



## Match Reports 2012/2013 Season

### Round 1 November 12th 2012

#### Debutants serve up tasty starter

Topcroft made heavy weather with the bat being undone by reckless shot selection and failure to exploit any quick singles opportunities. Garboldisham bowled and fielded well pegging back their opponents with regular wickets. Topcroft's two power play overs added only four runs and their final tally of 105 looked well shy of a winning total.

But with just six net runs needed to win, Topcroft bowled and fielded with far more application than they had shown with the bat as Garboldisham struggled with the simplicity of their task. Having lost five wickets by the end of pair two and with their first power play adding only eight runs, the scores were tied as the final pair took guard. A wicket and another disappointing power play netting only three left them, with one ball remaining, five ahead. Last ball bowled – played on – match tied.

This was an entertaining game played with great spirit and generosity from both sides. No one deserved to lose tonight . . . and no one did.

Topcroft 105 for 8. Garboldisham 105 for 7. Match tied.

### Round 2 November 19th 2012

As if last week's tied match between Garboldisham and Topcroft wasn't enough to set the pulse racing, Gt.Ellingham and Rocklands served up a master class in the indoor game with this exciting and boisterous local derby.

Ellingham pinned down Rocklands from the beginning with some precision fielding and bowling as their score lurched back and forth. With only 102 on the board at the end of the second pair there was plenty of work to do. Taking their power play in the final two overs, the penultimate six balls saw a wicket lost and their score on just 112, but some big hitting in the final over added 22 propelling their total to a more respectable 136.

Ellingham are yet to lose a game in this competition and the target looked well within their capabilities as the first two batsmen made a positive start adding 16. But with four wickets lost by the second pair the score slid backwards setting up an exciting finish with Ellingham needing 22 off their last four overs. Losing one wicket this became six off the final six balls and then two needed from the final delivery but an edged shot into the back wall netted just one giving Rocklands the spoils by a single run.

This was an entertaining and pulsating game watched by a large and exuberant crowd - a great advertisement for the indoor game.

Rocklands 136 for 8. Gt.Ellingham 135 for 6.

The second game between Garboldisham and Gt.Melton was a more sedate affair as Melton underlined their credentials as current champions of both the summer competition and zipleague.

Garboldisham batted and gathered their runs far more positively than the previous week but were unable to keep the ball on the ground as Melton happily accepted the offered catches. Not all of Melton's bowlers kept a tight line but their precision in the field more than compensated. Although Garboldisham hit almost as many runs as their opponents, the loss of nine wickets, including four in their power plays, consigned them to a total of only 102.

This was never going to trouble the trophy holders and despite some spirited bowling, Melton set about the task of gathering batting points, scoring 169 without loss at the close and becoming the only team to complete an innings without losing a wicket - looking every inch favourites to defend the trophy.

Garboldisham 102 for 9. Gt.Melton 169 for 0.

### **Round 3 November 26th 2012**

Mulbarton v Saxlingham

Round three saw the last of the teams start their 2012 campaign, and despite the loss of two wickets by the first pair, Mulbarton's openers started positively in their game against Saxlingham, adding 22 runs. But this was as good as it got as the second pair, bogged down by an excellent bowling and fielding effort including plenty of spin, were able to add only a further nine runs. The final two batsmen really needed to push on but some rash shot selection and a disappointing powerplay saw them progress only backwards as Saxlingham piled on the pressure pegging them back to 128 for 7.

This modest total looked like it might be enough as Saxlingham's first two pairs scratched around, both losing three wickets, against another excellent spin attack. With two thirds of their innings gone they had just 109 on the board, not much but still in touch. Their final two batted with real maturity and crucially, even though their powerplay netted only two runs, did not lose a wicket. Just six were needed off the final over as Mulbarton pressed for a wicket and then two off the final ball. A shot against the wall and a scampered single guided Saxlingham home to a well deserved win by two runs.

Last time these two teams met, Mulbarton ran out easy winners by 51 runs and it was a measure of Saxlingham's improved performance that they were able to turn the tables in this exciting encounter.

Mulbarton 128 for 7 (8 points). Saxlingham 130 for 6 (30 points).

Topcroft v Gt.Ellingham

Topcroft, having not played in the competition last season, came up against Gt.Ellingham, a team bristling with confidence. The innings started badly for Topcroft, a wicket off the first ball, and a powerplay over too, and went downhill quickly after that. None of the Topcroft batsmen really settled and even though they lost only six wickets, a good effort, the ball just would not find the gaps as Ellingham restricted the new boys to 92.

