



Rule changes planned for 2016

The 2015 end of season consultation is now complete and the key results can be found on the next page. As we move towards the tenth anniversary of the competition, The League is looking at some key changes to the rules before next summer.



Proposals for 2016

- **Compulsory retirement.** This initiative has been almost universally supported and will be extended to U15 level (at 50 runs) next summer. There will be no compulsory retirement at U17.
- **Changes to the County player regulations.** With

the competition now well established, an increasing number of clubs believe that the current rules regarding the deployment of county players are restricting opportunities for some young cricketers to play alongside their friends and even, in some cases, preventing players from attending trials for fear of losing out on club cricket. The proposal is to allow all teams to field one county (boy) player in all fixtures. It is expected that with compulsory retirement extending to U15 level, the effect of such participants on the eventual result will be less marked than in the past.

• **Submission of results.** Most teams are excellent in this respect but there have been cases of delays, sometimes considerable, of communicating outcomes and this is frustrating for teams and our administrators. The submission form will, in future, contain a date field and late results will incur a 2 point penalty for the home team.

• **No result games.** We can do nothing about the weather but teams cancelling at short notice is the most frequently cited frustration for many. We appreciate that some clubs find raising sides in August difficult but others, knowing this is likely to be an issue, avoid such problems by playing their fixtures earlier. The flexible approach of The League to timetabling allows this but many feel that some clubs, on occasions, are too quick to postpone or cancel fixtures. The League does not wish to re-introduce compulsory penalties but this situation will be carefully monitored in 2016.

• **Length of season.** Cricket in the school summer holidays is a joy and one of the principal objectives of the competition. However, the intention in 2016 is to play weekly once the junior alliance has finished and before the schools break up. This should enable us to trim a week from both ends of next season's itinerary.

Have a comment on these proposals — [contact us here](#) or on norfolkyouthcricket@yahoo.co.uk



Colin's view

There's certainly been plenty of obituaries written about the game recently; declining participation, its disappearance from schools,

increasing problems in getting teams out at the weekend, lack of volunteers etc., etc. I could go on but you get the drift.

But the simple truth is that cricket is in rude health. It's just that many of our administrators, and that's often at all levels of the sport have unrealistic objectives and imagine that we can return to some kind of golden past where every child played the game at every school, most towns and large villages had their own team, all supported

by an abundance of willing and capable volunteers with time to attend coaching, safeguarding and welfare courses, training sessions and match days as well as planning, organising and delivering club activities.

The rugby world cup has just showcased an outstanding and uplifting example of a game that has largely reinvented itself over the last few years – and all on free TV too – ECB take note. There's fewer people playing rugby too, but the RFU has been far more proactive in reaching out to clubs.

Our sport has much to offer and there are still plenty of willing customers. But its menu needs tweaking in response to changing social behaviour - and if the sport is to be reinvigorated, perhaps we all need to pay more attention and offer more support to those who provide the backbone of the grassroots game because, without them, cricket really will be in trouble.

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BYCL to join SNCL

2016 will be the tenth year of the SNCL and we are delighted to announce the incorporation of the Broadland Youth Cricket League into the competition next summer.

Wayne Catchpole started this league five years ago and has worked hard to establish a solid base for junior cricket in the area. A larger number of clubs will offer new and exciting possibilities, strengthening and consolidating existing competitive opportunities



The fifth season of the indoor U14 cricket competition has just started with good wins for Hethersett & Tas Valley and Topcroft.

You can follow all of the action on our website or Facebook page.

If you are interested in being considered for inclusion in future seasons, you can register your interest on the online form [here](#).

[League website](#)

[zipleague site](#)

[Register of Interest form](#)

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The late summer weather proved a bit of a stinker this year, washing out many of the league's final fixtures. But despite this, there was still plenty to celebrate in this ninth year of the competition as a record fifty entries demonstrated there is still plenty of life in the junior game.

