit 56 and Kamran Khan's 19-ball cameo for 30 saw Chesham rack up 320-5 in their 50 overs.

Thame were never in the hunt. Wickets fell with regularity, 3 to Jason Rance, 2 to Alfie Clifford and 2 to Matt Rance most notably. Bundled out for 95, the game was over in short order.

This performance couldn't be backed up, unfortunately, on the short trip to Gerrards Cross in round 2. On a docile wicket, Chesham struggled to take advantage.

Only Dan Ward (52) offered resistance in the top order. Sam Harris (15) and Jonathan Burden (19*) provided something of a rearguard, but 142 was woefully under-par. GX proved that with a speedy victory, Chris Marrow top scoring with an unbeaten 68 in reply.

Hopes were high for a bounce-back at The Meadow against Harefield, relegated from the top tier last term. Chesham bowled excellently to restrict the visitors to 169 all out, with wickets shared between Jonathan Burden, Kamran Khan, Simardeep Singh and Alfie Clifford.

Harefield were indebted to Tom McLeod, son of long-time Harefield run machine and tormentor of Chesham bowling attacks Richard, for a score of 52 under severe pressure.

Dan Ward (48) got the reply off to a fast start, going at a run a ball. Henry Moore and Matt Rance proved watchful at the other end. Richard Levi (35) also raised the run-rate, but wickets fell all too regularly. McLeod had a stand-out day for the visitors from Middlesex, picking up 3 wickets, and skipper Croft also bagged three. Chesham fell an agonising 10 runs short of victory.

The 1s are currently 8th in the league, and have a short trip to Shardeloes for the much anticipated 'Met Line Derby' as their next encounter.

2nd XI round-up

There must have been something in the Scottish water (*or should that be the Tennants? - ed*) - the 2s have had a major turnaround from last summer's disappointing efforts.

Theo Weatherall's men started with a tough trip to High Wycombe. Chesham 1s and 2s last beat their Wycombe counterparts in 1999, and the wait will have to go on after a narrow loss at London Road.

Wycombe were heavily indebted to the Dodds brothers, Archie (43) and Billy (113*) for their runs. The introduction of Kieran Patel (4-29) brought Chesham back into the fight. In conjunction with Alex Watson (3-44), Chesham did well to restrict Wycombe to 258-9. Billy Dodds was dropped on 99, which would prove to be a critical moment in this encounter, however nothing should take away from an otherwise superb knock from Wycombe's talented youngster.

In reply, Santhosh Suresh (28) and Kieran Patel (35) got Chesham off to an excellent start. Wickets then tumbled to captain Sammy Parry's off spin. At 134-6, the game looked dead. Luke Dawson (66), however, found support from Chris Royals (18) and Alex Watson (20), and suddenly the game was anyone's. The run-rate proved insurmountable, unfortunately and Chesham fell 27 runs short. The 20 runs added after Dodds was dropped were critical.

Chesham avenged this defeat in round 2 with a victory by an identical margin over Hayes at The Meadow. Hayes were champions of Division 3 in 2023, having made an immediate return after relegation in 2022.

Another excellent start from Kieran Patel (51) and Tom Free (57), but only Theo Weatherall (48) and Seb Cooksey (21) could continue in the same vein. Hayes fought back well, but 222 all out was a poor return on a good start.

Hayes started fast in reply, including a six over the River Chess! The game really was in the balance the entire time. Kieran Patel (3-42) took regular wickets whilst Chris Royals' miserly 10 overs yielded just 25 runs. All too often in 2023, the 2s' fielding deserted them under pressure. Not so in 2024. Closing in on the target, Josh Tollerfield took a superb diving catch on the boundary to dismiss key man Jarmanpal Singh. Daksh Sabherwal followed this up with a one handed effort behind the stumps. Hayes' reply subsided against a superb bowling and fielding effort.

In round 3, Harefield had failed to cover their wicket, making it somewhat sticky. Chesham found this all too much to handle and were in danger of subsiding at 45-6. A dogged 25 over partnership between Luke Dawson (48) and Chris Royals (23) rescued the situation, whilst admittedly being unlikely to attract crowds back to the club game any time soon. In the circumstances, 132 was a much better score than it looked.