After the excitement of the first game it was probably just as well this one followed a more predictable course as all of Ellingham's pairs added to the total finishing on 141. But Topcroft stuck to the script and it was their batting rather than their bowling or fielding that let them down. If they can just get a few singles going they can go from strength to strength in this competition.

Topcroft 92 for 6 (4 points). Gt.Ellingham 141 for 4 (30 points).

#### **Round 4 December 3rd 2012**

Gt.Melton v Saxlingham

Melton started positively in their second game of the tournament with their first pair adding a solid 23 for the loss of one wicket. The second two fared less well as the Saxlingham attack took the interesting approach of interspersing copious extras ( 18) with wicket balls (4) pegging Melton more or less back to where they had started on 125. With two powerplays Melton's final pair they could have run away with it but Saxlingham maintained the pressure taking two wickets in the first before Melton added 22 in the last over. This was an excellent effort from a young Saxlingham side who had they been a little more frugal with their extras (44) could have put Melton under real pressure. To take seven wickets off the title holders was a considerable achievement.

But it's no accident Melton currently have their hands on the trophy and Saxlingham had no answer to the accurate bowling which was simply just too good for them. But as wickets tumbled they never gave up and their third pair managed a valiant nineteen to end the contest with the team in positive runs.

Gt.Melton 159 for 7 (35 points). Saxlingham 114 for 10 (8 points).

Rocklands v Garboldisham

This was Garboldisham's third game and they were beginning to get the hang of the indoor format as they made Rocklands work hard for their runs. After two pairs and five wickets, Rocklands were becalmed on 110. Their final batsmen injected some pace into the rate with the loss of only one wicket and 28 gathered from the two powerplays.

We've seen many games won with a total as low as this and Garboldisham were in no hurry to harvest their runs opting instead for the cautious approach. Their first two added 15 and the second pair 12 leaving just 13 needed from the last four overs including two of powerplay. It just needed the last pair to keep their heads and not lose a wicket which they managed with some style. Rocklands had scored more runs but, crucially, Garboldisham lost only one wicket to give them a well deserved first win of their campaign.

Rocklands 139 for 6 (4 points). Garboldisham 150 for 1 (31 points).

### **Round 5 December 10th 2012**

Topcroft v Rocklands

With their first four overs, including both power plays, bringing only nine runs the tone was set for the rest of Topcroft's innings as their more focused opponents, Rocklands, fizzed with enthusiasm against a side that at times looked as if it would rather be elsewhere. Swinging across the line is not the best way to accumulate runs in this or any other form of cricket and with too many adopting this approach the rate slowed to a crawl. The first pair added nine, the second three and the final two just a single run as Rocklands bowled and fielded with real assurance in a game they were clearly intent on winning.

By the end of their first pair, Rocklands were already on equal terms and they proceeded serenely after this with Topcroft eerily silent in stark contrast to their rivals. With the second pair adding twenty and the third twenty three, a win by 45 runs was justified reward for their determined and committed efforts.

Topcroft 113 for 5. Rocklands 158 for 4.

Gt.Ellingham v Mulbarton

For both teams this really was a must win fixture; Mulbarton needed success if they were to have any chance of getting their season going and Gt.Ellingham, probably the only real threat to Melton, required a good haul of points to keep in touch.

Mulbarton have always performed better with the ball than the bat and so it was tonight as Ellingham were skillfully contained from accumulating a large total by tight bowling supported by some excellent fielding. Ellingham's first pair made an excellent start adding 27 but from then on the innings stalled with only 11 coming from the rest of their overs.

With 138 the target Mulbarton must have fancied their chances and a solid performance from the first two pairs leveled the scores before the final two walked to the crease. Two wickets off the first three balls was not what the doctor ordered and it got worse as the two unfortunate batsmen were blown away losing a total of eight wickets as Ellingham's resuscitated their title hopes with this tenacious performance.

Gt.Ellingham 138 for 6. Mulbarton 97 for 9.

### **Round 6 Monday 17th December**

Gt.Melton v Topcroft

After their rather somnolent performance last week, Topcroft were in finer fettle as they faced title holders Melton whose first pair were a little lucky when a straight ball failed to dislodge the bails and a couple of half chances went down. But good teams make the most of their lucky breaks and despite a

much improved performance with the ball from their opponents, Melton proceeded confidently with 136 under their belts by the end of the eighth over. The last pair consolidated the good work but, even so, Topcroft made run scoring hard work and took wickets too restricting what could have been a huge total to a manageable 147.

Melton are an extremely strong bowling side and Topcroft's reply did not augur well as their first pair lost five wickets including two in their power play overs. From then on in it was damage limitation. Facing the best bowling in the league, another three wickets were lost by pair two as the match slipped away. Their final brace of batsmen played sensibly, losing only one wicket, to record the only positive total of their innings.

