



zipleague



U14 Match reports 2017 - 2018

Round 11 March 5th 2018

Hethersett & Tas Valley v Old Buckenham

With their best batting performance of the competition, Tas piled the pressure on runners up elect Old Buckenham with some shrewd shot selection and quick running. Bucks had some early success with the ball but after that it was Tas all the way as their pairs added 19, 27 and 34 respectively to post a challenging 180.

But such a total was well within reach of Bucks as they added 25 without loss before the end of the fifth over. But five wickets, including a hat trick, in the sixth, followed by another in the seventh saw their score plummet into negative territory. With 78 required off the last four overs, the task was too much even for their ever reliable tail-enders who have entertained us all throughout the winter. All caution was abandoned with predictable results as Tas mopped up 13 wickets from the innings and, in doing so, promoted Gt.Ellingham to the runner up spot.

Hethersett & Tas Valley 180 for 3 (41 points). Old Buckenham 116 for 13 (4 points).

Gt.Melton v Topcroft

Melton have improved each time they have played and this was a solid batting performance against Topcroft's disciplined attack – though the reluctance to run many singles has held them back and their totals have been rather more modest than they might have been.

Topcroft progressed slowly towards the modest target and a couple of power play wickets in the last two overs could have thrown up a surprise result. But they did all that was required as the final pair added sufficient runs to take them beyond danger and bring their team a richly deserved second zipleague title.

Gt.Melton 126 for 4 (4 points). Topcroft 149 for 2 (28 points).



Round 10 Monday February 26th 2018

Acle v Gt.Ellingham

With just a single game scheduled on this bitterly cold evening, Gt.Ellingham did all that was asked of them as they eyed up this season's runner up spot against an initially understrength Acle.

Even with Acle only mustering four players at the start of the game, their young side batted with real conviction and with Ellingham after as many wickets as possible, their opponents did well to restrict them to just eight bowling points.

There was never any doubt as to the winner of this fixture but Acle stuck to their guns, particularly in the second half of Ellingham's innings when their final player eventually arrived. Better late than never as his two overs along with some controlled deliveries at the death restricted Gt.Ellingham to 155.

Acle 103 for 8 (4 points). Gt.Ellingham 155 for 4 (33 points).



Round 9 Monday February 19th 2018

Gt.Melton v Gt.Ellingham

Melton continued their improvement with the bat against an organised Ellingham side with all three pairs delivering substantial contributions to their eventual total of 167. Ellingham were guilty of an element of profligacy with their extras but otherwise fielded with real commitment preventing Melton's large total from becoming an unassailable one.

Melton themselves bowled well too but two wickets off no balls meant they were unable to apply any early pressure. Although Ellingham only managed 14 off their first four overs, the middle order, despite losing three wickets, made the most of their two power plays adding a further 57 with some big hitting and calculated running, something missing from their previous games. With the target already overhauled, the last pair batted sensibly and even the loss of a late wicket wasn't enough to stop them grabbing the spoils from this entertaining game; rekindling their chances of securing the runners up spot.

Gt.Melton 167 for 2 (11 points). Gt.Ellingham 182 for 5 (30 points).

Old Buckenham v Rocklands

Old Buckenham were another team looking to capture second place in this seventh season but proved a touch lethargic with the bat against Rocklands' best performance with the ball in this their last game. Three wickets in the seventh over saw just 115 posted and it was, as has almost always been the case, left to the final pairing to deliver the goods. But even these two were prevented from running riot by some accurate bowling at the death and their total of 139 looked distinctly fragile.

Rocklands were fired up by their success with the ball and made an encouraging start to their innings; 131 without loss at the end of the sixth over, just nine shy of delivering a surprise result. It ended there though as a hat trick in the seventh over power play stopped them in their tracks. The eleventh power play over offered the only hope of redemption but a wicket in this too left Old Buckenham with a much larger margin of victory than they could ever have expected.

Old Buckenham 139 for 5 (28 points). Rocklands 104 for 5 (5 points).



Round 8 Monday February 5th 2018

Hethersett & Tas Valley v Rocklands

Rocklands voyage of discovery continued as they came up against a strong Tas side whose initial two pairs added 58; the first choosing to employ some brutal hitting to the boundary and the second relying more on quick running between the wickets. This was Rocklands' best performance with the ball and the fielding was also much improved but Tas were on top form and would not be contained. Their final two looked set for Tas to be the first to eclipse the 200 barrier this winter with 198 on the board and three power play balls remaining but Rocklands snaffled a wicket off the last ball robbing them of this milestone.

Rocklands generally lack any real technique with the bat but their stubborn resistance enabled them to make some headway against strong opposition and it was the seventh over before they lost their first wicket. There was never any likelihood of them overtaking the huge total but this was a hugely spirited display from a very young side still learning their craft.

Hethersett & Tas Valley 188 for 4 (32 points). Rocklands 127 for 4 (6 points).

Acle v Topcroft

Acle, like Rocklands before them, are a very young team but most at least have played before. But Topcroft were truly majestic, delivering a masterclass in bowling and especially fielding which was outstanding and Acle were never allowed to settle. Credit to them though for keeping going in the face of overwhelming odds with the last pair delivering a feisty finale to their innings.

But Acle weren't finished as Topcroft struggled to generate much in the way of runs from their first eight overs as their opponents pinned them down; taking three wickets. For a time a huge upset looked an outside possibility and it was left to Topcroft's final pair to take the game beyond reach as they powered their way to a fifth win.

Acle 102 for 8 (3 points). Topcroft 158 for 3 (33 points).



Round 7 – Monday January 29th 2018

All four previous winners were in action in Round seven and it may well be one of these that will be adding another title to their total.