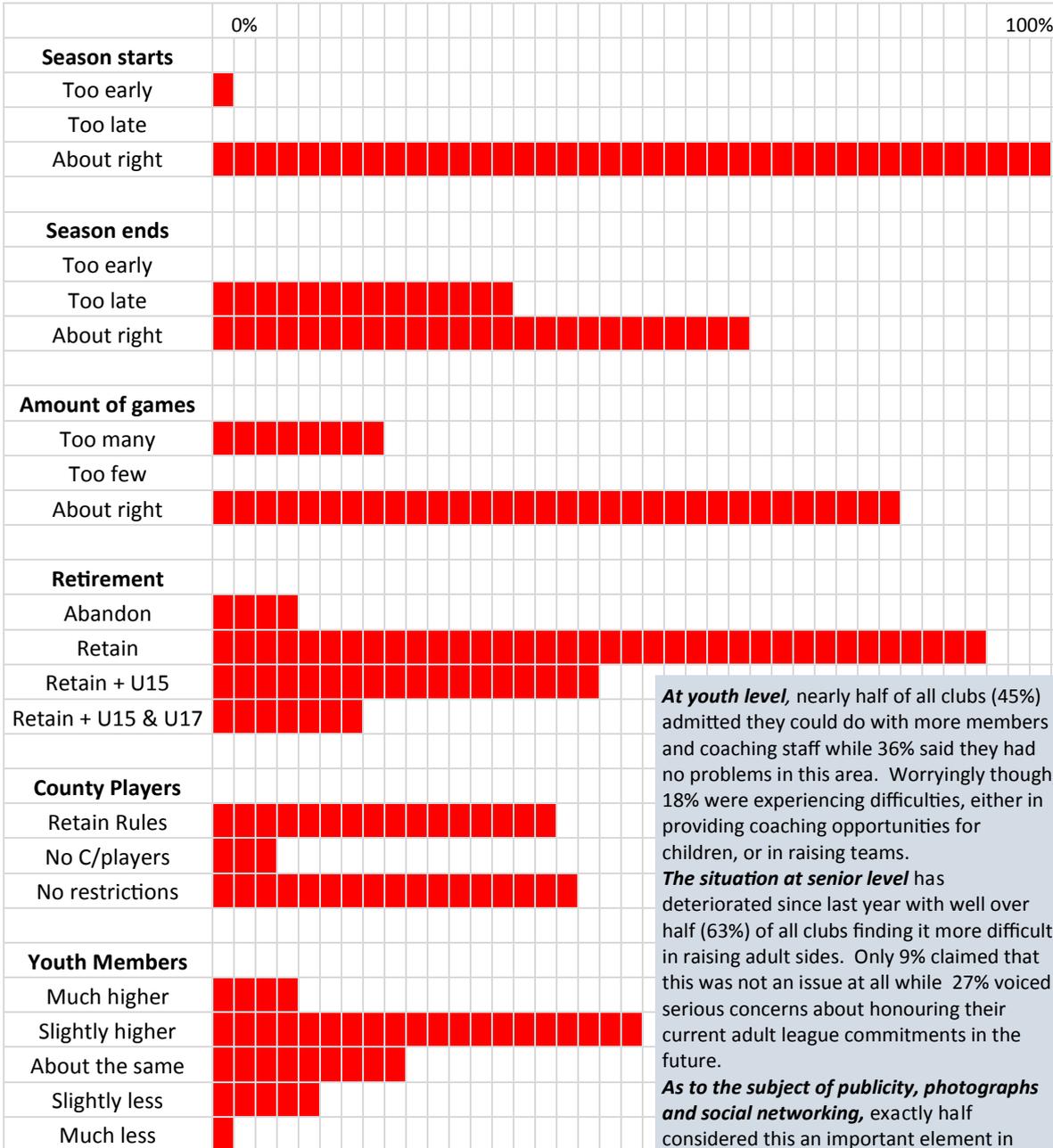
In the U17 league it was soon clear that the primary contest would be between title holders Dereham and new boys Gt.Melton. Both won all five of their games setting up a tasty final between the two, but frustratingly, this was another victim of the truculent climate which left Dereham to retain the trophy with their marginally superior points' total. Diss' Campbell Young's 95no against Mattishall was the best with the bat while Dereham's Sam Inston took 4 for 3 against the same club to bag best bowling.

At U15, the destination of the trophy was clearer as Cringleford Lodge blazed a trail in winning all of their games with some big hitting innings and securing the title well before the season ended. Hardingham finished second and could have run them close had their season not rather fizzled out in the latter rounds - Gt.Melton, last year's champions, were third. Appropriately, it was Lodge's destructive Ishan Singh whose 108 against Mulbarton, the only century, was best knock with Ollie South of Tas Valley returning best bowling figures with his 5 for 16 against Mattishall, the solitary fifer of the summer.

In the larger U13 league, Melton were favourites from the off and duly delivered losing only one of their games to, surprisingly, Gt.Melton Girls. Topcroft also performed strongly as runners up winning as many games followed closely by Tas Valley and Old Buckenham. With compulsory retirement being trialled this season there were no best batting awards in the U13 or U11 age groups but Topcroft's Lewis Reeder dominated with the ball filling both top slots, his best being 4 for 4 against Rocklands.

Like the U15 age group, there was to be a new name on the U11 Derek Bernard Cup as Mulbarton finally secured a title in their seventeenth year. Their compact and cohesive squad dominated throughout the summer and never really looked like losing any games and, in the end, finished well clear of the chasing pack led by Topcroft, whose Luke Bettridge scooped best bowling with 4 for 5 against Dereham, with Tas Valley third and Melton fourth, all separated by less than a single point.

The U9s, albeit a small league, were the only group to complete all their games this summer. Title holders, Topcroft, did not enter this year and the result was closely fought between Brooke and Gt.Melton. Brooke could perhaps consider themselves a tad unlucky having not lost a game to miss out in the end by a single point to Gt.Melton. Rocklands finished third.



At youth level, nearly half of all clubs (45%) admitted they could do with more members and coaching staff while 36% said they had no problems in this area. Worryingly though, 18% were experiencing difficulties, either in providing coaching opportunities for children, or in raising teams.

The situation at senior level has deteriorated since last year with well over half (63%) of all clubs finding it more difficult in raising adult sides. Only 9% claimed that this was not an issue at all while 27% voiced serious concerns about honouring their current adult league commitments in the future.

As to the subject of publicity, photographs and social networking, exactly half considered this an important element in maintaining interest and encouraging recruitment. Of the rest, 30% agreed but did not have the manpower or time while the rest considered such initiatives completely unnecessary.

To register your interest, without obligation, for any of our competitions please complete the online form [here](#). Places are limited for the 2016 season and so an early indication of possible participation is appreciated.

Clubs that have already responded to the 2015 consultation need not re-apply.

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Mulbarton CC U11 League Winners 2015