

## January 20<sup>th</sup> 2019 – Results

On a day that should have had 8 fixtures in the schedule, 5 lost to a Leisure Centre booking issue and 1 lost to a concession brought us down to 2! Both games provided a decent amount of entertainment though, particularly the Div 4 game which saw The College Reserves and the Cavaliers battle out a tie.

### Division 1

**Braintree bt Three Fields by Concession (15-0)**

### Division 2

**Witham Reserves 132-3 bt Braintree College 131-4 by 3 wkts (12-3)**

A rare appearance from Simon Jones proved decisive in this Division 2 game as his 44 not out saw Witham Reserves home with 3 balls to spare.

Batting first the College were cruising along quite comfortably at 11 an over after the 5<sup>th</sup> with Ahmad safely in the hutch having reached 25. Up until this point Raheel Mehboob had also been accumulating nicely but the retirement of Ahmad and the introduction of Stuart Facey to the attack seemed to spark the need for a bit of back wall bashing! Facey was up to it though and just 2 singles and a dropped catch later Mehboob picked out Matt Hart on the back wall who took the first of 3 catches. 25\* from Mohammed Usman and 19\* from Simon Brooks lifted the College up to 131-4 with Stuart Facey the pick of the bowlers taking 2-28.

It's safe to say that with Witham Reserves reply didn't get off to the greatest of starts as Usman took his batting momentum into his bowling and demolished the stumps of Matt Hart for just 4. A rare single figure score for the leagues leading run scorer. Facey and Simon Jones steadied the ship however and both reached retirement with no real scares. Their departures did slow the run run slightly though and after 9 overs the game was in the balance with 45 still required from the final 3. Skipper Lewis Hart and Paul Bellehewe move the score to 103 but the last ball of the 10<sup>th</sup> over saw Hart bowled by Ahmad for 19 and the first ball of the 11<sup>th</sup> saw Bellehewe caught on the back wall by Mehboob for 14 – game on! Simon Jones and Luke Brown were now together, and it was Jones that took the pressure of with 6-4-3 to end the 11<sup>th</sup> over on 122 and they had no problem seeing off the final 10 with 3 balls to spare. No change in the league standings but Witham reserves are now just 11 points from 2<sup>nd</sup> place having played the fewest games of all the teams in the division

### Division 4

**Colchester Cavaliers 135-3 tied with Braintree College Reserves 135-4 (7-7)**

2 points separated these teams at the start of play and that's how it would be at the end as the game ended in a dramatic tie.

It's what I can only imagine is a first no fewer than 5 players exceeded or equalled their highest BDICL score with the bat with 3 of them coming from the Cavaliers who batted first and set the College Reserves 135 to chase. Kaiser Chowdhury was the first to record a personal best as he, Noman Hossain (28\*) and Simon Gilhooly (who equalled his best with 26\*) all retired. The wickets of Davidson and Gedi lifted the spirits of the College momentarily but Chowdhury returned to make 30\* alongside James Parks who recorded his best with 14\*. Yunus Akhalwaya's 2-16 restricting the Cavaliers in the latter overs.

Another chase with a nightmare start as a mix up between Jibrán Sahaf and Simon Brooks saw Brooks run out without facing in the first over. 2 overs later and another run out saw the back of Akhalwaya for 7 and at 31-2 the Cavaliers were staring down the barrel. Sahaf and Shah Nawaz set about repairing some of the damage and both reached retirement but by the 8<sup>th</sup> over they were both back as Stuart Careless (1) and Zakee Akbal (9) departed in quick succession. So, 76-4 from 8 overs and 60 required from 4 overs. The game previous had seen Witham Reserves needing 15 an over from the final 3 overs, could the Cavaliers match the run rate from 4? 13 came from the 9<sup>th</sup> over but 17 from the 10<sup>th</sup> brought the required rate back in line before Nev Davidson began to struggle to hit the mat in the 11<sup>th</sup> and The College took 19 from the over. Surely they were now favourites with 11 required from the final over and Jibrán Sahaf on strike to face Kaiser Chowdhory. A wide from the first ball was followed by 2 dots as Sahaf struggled to get the full ball away however an overthrow gifted him 4 from the third ball and 6 to win from 3 balls. A nudge to the leg side saw Nawaz through for 3 leaving Sahaf 2 balls to score the 3 that would bring victory. Chowdhory had other ideas though and hit the full length again with the penultimate delivery which Sahaf could only hit straight to mid-on. No run – 3 to win from the final ball. A final ball that was an exact replica of the ball before – full of length and hit straight to mid-on. This time they took on the fielder whose throw agonisingly hit the base of the stumps, but the bails didn't budge! The fielder backing up then broke the stumps but, after what seemed an age, the decision was not out, and the game ended in a tie! Sahaf (53\*) and Nawaz (40\*) both also recording their highest scores.

**Reports to follow**