



Norwich CC RCP U15 Carnival Cup Winners

With a record entry, the SNCL welcomed over sixty teams for its eleventh summer of youth cricket.

The U9 League provided the first taste of hardball competition for many children and here, Mattishall, winning all of their games, the only one of five teams across all eight leagues to do so, won the title comfortably with Topcroft runners up and Gt.Melton third. Ollie Last of Hethersett & Tas Valley delivered the best U9 bowling performance with his 4 for 3 against Brooke.

In the U11 Barnard League, Gt.Melton once again demonstrated their consistency at this age group remaining unbeaten all summer with Mattishall and Old Buckenham second and third.

Brooke similarly dominated the U11 Tungate League recording six straight victories ahead of Acle and Norwich. The only five wicket hauls of the season came from these two leagues; 5 for 1 by Ollie Long of Mundford v Saham Toney and 5 for 4 by Billy Lambert of Mulbarton v Brooke, both outstanding efforts.

The usual suspects were in fine fettle at U13 level but it was good to see some different names at the top of the tables. Lowestoft Town faced fierce competition in the Whetman League with their triumph confirmed only late in the season - the top three teams separated by less than a point. But in the end Horsford had to settle for second and Topcroft third.

The U13 South Breckland League also produced some great cricket with final placings undecided until the end. For Old Buckenham it was a return to form and, losing only a single game to third placed Mulbarton, they topped the table by the narrowest of margins with a last gasp effort from Melton pinching the runner up spot.

Norwich, fielding two teams at U15, dominated the Blue League with their squad winning eleven games and losing only two. With their sides top and third they were split by Hethersett & Tas Valley who even though they lost three games, did so by small margins thus accumulating sufficient points to secure the runner up spot.

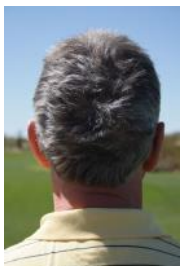
The sister U15 Green League fared less well with a record five teams failing to complete enough fixtures to warrant a place in the final tables. In a season generally free of inclement weather, this was a worrying trend with most games cancelled because of clubs being unable to raise sides. In fact only four teams managed the necessary fixtures and it was Old Buckenham who grabbed top spot. It was good to see Thetford, with five straight wins, occupying second place less than a point behind Bucks.

The U17 League, always a problematic age group, lurched its way through the summer with plenty of no result games before Diss, Norwich, Mattishall & Old Buckenham came together in the winners' league. Even with copious extensions to the deadlines, only Diss managed to complete their three games and therefore, by default, were crowned U17 champions for 2017.

The second end of season Cricket Carnival Cup sponsored by RCP Parking and held at Garboldisham CC witnessed a strong Norwich side dominate the U15 day, winning against Thetford in the semis and then beating Old Buckenham by 48 runs in the final.

At U13 on day two, Mulbarton overcame a strong Melton side to win by fourteen runs.

The event was wrapped up on the Friday with Gt.Melton winning the U11 final against Mattishall, their squad remaining undefeated the whole summer, an impressive achievement.



Colin's view

Blimey. You certainly can't accuse The ECB of resting on its laurels. Hot on the new initiatives for U9 softball and U19 T20 cricket, along with the All Stars launch last year, comes a raft of proposals and rule changes for both the adult and youth game. The rule changes predominantly affect professional and the higher level club game although the removal of the two bounce rule could easily filter down to youth fixtures.

Further proposals from our hyperactive development officers at St.Johns Wood now suggest that our traditional game is insufficiently engaging for young children and, to attract more recruits, needs significant change. The solution? Bigger balls, shorter boundaries and pitches, less getting out and a raft of suggestions backed up by a boggling array of statistics to convince us all that this is the way forward to bring children flocking back to the sport. I do worry though the impact this will have on the traditional U9 & U11 hardball game. We must be careful not to throw the baby out with the bathwater!

The views of Colin are his own and not necessarily those of the SNCL.



Sponsor of the Cricket Carnival Cup
hosted at Garboldisham CC



Entry for the 2018 Summer Leagues closes on January 21st 2018

Visit our website to access the relevant forms for this year's competition.

League fees remain unchanged at £20 per team.

Don't forget

our social networking page packed with reports and photos and often updated much faster than the website - no signup or login required.



THANK YOU!

As Colin notes below there is no shortage of initiatives to bolster participation in both the youth and adult recreational game, run entirely by unpaid volunteers. Without these the game would quickly reach crisis point. The SNCL extends its sincere thanks to all those who continue to plan, organise and deliver appropriate opportunities and activities for our youth cricketers.



Season's Greetings to you all.

SNCL Titles since 2007 including zipleague & Carnival

- 19 Gt.Melton.
- 12 Garboldisham.
- 5 Topcroft.
- 4 Rocklands,
- 3 Old Buckenham, Gt.Ellingham, Norwich.
- 2 Hardingham, Dereham, Mattishall, Mulbarton.
- 1 Cringleford Lodge, Acle, Brooke, Lowestoft Town, Diss.