



Newsletter for Norfolk Cricket League Clubs

Cricket Bag



Issue 16

Winter 2007

In this issue:

- AGM Update
- Award Winners
- Safe Hands

The
Norfolk Cricket League
is sponsored by

KNIGHTS
Sporting Auctions

Please send any comments or
items for inclusion to:
18 Pristow Green Lane,
Tibenhams, Norwich,
NR16 1PX

Visit the Official Knights Norfolk
Cricket League website
www.nclleague.co.uk

Diary Dates ...

**Awards Dinner -
Friday 10 October 2008
City Suite, Ramada
Jarvis Hotel**

**Annual General
Meeting -
Friday
21 November 2008
UEA SportsPark**

AGM Review

The 36th Annual General Meeting of the NCL was held on 23 November and Keir Hounsome was re-elected as Chairman, together with the existing Committee. Tim Porter (Bungay) was also elected on to the Committee.

Rule Changes

There were a number of rule changes which were approved by the AGM. These are summarised here, and will shortly appear within the amended Rules pages of the website and will also, of course, be included in the revised Rules section of the League Handbook for the 2008 season.

General Rules

A couple of new rules were approved which aimed to afford more protection for young players. The League approved the requirement for all players in the Under 11 age group to be approved before they could play in adult matches. The second change allowed the EC to impose a summary suspension for anyone charged with threatening behaviour towards a young player.

The Complaints and Protests procedure gained an overhaul to reflect current EC practice and also allowed the EC to form a sub-committee to investigate a complaint or to

refer any complaint to the NCB Disciplinary panel. The process for appeals was also revised and ensured that any appeal would be heard by a different group of people.

Match Rules

To help prevent the over-bowling of young players, the AGM approved the requirement for all young players to be declared before the toss was made in each match within the NCL. The use of a new ball in each innings has been extended to the top 5 divisions.

Perhaps the biggest change came from the agreement that accelerated promotion would be scrapped after 2007. For 2008 and beyond, a straight 'two up and two down' scheme would apply throughout. The AGM also approved the EC practice of adjusting relegation to take account of variations in the number of teams coming down from the Alliance.

The AGM also acted to prevent the unreasonable strengthening of a team by using players of a higher standard. The AGM agreed that if a club with more than one team was forced to cancel a fixture – except for bad

weather – that it was the fixture for the lower-placed team that would be forfeited.

Structure for 2008

It was confirmed that Hales had gained promotion to the Alliance, thanks to a temporary ground-share with Norwich whilst their own facilities were upgraded. As forecast on the website, there were two teams relegated from the Alliance – Norwich B and Beccles A – who will join Division One. After the 2007 ended, Norwich & Coltishall Wanderers announced that they had withdrawn their fourth team from Division 8, which meant that the predicted relegation of Frettenham (from 8) and Loddon A (from Div 9) was rescinded.

In addition to the bottom two teams in Div 10, who applied for re-election, the League received applications from three other teams. After a vote, the AGM decided that North Elmham A and Hales Colts would retain their places in the League.

Sponsorship

We have thoroughly enjoyed our close relationship with Knights Sporting Auctions, who have been our sponsors for the past three years. Tim Knight's enthusiasm and passion for the game has helped us all to enjoy our cricket and we have all benefited from his support. Unfortunately, the agreement comes to an end at the beginning of 2008 and we wish Tim every success in the future.

In the meanwhile, the League will be without a sponsor for next season. If you are aware of any business enterprise that might be interested, please ask them to contact the Secretary, Alan Harris, on 01379 674427 or via e-mail at harris823aj@aol.com.

Executive Committee Details

President	Tom Bartram		
Vice President	Chris Free		
Chairman:	Keir Hounsome	01603 452550	kandlhounsome@btopenworld.com
Secretary:	Alan Harris	01379 674427	harris823aj@aol.com
Treasurer:	Tony Gregory	01603 738673	apgregory1@tiscali.co.uk
Results (1, 2, 3):	Mike Ridout	01603 787725	mike.ridout@btinternet.com
Results (4, 5):	Paul Combstock	01493 300791	debra.combstock@ntlworld.com
Results (6, 7, 8):	James Kay	01603 260872	james.kay@cavell.co.uk
Results (9, 10):	Tim Porter	01986 894084	timporter_tp@tiscali.co.uk
Awards:	Jonathan Cooke	07885 958768	photo_create@yahoo.co.uk
Complaints:	Paul Combstock	01493 300791	debra.combstock@ntlworld.com
Welfare Officer:	Malcolm Kauffman	01603 783849	mal@beltoncricket.co.uk
Committee:	Roger Horn, Simon Richardson		

Awards Night

Nearly 300 players and guests enjoyed dinner at the Ramada Jarvis Hotel to celebrate the annual Awards.



