

This issue of Cricket Bag reports on the decisions taken at the AGM and looks ahead to the 2004 season

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

Big League

Following the expected merger with the former Norfolk Conference, the NCL will swell to over 100 teams for 2004. Secretary Alan Harris told the AGM that as well as the 23 ex-NC teams, the NCL had received applications from 8 new teams for next season.

All the new applicants were approved: Shipdham A, Hethersett B, Hales B, Horsford C, Norwich C, Kirkley B, Sprowston C, Garboldisham B.

The meeting heard that Martham and Thorpe CC had decided to withdraw from the Norfolk Alliance (NA) and that Thorpe A had withdrawn from the NCL. The net effect of these changes means that over 100 teams will be contesting the NCL in 2004 - in as many as 11 divisions!

Structure for 2004

The division structure for 2004 based on current forecasts is shown overleaf.

Changes to NCL Rules

The AGM gave their approval to a number of rule changes which will come into effect at the start of next season. Most of these changes are to General Rules which govern how the League is organised and managed. The first big change is that — from 2004 — attendance at AGMs and SGMs will be compulsory.

The meeting agreed with the Committees suggestions that important topics were discussed and agreed at the General Meetings, and that it was reasonable to expect member clubs to give up one evening a year. The EC will be authorised to fine defaulting clubs, if a written apology is

Move forward

Chairman Keir Hounsome urged all members of the NCL to move forward in 2004.

"This is a tremendous opportunity to forge a larger, stronger NCL," he said, as he addressed the expanded NCL at the Annual General Meeting.

In welcoming the new member clubs he said he believed the new blood would make the NCL a stronger league.

He also hoped that everyone could work together to allay the concerns that some ex-Conference sides had.

not received prior to the meetings.

The AGM also agreed to increased the quorum size to half the member clubs, in recognition of the fact that the NCL will grow from 53 clubs to 72 clubs in 2004.

Wide Boys

The AGM approved the Committee's proposal to spell out exactly what should constitute a wide ball in NCL games. Regular readers will recognise the hobby horse from a distance, but the MCC's definition of a wide - out of the batsman's reach - will be incorporated into NCL Rules.

Other Rule Changes

- structure of EC was clarified and quorum set at 6
- clubs would be required to submit batting & bowling statistics



Hot Dates for 2004

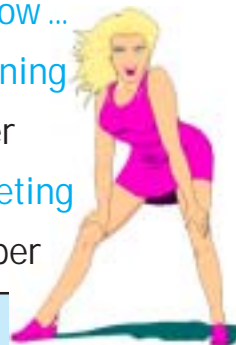
Check your diary now ...

Annual Awards Evening

Friday 8 October

Annual General Meeting

Friday 26 November



Committee Details

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
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Results (1,2,3):	Mike Ridout	01603 787725	mike.ridout@BBSRC.AC.UK
Results (4,5,6):	Paul Combstock	01493 603501	paulandebbs@aol.com
Results (7,8, 9):	James Kay	01603 260872	james.kay@cavell.co.uk
Committee:	Roger Horn, Simon Richardson		

Info for Handbook to Secretary before 31 Jan 04 please

Spirit of the Game

Cricket is a game that owes much of its unique appeal to the fact that it should be played not only within its Laws but also within the Spirit of the Game. Any action which is seen to abuse this spirit causes injury to the game itself. The major responsibility for ensuring the spirit of fair play rests with the captains.

The Spirit of the Game involves RESPECT for:

Your opponents, your own captain and team, the role of the umpires and the game's traditional values

It is against the Spirit of the Game

To dispute an umpire's decision by word, action or gesture to direct abusive language towards an opponent or umpire, or to indulge in cheating or any sharp practice. For instance to appeal knowing that the batsman is not out, to advance towards an umpire in an aggressive manner when appealing or to seek to distract an opponent either verbally or by harassment with persistent clapping or unnecessary noise under the guise of enthusiasm and motivation of one's own side.

Structure for 2004

The expected division structure for 2004 is shown in the table below.

