



Executive Committee

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Committee Members:
 Roger Horn, Paul Clemence



Congratulations ...

to the 2002 Honours Group:

Div	Champions	Runners-Up
1	Norwich Union	Overstrand
2	Saham Toney	Drayton
3	Belton	Rollsby
4	Shipdham	Rackheath
5	Kirkley Sports	Hethersett
6	East Harling A	Collishall A
7	Saham Toney A	Hales A
8	Diss B	Kett'ham Hall A

The awards will be presented at the Annual Awards & Dinner Dance, held on Friday, 11th October at the Jarvis Hotel.

The cost will be the same as last year - £16.50 per head - and includes a 3-course meal and dancing with a local disco. The bar opens at 6.30 and the meal starts at 7.45pm.

The evening is open to everyone from the Norfolk Cricket league, and usually includes successful teams, as well as members of the EC and representatives from Hansells, our sponsors.

Space may be limited, so please book as soon as possible. Bookings need to be made in writing by 30th September. Please use the enclosed booking form and return this, together with the appropriate remittance, to Trevor Smith, NCL Treasurer at the address given on the Booking Form.

Awards Night & Dinner Dance

Friday 11 October
 Open 6.30 for 7.45pm

Chunky Vegetable Soup
 Roast Turkey & fresh vegetables
 Profiteroles with Chocolate sauce

£16.50 per head
 Bookings, with payment, to

Trevor Smith by
30 September

Divisional Awards

We are also looking for your nominations for Batsman and Bowler of the Year in each of the 8 divisions. These nominations need to be sent to David Amis, 11 Sporle Road, Swaffham, PE37 7HL to arrive by 18 September.

Youth Awards

You are reminded that our sponsors, Hansells, are continuing their support for young cricketers with the Under 19 Awards for Batting and Bowling. Nominations for these awards should be made by the same date and address: 18th September, to David Amis, 11 Sporle Road, Swaffham, PE37 7HL.

This year, Hansells are extending their sponsorship of these awards by paying for each winner and his guest to attend the Presentation evening and Dance.

BALLS! BALLS! BALLS!

We have just heard that there is a continuing problem with the supply of our approved cricket ball (Ball A). You will remember, because of the tension in the part of the world where the ball is made, that this year we had to use a replacement (Ball B) at the same price of about £7.50.

However, our supplier has just informed us that the price of better quality leather has risen sharply, which means that Ball A will cost around £11 per ball for 2003. However, we can still secure quantities of Ball B for the same price of £7.50 for next year. Both of these balls are known quantities, although we have only used the latter for one year. We have had a few (less than a handful) of complaints.

We would like to be able to order early - to take advantage of cheaper surface freight costs - so would like to know your thoughts before 18th September. Please call Alan (01379 674427) or Trevor (01603 615359) to register your vote ...

Ball - A @ £11 Ball - B @ £7.50

Fair Play

Thanks to all the teams who contributed so much to the expanded Fair Play Award. With very few exceptions, Fair Play marks were passed through with the rest of the results. And most of the marks were very good, with a number of teams gaining average marks of more than 8. The winner has been decided, and will be announced at the Awards Evening on 11th October - another good reason to come along!

Knockout Futures

For various reasons there has been a general move away from Sunday cup competitions in Norfolk in recent years: the CTS has gone, whilst there were only 10 entries for the Biss and 7 for the Junior Cup this year.

Our KO Cup fared a little better with 20 entries, but a number of the matches were not played.

We would like to prompt a few thoughts about the KO Cup and the format, so we will be circulating a questionnaire to all clubs so that the various options can be discussed at this year's AGM.

For example, what format:

- traditional knock out cup and plate -
20 teams/clubs entered in 2002, but not all matches were played
 - divisional leagues -
eg 4 regional divisions, with division winners to meet in semis. SF losers to meet in Plate Final (this year, with 20 teams, would need 4 div dates, plus SF and F)
 - return to mid-week, based on regions
 - any other scheme
- Or, how can we attract more entries:
- reduce matches to 15 or 20 overs
 - allow games to be played mid-week
 - reduce matches to 7-a-side

Thinking Caps ON!

It's a Knock Out!

Both of the KO competitions were happily resolved on the appointed days, with two fine games, co-incidentally matching a Div 4 side against a Div 2 side.



As it happened, the two winners - Saham Toney and Ketteringham Hall - were both from Div 2, but Shipdham and Rackheath, respectively, gave them a few scares batting second in each case. As a suitable reward, both Shipdham and Rackheath were later promoted together to Div 3 for next season.

Both games were a real credit to all concerned and we are sure they proved to be an important part of the year for Hansells, our sponsors.

AGM

The Annual General Meeting is only a month or so away (Friday, 22nd November) but the deadline for new rules and so on is coming up fast -

30 September

We will be writing to all clubs nearer the time, with minutes of last year's AGM and other papers, but we wanted to prompt some thinking at this early stage.

If any club has a proposal for a change to any existing rule (General Rules, Match Rules or KO Cup Rules), they should be sent in writing to the Secretary to arrive by the date above. An e-mail, provided it is clearly identified with the name of the club, is acceptable.

Our draft structure for the 2003 season shows that we have a total of 79 teams, with 9 - including two new applicants - in Division 8.

A final reminder that the closing date for new applicants for the final vacancy is the same deadline --

30 September

Umpires

At the recent meeting, the Executive Committee decided to encourage all teams to send members on an umpires training course. The EC agreed to sponsor such training with the aim of encouraging better knowledge of the Laws of the Game in the Norfolk Cricket League, which has to be self-regulated.

Further to the piece in the last issue, the EC feels that the self-regulation falls down when

- ❖ 'umpires' are also playing in the match
- ❖ they are often untrained, not only in the laws, but also in the additional disciplines of being able to observe and concentrate (largely because of the first 2 reasons) umpires are accused of bias when a decision goes against the fielding side



It is most players' appallingly low standard of knowledge of the Laws which is most worrying. Here are some examples that I have heard of in the last couple of years in the NCL:

- ❖ a batsman trod on his stumps when trying to avoid a short pitched ball and was given not out because he was taking avoiding action
- ❖ leg byes were signalled, despite the ball not having hit the striker. The reason: it was a bye on the leg side
- ❖ 4 leg byes signalled, although striker played no shot. Reason: the dead ball didn't apply because ball crossed the boundary
- ❖ bowler bowled delivery wide of the stumps; umpire calls wide, but too soon, because batsman hits the ball, which is caught at cover. Not out, because "you can't be caught off a wide"

Fortunately, this problem is most easily resolved by making use of the existing training courses run by the Norfolk Cricket Umpires' and Scorers Association. The NCL will fund players to attend and complete this course, although the examination will not be compulsory. Details and dates will be circulated when these are known.

Get Online!

Have you noticed how the e-community of NCL clubs on the WWW is growing.

Your Club can also have its own website, with a hyperlink to and from the NCL Official Site - www.nclleague.co.uk.

Give us a call to find out more: 01379 674427