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Tibenhams, Norwich,
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Visit the Official NCL website
www.nclleague.co.uk

Dairy Dates ...
Awards Dinner -
Friday 13 October 2006
City Suite, Ramada
Jarvis Hotel
6.45 for 7.30pm

AGM -
Friday
24 November 2006
UEA SportsPark
John Jarrold Suite
7.30pm

Crunch Time for 'Safe Hands'

All cricket clubs should be aware of the 'Safe Hands' policy, which was first announced by the ECB over 2 years ago. The KNCL publicised it in our 'Cricket Bag' for Summer 2004 (Issue 9) and later that year the policy was formally adopted at our AGM. From that point, all member clubs of the KNCL were obliged to adopt the 'Safe Hands' policy and subsequent amendments (General Rule 6b)

Since then, we on the Executive Committee have continued to draw the matter to your attention and to provide help wherever it has been needed; we have appointed a League Welfare Officer (Malcolm Kauffman - contact details below) and also provided information and guidance on the website and with approved templates for Registration Forms etc.

After all this, however, it is now CRUNCH TIME for all those clubs. The Norfolk Cricket Board have announced that all affiliated clubs must be fully compliant by April 2007. By this they mean that all clubs must have an appointed Club Welfare Officer who is CRB checked and has completed both "Good Practice" and "Time to Listen" courses.

Please check the printed details on the attached sheet - and let us know about any updates

IF YOUR CLUB DOES NOT MEET THESE CRITERIA THEN YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO PLAY IN THE KNCL IN 2007

Individual Awards

Elsewhere in this mailing you will find forms for your nominations for the Batsman and Bowler for each of the ten divisions. One Batsman and one Bowler will also receive our President's overall award for the season.

We would also like you to send in nominations for the Under 19 players of the year (again, a batsman and bowler). To qualify, the individuals' 19th birthdays must have occurred after 31 August 2005 (last year).

We are also pleased to invite your nominations for two brand-new awards, which will be presented on 13 October for the first time:

- all rounder
- wicket keeper

Once again, the nomination forms are attached to this newsletter.

Please ensure that the forms are completed and returned to Alan Harris before **Friday, 15 September.**

Awards Dinner

Finally, after a number of comments over recent years, the Committee has decided to restrict the evening to a dinner and presentation of awards - there will be no disco or dance this year. The price remains reasonable at £18.95 per head. The Awards Dinner will take place at the Ramada Jarvis Hotel, on Friday, 13 October, and is open to all KNCL clubs.

Please ensure that the attached booking Form is completed and returned to Keir Hounsoms before **Friday, 29th September.**

Executive Committee Details

President	Tom Bartram		
Vice President	Chris Free		
Chairman:	Keir Hounsoms	01603 452550	
Secretary:	Alan Harris	01379 674427	harris823aj@aol.com
Treasurer:	Keir Hounsoms	01603 452550	
Results (1,2,3):	Mike Ridout	01603 787725	mike.ridout@BBSRC.AC.UK
Results (4,5,6):	Paul Combstock	01493 300791	debra.combstock@ntlworld.com
Results (7,8,9):	James Kay	01603 260872	james.kay@cavell.co.uk
Results (10):	Alan Harris	01379 674427	harris823aj@aol.com
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Welfare Officer:	Malcolm Kauffman	01603 783849	mal@beltoncricket.co.uk
Committee:	Roger Horn, Andrew Marshall, Simon Richardson		

Awards Dinner

Friday,
13 October

Ramada Jarvis Hotel
Open 6.45 for 7.30pm

£18.95 per head



Chris Butler on his way to a fluent 26 in partnership with John Cooke, who made 55. Gareth Daniels is the bowler, with Man of the Match winner Sean Cannon keeping wicket.

The League Strikes Back

The League XI gained some revenge for last year's defeat in an exciting and closely fought contest against the Sponsors' XI at Aldborough. The Sponsors' XI were asked to bat first and Max Smith (Old Catton) and James Kay (Drayton) each grabbed 2 wickets to gain an early advantage for the League. But Sean Cannon (Aldborough) and Gareth Daniels batted well in a 5th wicket partnership which seemed to be turning the tide in the Sponsors' direction before Mark Tooke (Winterton) bowled Daniels for a powerful 40. Cannon made a Man of the Match winning 61 before also falling to Tooke who claimed 4 for 39. Paul Sprong (Ketteringham Hall) also bowled well and took 2 catches, and there was a fine reflex catch from Kay as the Sponsors' innings closed at 217 for 9 after 40 overs.