Tom Day got Harefield off to a fast start, but from then on Chesham had the upper hand. 2 wickets apiece for Pete Clifford, Henry Sussum, Chris Royals and Matt Clifford were the mainstay of the attack. When two chances went begging, Harefield saw a way back into the game, but Sussum took the final wicket with just 12 runs needed, prompting wild celebrations from the Chesham side.

The 2s sit third in the table after 3 games.

4th XI round-up

The 4s' first match of the year was forfeited by Amersham. They instead got underway in round 2 with a 10 run win over Old Merchant Taylors.

Youngster Ben Shepstone starred with an unbeaten 137, a maiden century to get his name on the honours board.

Ben was unfamiliar with cricketing traditions, and arrived at the pavilion that evening unaware that he now owed his team mates a jug, and promptly drove off again! Having recovered from the shock, it was purchased the weekend after. Meanwhile, the less youthful Mo Asuaf hit 40 at the other end.

Skipper George Udall was the pick of the bowlers in reply, with 3-43. 2 wickets apiece for Adam Kureshi, Mo Asuaf and Ben Shepstone finished the job.

Defeat by 7 wickets followed at Stoke Green. David Haines (37) and Stuart Watson (21) were rare bright sparks with the bat, and Stoke Green's batsmen were rarely troubled in reply to the 152 set in the first innings.

The 4s are third in division 10B.



The 1st XI of 1937

Club Memorabilia

As most of you will know, the Club's pavilion burned down in 2011, with a large amount of the club's memorabilia and records inside.

Clearly, much of this is irreplaceable, however we are now a decade on from the re-build and we are making a conscious effort to represent the near 180-year history of our Club, and make the lounge bar more of our 'home'.

We were fortunate to locate four very old team photos, which you will see hung up in the bar alongside much more recent photos very shortly. We are also in discussions with Chesham Museum about some other items.

This is a call to all our members past and present, as we strongly suspect that there are some more photos/articles/other memorabilia out there, perhaps hiding in attics or scrapbooks.

We are open to gifts, loans, or simply taking digital copies, and are very happy to discuss this directly. We will of course take as much care as we can with anything that we come across.

Please get in touch with **Chris Royals** in the first instance if you can help.

Training

Monday – women & girls

Tuesday – 3rd, 4th & 5th XI

Wednesday – 1st XI, 2nd XI, invited 3rd XI players

Thursday – Under 13 – 15

Friday – Under 10 – 12 & Girls cluster

Sunday - Under 5s – 9s

Your Committee

Your Club Committee for 2024:

Jonathan Royals (**Chairman**)

John Holloway (**Junior Chairman**)

Brendan O'Donovan (**Grants & Donations**)

Helen Crawley (**Women & Girls Lead**)

Paul Hughes-D'Aeth (**Chairman of Senior Cricket**)

Lee Wiles (**Secretary**)

Chris Royals (**Fixtures Secretary**)

Dr Rachel Firth (**Club Welfare Officer**)

Terry Newsome (**General**)

Martin Wheeler (**General**)

We'd always welcome a fresh face! Talk to Jonathan if you'd be interested.



June preview

There is a *lot* of cricket coming in June!

Poor Dave has nearly a match a day to prepare wickets for at The Meadow. The 1st XI take on arch-rivals Amersham in the **'Met Line Derby'** at Shardeloes. The Women's XI have a possible **Super 8s finals day** on 9 June. The 2s' last game vs Uxbridge was a 1 wicket, **last ball thriller** of a win, more of the same is hoped for on the 15th.

Meanwhile, the County 1st XI take on rivals Berkshire in the 50 over competition, in a match likely to go a **long way to deciding the championship**.