Gt.Melton 147 for 3 (33 points). Topcroft 83 for 9 (3 points).

Saxlingham v Gt.Ellingham

Despite the loss of two wickets, a solid start by Saxlingham's first pair saw them ten in credit before Ellingham surged back in overs five to eight taking five wickets as the score plummeted to 81. A lesser team might have folded but Saxlingham have shown they are real battlers and their final two mounted a strong comeback losing only a single wicket and adding 25 to the total leaving them at least in credit on 106.

Ellingham were looking to collect more points than Melton and this needed a solid performance with the bat. A cracking start by pair one added 26 after which Saxlingham pegged the next two back – although they didn't lose a wicket they tallied only a further eight. With the score on 134 there was a real opportunity for the last two to collect some more batting points but this was a chance rather squandered by some reckless shots and although the runs came, three wickets were lost, two in a power play over.

Saxlingham 106 for 7 (4 points). Gt.Ellingham 141 for 4 (31 points).

**Round 7 January 14th 2013 – postponed – hazardous driving conditions.**

**Round 8 January 21st 2013**

With Mulbarton and Topcroft having made the decision to postpone their game, the remaining evening's entertainment featured a top of the table clash between Gt.Melton and the only team to beat them last year, Gt.Ellingham.

Melton batted first making steady progress against their opponent's somewhat inconsistent attack which uncharacteristically included too many extras. But the fielding was much tighter and Melton had only 21 on the board by the end of the eighth over. Choosing to use their power plays in the last two overs, always a risky strategy, paid off handsomely, and despite a wicket on the final delivery of the innings, 32 runs came from the last twelve balls setting Ellingham a challenging 154 for victory.

Ellingham never really got into their stride with the bat and seemed rather below par choosing too often to abandon any semblance of technique in favour of cross batted shots that yielded little in the way of runs. Despite this cavalier approach they lost only four wickets, helped by some unexpectedly dropped catches and some more aggressive running between the wickets might have brought them a good deal closer to Melton's target than the 128 they eventually achieved.

Neither team was at their best on the night, unsurprising after the extended Christmas break, but Melton's more focused approach delivered another win taking them to within touching distance of their second title.

Gt.Melton 154 for 5 (29 points). Gt.Ellingham 128 for 4 (7 points).

### **Round 9 January 28th 2013 – no reports**

### **Round 10 February 4th 2013**

Illness raging through the Saxlingham side forced the postponement of the first evening's match with Topcroft again the wallflowers for the second week in a row.

In the second fixture, Rockland's first pair made heavy going against a confident Mulbarton attack that served up only four extras in their twelve overs. Pair two were the most productive despite a wicket and the only maiden over of the game adding a net seventeen to give the innings some momentum. Their two power plays in the tenth and twelfth overs promised much but delivered little as Mulbarton penned them in with some excellent fielding for a final score of 125.

Although at least twenty short of a competitive total, Mulbarton have failed to chase down 130 and 138 in their previous games and they demonstrated why as the first pair laboured against a feisty attack losing two wickets and finishing with only six on the board. Despite the generous donation of fourteen extras from Rocklands, batsmen three and four fared even worse, losing three wickets and adding only three to the total. With Mulbarton in familiar territory, a terrific four overs from Rocklands supported by top class fielding and an outstanding catch in the eleventh over sealed the game as Mulbarton faded away with the last pair able to add only one run.

Rocklands thoroughly deserved their win with some outstanding cricket against a team still looking for that first elusive win.

Rocklands 125 for 5. Mulbarton 110 for 5.

### **Round 11 February 11th 2013**

This was to have been the last week of the competition when the four top seeded teams came together to battle it out for The Derek Barnard Cup. Whilst Gt.Melton (1) and Gt.Ellingham (2) had fulfilled their projected positions, Garboldisham and Mulbarton had played less convincingly, the latter still to win a single game.

In the first game, Ellingham, under pressure from the chasing pack, needed a good result to consolidate their position as runners up. They started positively with their first pair adding 19. With the next two chipping in another 11 and a solid performance from the final duo, the final total ascended to an eminently respectable 153, their highest of the season.

Ellingham could have expected this to be enough but a much improved performance from Garboldisham slowly reeled in the total. Pair one added 13 and then an outstanding contribution from the next two bolstered this by a further 30, despite losing a wicket, leaving just 11 required off the last four overs. The last pair kept their heads carefully working the singles and claiming victory by three runs in a tense finish.

Gt.Ellingham 153 for 5 (8 points). Garboldisham 156 for 3 (30 points).

In the second game, Mulbarton were still looking for their elusive first win against a side whose consistency had already secured them their second consecutive title and were keen to make it six wins out of six.