It's Fine by us

We have mentioned elsewhere in 'Cricket Bag' the role of the Executive Committee in upholding and improving standards on the field. We also have an unwitting role in policing standards off the field. Four of the committee give extra time to receive and record the results, with the aim of having them appear promptly the following day on our website and allowing us to hold an important space in Monday's 'EDP' Sports section.

You might find it hard to believe just how difficult it is to phone in a result, between 6 and 10pm on Saturday evening. And yet, this season we have racked up 121 fines, as shown in the table below.

And these are just the ones that the Results Secretaries tell us about. In the first few weeks of 2006, all of them were having to calculate points awarded because the Home team forgot, couldn't work it out or felt it was beneath them: "Don't bother with the points, let them work it out," was one comment left on the

The League XI needed a good start, but Sprong was caught behind by Cannon off Charlie Webster's second delivery (Overstrand). John Cooke (Old Catton) found a willing partner in Chris Butler (Ketteringham Hall) and the pair added 75 at a very healthy rate to keep the League XI in touch. Unfortunately, they both perished in quick succession, Cooke for a fine 55 before hitting to long on, where Webster took a well judged catch off Micky Plunkett (Old Catton). After a useful 20 from Martin Witheridge (Winterton), the League XI lost more wickets before Sam (45) and Ben Mann (23) - both from Great Melton - brought them back into contention with a vital partnership. The League XI still seemed in danger of fading away before Tooke hit a number of important boundaries in an undefeated 43 to bring the League home by 2 wickets with an over to spare.

answer-phone! In another case, the Home team calculated the points - based on last year's rules!

There are some clubs who appear on this list very rarely if ever; but there are others that we can guarantee will always fail to carry out these simple tasks - and save themselves the fines.

The Committee really would prefer to have an easy life - and not have to bother to chase the defaulting clubs. It's up to you.

More to come

Speaking of fines, this may be a suitable time to remind you that the list of 121 is bound to grow, since we have two further categories to come: failing to submit end of season statistics (6 last year) and failing to attend the AGM (9).

The statistics must be in before the AGM on 24 November, but why not get your team/club in the frame by sending in nominations for the batting and bowling awards by 15 September - two birds with one stone.

Decisions, decisions

All the members of your Executive Committee are happy to keep out of the limelight and although we do not normally seek publicity, occasionally we overhear comments like: "Well, its no use putting in a complaint, the Committee don't do anything." And whilst we never actively encourage Clubs to complain, we nevertheless want to improve standards of behaviour throughout the League.

We always investigate a series of low scores for 'Spirit of Cricket' and, of course, we always follow up any formal complaints. In recent cases, we have issued warnings to clubs about the standard of behaviour of their players, and we have also taken action against individuals. We believe that everyone who plays cricket at our level wants to be able to enjoy themselves; to play hard, but to play fair.

The Committee wanted to publicise two recent cases.

Umpires

We know that umpires decisions can cause friction, but - as a recent international high profile case highlights - the umpires decisions are - or should be - final. Our current Match Rule 6 states that each team should provide an umpire and scorer if possible and this is important. No captain has the right to reject an opposition umpire, and the Committee has recently imposed a fine on one Club who did so.

It is beyond the resources of the Committee to appoint independent umpires for all League matches, but - as we have urged on previous occasions - it is in the interest of every KNCL club interest to find and encourage suitably qualified people to stand.

Young Players

It is several years since the ECB published its guidelines for young players. Their 'Fast Bowling Directive' was released in January 2000 and we have reprinted the key sections in our handbook ever since. Sadly, we have had to take serious action against one club who chose to regard the 'directives' as 'guidance'. They were reported for deliberately over-bowling a 16-year old player and have received a heavy fine. Although there was some evidence that the 'extra' overs had some influence on the result, the Committee cannot overturn that result - remember the umpires decision is final - we have imposed a 16 point penalty.

failing to fulfil a fixture	16
late or non result	34
incomplete result (not giving the points scored)	12
incomplete results (not giving SoC score)	25
failing to award SoC score to the home team on at least 2 occasions	34