

Sides do battle again after 215 years

ON SUNDAY a Saffron Walden CC XI entertained Finchingfield CC in the second match of a three-match series.

The first match was played in 1794 and it has taken 215 years to manage the second! The third and final match will be at Finchingfield on July 26.

Finchingfield won the toss and put Walden in to bat. The hosts made a good start reaching 35 before the first wicket fell.

Jamie Glydon, on his way to 52, continued however, and was supported by the middle order - Nigel Tegg, Jason Murphy and Nigel Appleby all reaching the mid-20s.

Finchingfield stuck at their task and wickets fell at regular intervals and Walden were all out in the 37th over for 225.

The pick of the Finchingfield bowling was leg spinner Graeme Ellis taking 4-31.

In reply Finchingfield made a slow start, not breaking double figures until the ninth over and they found themselves in trouble on 33-4 after 14 overs.

The middle order rallied however - Nick Cooper, ably supported by Paul Denman and Graeme Ellis, put on 101 for the fifth and 69 for the seventh wickets.

With Copper and Ellis at the crease the momentum was soundly behind FCC and the target of 226 was within reach. Copper, finishing on 102, was well caught behind off his gloves and in the next over Ellis too fell.

The FCC tail was left with 15 required from the last three

overs. Walden bowled well and the pressure mounted with FCC only managing singles, the ninth wicket fell with 12 needed from 12 balls, then it was eight from six balls, then three from two balls. However, Kevin Duers, the standout Walden bowler, struck for the fifth time and Finchingfield were all out on 223.



Nick Cooper batting for Finchingfield on Sunday and right, Paul Denman at the crease
Pictures: D KNIGHT



Air Ambulance nets funding

THIRTY six ladies played in a charity tennis tournament at Felsted School last Wednesday, to raise funds for the Essex Air Ambulance.

Organised by head tennis coach at Felsted, Mark Cain, the ladies played an American Tournament consisting of five rounds of eight games each, where each round is played with a different partner. Individual scores were then totalled up with the winner being Alex Gregory, a Felsted Preparatory School parent.

The tournament, which included a delicious light lunch and a raffle raised more than £1000.

Mark Cain said: "A really good standard of tennis was on display and all the matches were played on the fantastic nine grass tennis courts available here at Felsted School.

"We decided to raise money for the Essex Air Ambulance as it has visited the school on a number of occasions and is a vital service in such a rural area as North Essex."

Start in top spot for round three

MARTIN Start, a former Cambridgeshire Golf Union president, won round three of Saffron Walden Golf Club's scratch salver last week.

The scratch salver is a championship to find the most consistent golfer over 2009 and covers 10 rounds.

Start's round of 72 beat Daniel van der Westhuizen's 75 and Graham Goodman's 76. Start's round could have been so much better had it not been for two bogeys in the last few holes.

Goodman's third place finish extends his lead by 12 points from Rob Booth and Start.

● ON SATURDAY 91 members of Saffron Walden Golf Club played in the Monthly Medal competition.

Martin Start took the Scratch prize for the lowest gross score of the day, a level par round of 72.

Division One winners were David Buckingham and Chris Charlton each with a net 69 with Start in third place one shot back. Patrick Manley and Geoffrey Duffy shared fourth place with net 71s.

Division Two winner Simon King shot a remarkable net 65 with Robert Register, Arron Clark and Tom Price achieving net 67s for second place and Vic Wood a net 68 in fifth place.

Division Three winner was Chris Peacock with a net 70.

Aythorpe maintain pressure on leaders

Roding defeat Springfield

AYTHORPE Roding kept the pressure on league leaders Hatfield Peverel with a 25-run victory over Springfield on Saturday.

Captain Paul Gravatt admitted his side must have a perfect end to the season if they are to win the title as Hatfield are 48 points clear, having won all 10 of their games.

"Peverel are relentless," he said. "To win 10 on the spin in this league is a hell of an achievement.

"All we can do is hang on to their coat tails. We play them in two weeks and it's up to us to stay in touch by winning this weekend.

"We have lost two games already and we can't afford any bad weekends now. I've said to the players if we win all of our remaining games that will be 16 out of 18 and would be our best season ever. If that's not enough to win the league then hats off to Peverel, they would have deserved it."

Gravatt won the toss at Springfield and decided to bat first. However, Aythorpe got off to a bad start, with opener Neil Culleton being run out for nought.

Gravatt was joined at the crease by James Crapnell and the pair put

SPRINGFIELD 252-6
AYTHORPE RODING 277-7
Mid-Essex League Premier Div

on 60 runs for the second wicket, with Gravatt scoring 32 and Crapnell 31.

The in-form Andy Clarke then took the Springfield bowling attack apart, scoring 102 with three sixes and 11 fours.

Clarke had a 72 run partnership with Richard Eaton (31) in 10 overs, while Graham Milbank chipped in with 34 and Dave Anderson scored 15 as Aythorpe reached 277-7 in 45 overs.

For Springfield A Frost claimed 4-20 in seven overs, and one wicket each for Dance and Symonds.

Springfield made a good start reaching 239-4 with J Clark (27), J Latimer (30), C Frost (97) and J Symonds (71) all scoring well for the top order batsmen.

Aythorpe then claimed three quick wickets and although M Chalk hit 19 not out, Springfield fell 15 runs short ending on 252-6 in 45 overs.

Joe Grant took 5-61 in 12 overs and Matt Reeve took 1-20 in four overs.

Gravatt said: "It was another good result for us, but the game was



Andy Clarke scored a century for Aythorpe Roding on Saturday

Picture: MEB

closer than the score suggests. It was quite tight despite us putting on a lot of runs and it could have gone either way."

Aythorpe host second from bottom Tillingham on Saturday.

"You can't take anyone lightly in

this league as soon as you do, you get bitten on the bum," said Gravatt.

"If we don't win this weekend it will make the game against Peverel irrelevant as I can't see them losing four games, so we have got to make sure we do our job on Saturday."



Walden Tri Club Junior Athletes

Picture: SUBMITTED

Youngsters show their potential

NINE members of the newly formed Walden Triathlon Junior section put in impressive performances as the Rob Mclean Cambridge Junior Triathlon.

Most were competing in their first triathlon and were competing against must more

experienced athletes. Eight did fantastically well to complete the course, especially Georgia Bozianu who wasn't feeling well on the day.

Atta Azamede was disappointed not to finish after an asthma attack affected his swim. Nathan

Azamede and Sophie Jones just missed out on podium finishes and came away determined to go one better next time.

Walden Tri Club have been piloting a junior section at the Friend School over the last three months and it has proved a great success.