Division 1	Division 2	Division 3	Division 4
Acle A	Bungay	Belton	Aylsham St Giles
Aldborough	CEYMS/Gothic	Gt Witchingham A	Caister
Ashmanhaugh	Cr'ford Lodge	Hardingham	Gt Yarmouth
Cromer A	Diss A	Lowestoft Rail	Hethersett & TV
Drayton	Gressenhall	Mattishall A	Kirkley A
Great Melton	Hales	Norwich Union A	Kirkley Sports
Horsford A	Halvergate	Old Catton	Loddon
Old Buckenham A	Kett'ham Hall	Rackheath	Nor Wanderers A
Saham Toney	Rollesby	Shipdham	North Elmham
Winterton	Sprowston A	St Andrews	Wortwell
Division 5	Division 6	Division 7	Division 8
Coltishall A	Aldborough A	Felthorpe	Bradfield A
Costessey	Civil Service	Great Melton B	Brooke A
East Harling A	Colney	Hales A	Bungay A
Garboldisham A	Cr'ford Lodge A	Hingham	Diss B
Great Melton A	Eaton	Horsford B	Drayton A
Happisburgh	Elsing	Kett'ham Hall A	Frettenham
Hempnall	Lowestoft A	Martham A	Halvergate A
Rocklands	New Buckenham	Old Catton A	Hemsby
Saham Toney A	Tacolneston	Overstrand A	Watton A
Saxlingham A	Topcroft A	Watton	Winterton A
Division 9	Division 10	Division 11	
Beccles B	Happisburgh A	Garboldisham B	
Bradenham A	Loddon A	Hales B	
Bradfield B	North Elmham A	Hethersett & TV B	
Brisley	Norwich Union B	Horsford C	
Gt Yarmouth A	Old Buckenham B	Kirkley B	
Hethersett & TV A	Old Catton B	Norwich C	
Rocklands A	Sheringham A	Shipdham A	
Rollsby A	Sprowston B	Sprowston C	
Vaux Mallards B			

Rewarding Success

Nearly 300 players and guests from the NCL packed into the Jarvis Hotel on 10 October to celebrate the Annual Awards Evening.

After a fine Christmas style meal, NCL Chairman Keir Hounsome introduced the awards with staff from sponsors Hansells and members of the League's Executive Committee helping with the 36 presentations.



Under 19 Bowler of the Year, Marc Fuller from Frettenham

Individual Batting & Bowling Awards

Award	Batsman	Bowler
President's	Mike Breame (Hard'ham)	Chris Alger (Rollesby)
Under 19	David Rymarz (Rackheath)	Marc Fuller (Frettenham)
Division 1	Datty Barnard (S'm Toney)	Paul Reeve (Aldborough)
Division 2	Jesse Alderson (C'fd Lodge)	Chris Alger (Rollesby)
Division 3	Mike Breame (Hard'ham)	Darren Buck (Shipdham)
Division 4	Martin Walker (R'lands)	Matthew Ellis (H'sett & TV)
Division 5	Kevin Tilford (S'm Toney A)	John Julian (S'm Toney A)
Division 6	Robin Konieczvy (Hales A)	Robin Thaxter (Holt)
Division 7	Robin Turley (Watton A)	Roger Horne (Watton A)
Division 8	Simon Haddingham (Beccles B)	Andy Cross (Nor Union B)

Presented in the traditional 'reverse order', there were awards for Batsman and Bowler of of each Division, as well as Runners-Up and Champions.

There were also 2 special awards for the best young batsman and bowler (Hansell's Under 19 Players of the Year) as well as the League's Batsman and Bowler of the Year, presented by League President Tom Bartram.

It's a Knock Out!

This is by way of a trailer for next year's Knockout Cup. As a reminder to teams new to the NCL, entry to the competition is free, and games will be played on Sundays, starting on 16 May 2004. Other dates are scheduled for 6 and 27 June, and 11 July, with the Final to be played in August.

There is also a Plate for those eliminated in the first round of the KO Cup, and in both competitions, matches are played over 40 overs - rather than the League's 45.

Eleven of the clubs at the AGM indicated they were interested, but we want to encourage more entries, especially from clubs lower down the NCL who don't have any other Sunday commitments.