Fixtures at The Meadow:

1 June - 2nd XI vs Wraysbury
2 June - Under 9 inter-club games
3 June - U13 girls vs Beaconsfield
4 June - U15A vs Amersham
6 June - U 11B vs Gerrards Cross
7 June - U10B vs Farnham Common
8 June - 1st XI vs Slough
10 June - U14 vs Gerrards Cross
11 June - U15A vs tbd (Cup round 2)
13 June - U15A vs Beaconsfield
14 June - U11C vs Wooburn Narkovians
15 June - 2nd XI vs Uxbridge
16 June - Women's XI vs Broxbourne

17 June - U15 girls vs Beaconsfield
18 June - U14B vs Beaconsfield
20 June - U10A vs Gerrards Cross
21 June - U12A vs Chenies & Latimer
22 June - 1st XI vs Oxford
23 June - Bucks vs Berks
24 June - U17 vs High Wycombe
27 June - U15A vs Gerrards Cross
28 June - U11C vs Wendover
29 June - 1st XI vs Stoke Green
30 June - U9 vs Ballinger

Junior fixtures are subject to change at short notice.

All fixtures are weather dependent. If in any doubt, please contact the captain/manager.

All fixtures can be found on the website

3rd XI round-up

The 3rd XI's season started with a 4 wicket loss vs Farnham Common. Runs for Brendan O'Donovan (64) and Phil John (49) helped Chesham to 216 off their 45 overs.

In spite of two wickets for captain Vish Vaidyanathan, Taplow had too much with the bat. Number 6 Haseeb Haider hit a 42 ball 53 to help the visitors to victory.

A narrow 4 wicket loss to Taplow followed. Ollie Haines top scored with a watchful 56. 144 all out was always likely to be tough to defend.

So it proved, though Pete Withams (3-20) made them sweat. Taplow had 4 overs to spare as they got home.

Chesham's duck was broken in round 3 vs Princes Risborough. Inserting the visitors, Ollie Haines was the pick of the bowlers, taking 4-28. His brother Charlie chipped in with 2 wickets, as did captain Vish. Risborough were 173 all out.

Brendan O'Donovan starred in the reply, carrying his bat for 90*. Ollie Haines capped off an excellent all round day with 36*, Chesham winning by 9 wickets.

The 3s are currently 8th in Division 5A.



Coleshill Village Day

Coleshill are making enormous efforts to retain cricket in their village, and we are doing our best to support this.

Playing our 3rd and 4th XI games as well as some junior fixtures at the Jack Adams Field is part of the equation, but supporting Coleshill as they keep alive their own team is also a priority of ours.

As part of this Stuart Watson was key to organising a t20 between a Coleshill XI and a mixed standard Chesham XI.

Former Coleshill captain Dom Spencer took the reins of his old side, and was joined by Chesham members Mike Scott, Luke Dawson and Stuart himself, alongside another familiar face in Will Scott.

Chris Royals led a Chesham side with representatives from the 2s to the 5s. 'Capacity crowd' may be a stretch, but the day was well supported by the village.

After a slightly delayed start due to the Coleshill skipper forgetting the game was on (!), Chesham batted first, with Mudassar Hassan and Matt Clifford hitting some enormous sixes before they were retired.

Chasing 130 to win, Coleshill's reply ebbed and flowed. Eventually, they required 8 off the last over, then 6 off the last two balls. Aided by some excellent fielding, Chamal Arachchige held his nerve with the ball to ensure a Chesham win by just two runs.

It really was an excellent day in the sunshine, a close game played in great spirits and with a gourmet barbecue on the go as well. No doubt there will be re-matches in the future!

It's been a good start to the season...

The sun will come out eventually!

Availability looks good, junior training is well attended and there's been some good socials as well.

We were delighted to support the town as one of the hosts of the Chesham Fringe, and we were pleased to welcome many new faces from the town, some of whom were not aware they had a local cricket club to support.

We're always looking to improve, we're always looking for people to freshen things up. Please do come forward with your suggestions/ideas for doing so!

Same as last month, please drop me a line - chrisroyals123@hotmail.com, if you would like something added for the next newsletter.

Play well, bowl straight, body behind it.

Thank you for reading!