

Writtle A trip yields victory and points

BOWLS: WRITTLE A travelled to Tillingham and returned a 76-48 shots win in Division One of the Chelmsford & District Bowls League, also taking the maximum ten points.

Mick Wakeling, Dan Fell, Graham Harrison, and skip Mike Fell, were 7-13 down at ten ends, but finished 25-21 winners.

John Robinson, David Franklin, Keith Lodge, and skip Paul Brandis were 13-7 up at ten ends and finished 20-17 winners.

Ron Horncastle, David Spence, Andy Archer, and skip George McGuffin were 19-4 ahead at 11 ends and won 31-10.

In Division Two Writtle B were at home to Billericay A, and lost overall by a single shot 63-64.

David Pearson, Barry Knight, Rod Whiteman, and skip Bernard Plumb won 28-21. Grahame Jupp, Peter Pearce, John F Marsh, and skip John Drake drew 19-19.

Phil Davies, Doug Hobart, Kevin Haselgrove, and skip Roger Day lost 16-24.

Billericay A took seven points and Writtle B three points.

Writtle C playing away to Great Baddow C, in Division Four, lost on all rinks with the hosts taking ten points.

Writtle D were at home to league leaders Billericay B in Division Five and continued their improvement, picking up six valuable points, to Billericay's four.

Les Davison, Brian McFarlane, Laurie Catchpole, and skip Richard Bowyer led the way, with a 28-14 win.

Bill Selkirk, Alistair Kennedy, Brian Ireland, and skip Hugh Piper narrowly lost 20-21.

Andy Marriott, Arthur Reed, Roger Pamphilon, and skip Jim Fincham lost 13-23.

City's link with walkers

FOOTBALL: Chelmsford City Football Club have formed an official link with the Clarets' walking football side.

The sport, which is targeted for over-50s, has experienced a boom in recent years and has been an excellent way for the older generation to re-engage in the sport many appreciate.

The rules are simple: if you're caught running then you concede a free kick.

The simplicity and improved accessibility due to greater funding at grassroots level has resulted in hundreds of clubs setting up across the UK.

City are keen to encourage the next crop of walking footballers in Essex.

They are currently in the process of contacting other clubs in and around the county to ask about the possibility of creating a competitive walking football league.

Such is the growth and popularity of the game, the Essex FA have provided the Clarets with their full support, and now it is all about gauging the interest. An initial planning meeting will be held at the Clarets' club house at Melbourne Stadium in due course.

Clubs interested in joining the Essex Walking Football League, should email info@chelmsfordwalkingfootball.co.uk by June 30 or visit the Clarets' walking football website at www.chelmsfordwalkingfootballclub.co.uk



BRIGHT FUTURE: Writtle Minors celebrate the opening of their new 3G pitch
Photo by Gareth Morgan

Grant enables village club to unveil new 3G pitch

WRITTLE Minors FC's new small-sided 3G artificial grass pitch was officially opened on Saturday. The project was made possible thanks to a £99,945 grant from the Premier League and The FA Facilities Fund.

The fund, delivered by the Football Foundation, provides grants towards developing new or refurbished grassroots

football facilities.

The new floodlit pitch will be used extensively by the club's 24 teams, particularly by the club's junior section for Mini-Soccer matches and training sessions. It will complement the eight grass pitches at the site.

Writtle Minors will also expand provision for disability football and form closer links

with local primary schools thanks to the new facility.

The club worked in partnership with the Essex FA to secure the grant.

David Beckett, chairman of Writtle Minors, thanked the Football Foundation, Writtle Parish Council, Chelmsford City Council's The Big Society and D&B Scaffolding for making the

idea of a 3G pitch a reality.

He added: "It's fantastic, it enables the youngsters to train all through the winter.

"Normally they have to contend with the mud and wet weather which can affect training. Now they can play in any conditions.

"It's not just for the junior teams. The seniors can use it

and the local schools can use it during the day."

Paul Thorogood, chief executive of the Football Foundation, said: "I am delighted that a grant from the Premier League and the FA Facilities Fund has enabled Writtle Minors to build this facility. This development will provide a boost to sport here."

Chelmsford clumped all around the ground

Chingford hit big after visitors' run rate slowed

Shepherd Neame Essex League Premier Division
Chingford 290-4
Chelmsford 288-9
Chingford won by six wickets

CHELMSFORD slipped to their first defeat of the season in a high-scoring game at Chingford.

After losing the toss and being put into bat, Chelmsford got off to an excellent start with Dan Hagen and Aaron Beard scoring boundaries all around the wicket.

The early introduction of spin unfortunately led to Beard falling for 31, but when Nick Prowing joined Hagen (74) the scoring rate continued to remain high.

At drinks Chelmsford appeared set for a total in excess of 300, but after wickets fell in quick succession to Liam Lannen (4-48) and

Andrew MacGregor (2-61), the scoring rate began to slow as Ollie Devenish and Jack Sterland were forced to rebuild slightly.

Having slowed the flurry of wickets, both began to up the scoring rate. Devenish (34) in particular surprising the spectators with his newfound affection for the sweep shot.

Assault

Unfortunately, both fell in quick succession, which led to the innings rather petering out to finish on 288-9 from the allotted 50 overs.

Chingford set about their chase with an all-out assault on the Chelmsford attack that had been so successful this year, with Alfie Taylor (46) looking to score solely in boundaries.

Although he fell to Devenish, caught on the boundary, the scoring rate continued to exceed eight an over and Chelmsford struggled to slow it down.

An outstanding catch from Nick Prowing removed opener Jack Potticary (50), but the wickets failed to halt the flow of runs, with MacGregor beginning to settle in at the crease.

Another wicket brought Essex's Dan Lawrence (64) to the crease, but if anything this led to the scoring rate speeding up.

Although Sam Cook (2-68) removed Lawrence to a steeping catch from skipper Nick Bailey, the damage had been done and Chingford completed the chase within 46 overs.

MacGregor finished unbeaten on an excellent 94.



ANGLED BAT: Dan Hagen made 74 for Chelmsford at Chingford