Pictured left is Matthew Ellis (Hethersett & Tas Valley) who claimed the batting award for Div 2 and also won the President's batting award. Matt scored 842 runs at over 70 and also captured 19 wickets.

Matt Lovick from Hales won the President's Bowling Award and also claimed the award for Div 1 by being the only bowler to take 40 wickets in the season.

Blake Whyte (Bradenham A) was the All-Rounder of the Year and also won the award for best Under 19 Batsman.

Drayton A (right) clinched the 'Spirit of Cricket' trophy for the second year running, with an average score of 8.31.



Individual Awards

Occasionally - at around this time of year - the Committee are asked to explain how the individual awards are determined and whether it would be better to publish the 'guidelines'. This usually happens after the Awards Dinner when the leading figures are published on the website. The process is open and democratic and we believe it would be useful to explain how the awards are made.

The first thing that needs to be said is that there are no guidelines, although there are minimum criteria for batting and bowling. These have remained unchanged for a number of years and are included with the handbook and also on the website.

The second point is that there is a deadline for the awards, and it is normally the middle Friday of September. All details received by the deadline (15 Sep this year) are entered into a spreadsheet with a separate page for batsmen and bowlers for each division. There are also pages for the other awards (all rounders etc). Details of the 10 best batsmen and bowlers in each division are printed and circulated to the rest of EC for discussion at a Committee meeting shortly afterwards.

Certainly, the players averages are taken into account, but so are runs scored or wickets taken. For example, someone may have the best batting average, but may not win the award because he had 5 or 6 not out innings. For all divisions, the EC discuss and vote. In most cases, the decision is fairly clear cut, but in others it is normally a 'battle' between two nominees and the award is given to the one with most votes.

The final point to bear in mind is that those who are not part of the EC only get to see the stats when they are published on the website. This usually happens in October, some weeks after the awards night which was itself four weeks after the deadline for nominations. And the tables will continue to be updated right up until the details are extracted to be published in the Handbook at the end of January. Consequently, the web page stats include details that are received after the deadline, and on occasion that might lead some of you to wonder why so-and-so did not win an award, despite scoring more runs at a better average than the winner. The reason is that the person who tops the averages table was not nominated in time to be considered.

The underlying message, then, is clear: if you want your champion batter or bowler to be in the running, please ensure that someone in your club is on the ball so that the details can be sent as soon as the season ends. There is a two week window, after all.

Contact

Many thanks to all those Clubs who have returned the requested contact details. For those who have not yet done so, please ensure that they are returned to the General Secretary before the end of January so that they can be included in next year's handbook.

We are planning to have the handbooks and balls ready for collection in early April. The KNCL and Mid Norfolk Sunday League will be co-hosting the event, to be held at Anglian Windows, Horsford from 7-9pm on Sunday, 13 April.

If you are unable to attend, please make arrangements for a neighbouring club to collect books 'n' balls on your behalf.

All Mod Cons

Although we appreciate that not all Club Secretaries have access to e-mail, we would like to hear from anyone who is prepared to receive messages on behalf of a Norfolk Cricket League club. It is very useful to be able to send out short-notice information to all our member Clubs and we have done this a few times already in recent seasons. We have e-mail details for 52 of our 64 clubs, so there are a dozen gaps we would like to fill.

If you are prepared to accept messages for any of the following 'missing' clubs: (Brisley, Garboldisham, Great Witch'ham, Loddon, Vauxhall Mallards and Watton), please contact norfolkcricket@aol.com.



Dates for 2008

Please make a note in your diaries of these important dates for next year:

Deadline for return of fixture dates	31 Jan 2008
Deadline for payment of entry fees	30 Apr 2008
First league Saturday	3 May 2008
Last league Saturday	30 Aug 2008
Awards Evening	10 Oct 2008
Annual General Meeting	21 Nov 2008

It has been very frustrating over recent years to be told by a number of clubs that they cannot attend our Awards or the AGM - which is compulsory, of course - because they have arranged a club event for the same date. There is no excuse for this, as the dates for the Awards Evening and the AGM are published a year in advance, and they have occupied the same place in the calendar for many years. DON'T DO IT!