



Newsletter for Norfolk Cricket League Clubs

Cricket Bag



Issue 6

Summer 2003

The Norfolk Cricket League is sponsored by



Please send any comments or items for inclusion in "Cricket Bag" to: 18 Pristow Green Lane, Tibenham, Norwich, NR16 1PX

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Visit the Official NCL website - www.ncleague.co.uk

DONT FORGET
Awards Evening & Dinner Dance

Jarvis Hotel

Friday, 10th October 2003

Book Now!
(see over)

Revised Structure for Cricket in Norfolk

Background

Recreational league cricket in Norfolk has developed over the last 30 years under the administration of three organisations:

The Norfolk Cricket Alliance (NA) - formed in 1971; the NCL - started as the NC Federation in 1972; and the West Norfolk Cricket League (WNCL) in 1980.

There was no link between the leagues until 1993, with the NA being a closed shop, except by special invitation. After negotiation, a form of promotion/relegation between NA and NCL started in 1994, although it was only open to the champion side, who had to apply to join, and had to meet a number of entry requirements, including running an A team.

In 1999, the England & Wales Cricket Board (ECB) established the East Anglian Premier League, with representatives from Norfolk, and prompted the creation of a formal pyramid structure incorporating the NA, NCL and WNCL. Under this scheme, a single line of progression was envisaged, so that club second and third teams were merged

There has been some discussion in the press about the merits of the new structure, and this article aims to put the Committee's case for supporting the proposals.

into the pyramid. Some such teams from the NA competed with teams from the NCL and WNCL in an expanded NA, whilst the remainder formed the 3-division Norfolk Conference (NC) as a third feeder league into the NA. The NCL A team divisions were abandoned and were absorbed into the NCL proper, forming Divs 6-8.

Drawbacks

The current structure was always seen as an 'interim' solution, because the NC is not a league in its own right: it is administered by the NA and - importantly - it is not open to new applicants.

Moreover, since the adoption of the current scheme, relegation from NA has not been successful mainly because Alliance 'A' teams have wanted to return to their "natural home" - the NC. During this period, the NCL grew smaller because teams promoted to the

NA have not been replaced by relegation.

The NCB recognised this as unacceptable and began discussions with the relevant leagues.

New Structure

Around Christmas 2002, an NCB questionnaire was circulated to all clubs and teams in the leagues. The questionnaire responses established that travelling was an issue and that a revised scheme with 2 feeder leagues, based on West and East geographic split was preferable. A sizeable number of NA clubs said that they were happy for their A and B teams to play "win-lose" as currently practised within NCL and WNCL.

Consultation

The complete process has taken nearly 2 years, and the opportunity has been taken to seek agreement from the NCL Executive Committee (EC) and the general membership whenever possible. The issue was discussed at the AGM and SGM, and in neither case was a single vote registered against the proposals. Brief outlines of these questionnaire findings were published in 'Cricket Bag'. The issue from last Autumn included a full description of the proposals, which were reproduced in papers sent to all clubs prior to the AGM in November.

(continued overleaf)

Awards Nominations



Please send in your nominations for the Division Batsman and Bowler. These should be sent to Dave Amis at 11 Sporle Road, Swaffham, PE37 7HL, to arrive by Thursday, 18 September.



Executive Committee

President:	Tom Bartram	Vice President:	Chris Free
Chairman:	Keir Hounsome	01603 452550	
Secretary:	Alan Harris	01379 674427	harris823aj@aol.com
Treasurer:	Trevor Smith	01603 651359	trevor.d.smith@btinternet.com
KO Cup:	Andrew Marshall	01603 409034	andrew.marshall@thalesfieldforce.com
Awards:	David Amis	01760 721928	
Results (1-3):	Alan Harris	01379 674427	harris823aj@aol.com
Results (4-6):	Paul Combstock	01493 603501	paulandebbs@aol.com
Results (7-8):	Helen Hanley	01603 473832	helenhanley@cwctv.net
Complaints:	Roger Symonds	01603 810748	rogersymonds@appliedonline.co.uk
Committee:	Roger Horn	Simon Richardson	

Fair Play and Wides

One of the common themes in lowish Fair Play scores has been the calling of wides, with clubs complaining that the oppositions are not following NCL guidelines. Therefore, it is worth repeating this article, which appeared last year ...

NCL Match Rule 1 states that **"All matches are to be played in accordance with the Laws of Cricket, except as otherwise stated"**. The 'otherwises' relate to the new Code introduced in 2002 that we agreed to ignore because we do not have independent, qualified umpires standing in NCL matches.



This means that the NCL wide should be exactly as laid down in the Laws of Cricket - and not as seen in current One Day Internationals, which have their own Rules governing wides.

Law 25 states a ball is adjudged a wide unless it is sufficiently **within the batsman's reach for him to be able to hit it with his bat** by means of a normal cricket stroke".

If a ball is so judged the umpire must **CALL** and **SIGNAL** "Wide Ball" as soon as it has passed the striker's wicket.

So, remember these two key points:

- 1 INTERPRET A WIDE AS IN THE LAWS OF CRICKET
- 2 TO AVOID CONFUSION, CALL AND SIGNAL A WIDE AS SOON AS IT PASSES THE STRIKER'S WICKET

Knockout Cup Final

Ketteringham Hall beat Saham Toney by 2 wkts in a thrilling climax at Pinebanks on Sunday, 3rd August.

After Thomas (81) and Wood (56) had hit a century opening stand for Saham Toney, the middle order chipped in on a good surface and under a hot sun. Their final total of 191 looked daunting, but it would have been worse without Howes' control in claiming 2-42 in 10 overs. Howes opened the batting for Hall and added 35 to give them a good start and with 10 overs left, Hall were 137 for 4 - 15 runs ahead of Saham at the same stage. A critical 4 overs by Thomas and Wood, who each claimed 2 wickets, seemed to have turned the game decisively in Saham's favour. But Sparrow and Briggs thought otherwise, and the pair added 49 from 7 overs to claim the trophy with just one delivery remaining.



HNCL Plate

The Plate - played at Brooke Cricket Club on Sunday, 17th August - was won by Rackheath - a fitting reward for being runners-up last year. In a low-scoring match, Winterton were restricted to 106 thanks to a good all-round performance from the Rackheath bowlers, led by Phil Banham, who claimed a hat-trick in impressive figures of 5 for 20. Father and son Steve and Dave Rymarz clinched victory with a partnership of 76, with Dave claiming the 'Man of the Match' award for his quick-fire 49.

Awards Night & Dinner Dance

Friday 10 October

City Suite, Ramada Jarvis Hotel
Open 6.45 for 7.30pm

£16.95 per head

Bookings, with payment, to

**Trevor Smith by
30 September**

Please ensure that payment is included - and that booking is sent to Mr T Smith, 4 Havelock Road, Norwich, NR2 3HG

**Annual General Meeting
21 November 2003
7.30pm**

Structure

(continued from front page)

The result of the overwhelming vote in support of the proposals was also reported in 'Cricket Bag' - as was the case with the Special GM held in April 2003. (All issues of 'Cricket Bag' appear on the NCL website, as does a summary of the AGM agreements.)

The Committee View

The EC are responsible for furthering the interests of the NCL in general. In particular, we want to preserve recreational but competitive cricket down to the grass roots level in our area. To this end, we have played a full part in the discussions on the new structure and fully support the proposal. The current system has drained - and would continue to drain us of our better clubs, with no replacement. Other suggestions were put forward and considered before being rejected as unacceptable by one of the participating league organisations.