This was Mulbarton's best performance with the ball this season and Melton were made to work extremely hard for their runs. Their first two made 14 whilst their replacements went backwards with only 11 on the board after eight. The gamble on taking their power play in the last two overs delivered only moderate returns as they finished on an under par 127.

Mulbarton had failed to chase down low totals before but tonight Melton's usually reliable attack was rather off colour with an uncharacteristic amount of extras bolstering their opponent's total. Sensible batting brought Mulbarton to the beginning of the last four overs needing only six to win and although familiar territory beckoned when they lost two wickets in the ninth, there were to be no further mistakes as, with absolutely nothing to lose they steered the way to a 12 run win sealing Melton's only defeat of the season.

Gt.Melton 127 for 2 (6 points). Mulbarton 139 for 4 (25 points).

At the end of the evening Derek Barnard presented the winning trophy to Gt.Melton.

The winner may well be decided but, with Ellingham losing, the runner up spot is wide open with just four fixtures remaining.

### **Round 12 February 25th 2013**

Despite the zipleague trophy already nestling in Melton's cabinet, there were still scores to be settled and places decided as the first of the two rearranged evening's fixtures got under way between Mulbarton, surprise winners against Melton two weeks ago, and Garboldisham, still in the hunt for runner up spot.

Put into bat, Garboldisham never really got going and made heavy weather against an increasingly confident Mulbarton. With their first pair losing two wickets and the second two almost completely

becalmed, they limped to 106 by the end of the eighth over. If they hoped the final pair might transform their innings they were to be disappointed as another three wickets fell and the final total of 109 was poor reward for the application shown by this young side.

Surely this would not be a target to trouble Mulbarton, and indeed reflecting their more mature approach to the game it was not as the first pair added 14, the second 18 and the last two 19 as, losing only a single wicket, they navigated the innings to their highest total of the season.

The game was not as one sided as the score suggests but despite all their best efforts, for Garboldisham, this just wasn't their night.

Garboldisham 109 for 6 (1 point). Mulbarton 151 for 1 (31 points).

Next up was realistically the game that would decide the runner up spot; Rocklands v Saxlingham.

If the crowd were hoping for a closer game, they were to be disappointed, but if they were hoping to see a master class of how the indoor game should be played then they would have been well satisfied as Rocklands served up a display of measured application and concentration as they powered their way to 180.

It wasn't really that Saxlingham bowled or fielded that badly but the first pair added 17 followed by a magnificent 37 from the second two topped off with 26 from the tail enders to become only the second side in the history of the competition (the other was Melton) not to lose a single wicket in their innings.

Having posted the highest total of the season, 197, Saxlingham could be expected to have a real charge at the target but like Garboldisham, earlier in the evening, absolutely nothing went their way and although they were more or less on level terms after the first pair, their second pair suffered complete meltdown in the face of top class bowling and breathtaking catching.

Their plucky final pair, both very young, at least managed a positive score on a night that was for Saxlingham, best forgotten.

But to the winner the spoils and Rocklands' large points total propels them into second place on the back of an outstanding demonstration of the indoor game.

Rocklands 180 for 0 (38 points). Saxlingham 96 for 10 (0 points).

### **Round 13 March 4th 2013**

Postponed fixtures wrapped up the second season of the competition as Topcroft double headed against first Saxlingham and then Mulbarton.

With the top three places already decided there was little to play for and the first match, played in a rather sepulchral silence, failed to ignite as Saxlingham processed backwards almost from the start of the innings. Subdued by Topcroft's organised attack and tight fielding they exhibited none of the panache shown in their recent 197 against Garboldisham as they slumped to 88 for 7.

With no total to chase, Topcroft adopted a cautious approach gathering singles at a sedate pace as the runs came increasingly easily. It never looked as if the result was in any doubt and they finished on 140 for 3 to secure a comfortable win.

Saxlingham 88 for 7 (3 points). Topcroft 140 for 3 (31 points).

Although the second game was a more rowdy affair well supported in the gallery, it was as one sided as the first with Topcroft's role reversed from victor to vanquished.

A slow start by their first pair was torpedoed in the second four overs as Mulbarton's bowlers took four wickets pegging them back to level terms by the end of the eighth over. Their two power plays delivered little and Mulbarton were content at restricting them to 108 for 5.

Mulbarton seem to have abandoned their kamikaze tactics demonstrated earlier in the competition and instead adopted a more measured approach, something they repeated again in this game proceeding sedately to 147 and fourth spot behind Rocklands, Ellingham and Melton.

Topcroft 108 for 5. (2 points). Mulbarton 147 for 2. (29 points).