Gt.Melton v Rocklands

Sadly though it won't be Rocklands who were swept aside by a resurgent Melton who are learning fast and electing not to repeat their mistakes from earlier encounters. Put into bat by Rocklands, they were largely untroubled as the total mounted steadily. Rocklands bowled pretty well and fielded with real commitment but they were unable to prevent their opponents, without loss, from posting a match winning total.

Melton have always been a good bowling side but Rocklands did offer some stiff resistance with the bat although such a total was going to be well out of their reach. Credit then for posting the highest score of their campaign to date.

Gt.Melton 177 for 0 (32 points). Rocklands 119 for 5 (1 point).

Gt.Ellingham v Topcroft

This wasn't to be Ellingham's night either. One man down was not a good start and their first pair losing four wickets didn't help. The middle order though repaired much of the damage regaining some of the initiative before Topcroft mopped up the tail-enders with another four wickets.

Chasing just 122, Topcroft were already ahead by the third over, helped by rather too many extras. There were no wickets for the first two pairs and it was only the final duo, relieved of any pressure at all, who succumbed bringing Ellingham 3 bowling points – scant reward for their hard evening's work against a superior side.

Gt.Ellingham 121 for 8 (5 points). Topcroft (37 points).



Round 6 – Monday January 22nd 2018

Gt.Melton v Hethersett & Tas Valley

Tas were certainly at a disadvantage being one man down but Melton batted with a greater sense of maturity in their innings and did not give up their wickets easily. Despite Tas' generally accurate bowling and frugality with their extras, Melton's total mounted and by the end of the eighth they were 22 to the good. A cavalier and highly entertaining innings by their tail enders added a further 44 before the disappointing loss of twenty runs off the final two power play balls of the innings removed some of the shine.

Tas looked fairly comfortable early on in their reply but Melton contained much of their exuberance with the regular collection of wickets, some rather generously donated by Tas themselves. This meant they were unable to develop any real traction and by the end of the eighth were still over 30 light of the target. But power plays can change everything and with 17 required from the last six balls, a surprise comeback looked a real possibility. But, like Melton before them, Tas also lost two wickets in this last over to extinguish any chance of a win.

Gt.Melton 146 for 6 (36 points). Hethersett & Tas Valley 122 for 12 (8 points).

Old Buckenham v Acle

Poor Acle's bowlers were beset by the jitters as they struggled with their line against an Old Buckenham side bristling with confidence. Bucks offered few chances and the score, bolstered by a large extras count, mounted steadily. Acle did manage two wickets but the game gradually ran away from them as Old Buckenham finished on 179.

Acle's reply demonstrated some real discipline but they had absolutely no luck at all as Old Buckenham, despite this being far from their best bowling performance, took nine wickets. It says a lot for Acle's spirit that they kept going right to the end eventually collecting two batting points for their efforts.

Old Buckenham 179 for 2 (36 points). Acle 123 for 9 (4 points).

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Round 5 – Monday January 15th 2018

Gt.Ellingham v Hethersett & Tas Valley

An interesting prospect between two evenly matched teams opened proceedings after the Christmas break.

Put into bat by Tas, Ellingham's first pair lost three wickets but still managed to claw their way back into positive territory before their successors profited from the two power plays and, without losing a wicket, propelled the score to 138. Ellingham were reticent to risk any singles and confined themselves to sidewall singles and several big hits netting boundaries and sixes. Tas bowled and fielded with real precision but were unable to prevent the final pair adding a further 16 to post a competitive target of 156.

Tas had not reached this total in their previous two games but everything seemed to be going to plan this time as the openers added 20 without loss and the second two a further 15. There was an outstanding reaction catch by the wicket keeper in the sixth over but, apart from that, Ellingham seemed to pose little real threat with the ball. 21 off the final four overs, including two power plays, therefore seemed something of a formality for Tas. However an excellent eleventh over yielded just two runs and then a ballooned catch off the first ball of the twelfth turned the match around. With ten needed off the final delivery only a six (doubled up to 12) would do. Tas managed a single but it was not quite enough as Ellingham ran out winners by four runs.

Gt.Ellingham 155 for 5 (27 points). Hethersett & Tas Valley 152 for 2 (10 points).

Rocklands v Topcroft

Rocklands very young team were pitched against an experienced Topcroft side but even so demonstrated considerable progress in their indoor journey this winter, losing fewer wickets and scoring more runs than in their previous two games.

But they were no match for Topcroft who could be excused their occasional lapses of concentration as they recorded their third straight win to head the table at the halfway stage.

Rocklands 99 for 9. Topcroft 199 for 0 (38 points).

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Round 4 – Monday December 4th

Old Buckenham v Topcroft

Neither team batting first on the evening were able to muster a total that put their opponents under any real pressure. Both Old Buckenham's first pair lost two wickets but generally batted sensibly if without much urgency. It was left to the final go-to duo, so instrumental in their two previous wins, to transform this restrained start into a challenging target. They did pretty well too but Topcroft bowled and fielded with real tenacity at the death preventing a modest score from turning into a match winning one.

Topcroft were rather twitchy at the start of their reply but, helped by the generous contribution of extras, found themselves with only 12 needed off their last four overs, including two power plays. This final pair never looked like losing a wicket despite Old Buckenham's best efforts and drew clear winning the game by 24 runs.

Old Buckenham 147 for 5 (7 points). Topcroft 171 for 3 (32 points).

Acle v Gt.Melton

Melton had clearly raided the dressing up box transforming themselves from nervous debutants into competition challengers. Acle wilted under their trademark bowling and fielding attack with both power plays proving disappointing. They did well to maintain their cohesion and in the end post a positive total to challenge Melton.

Melton's fragility with the bat was considerably less obvious in their reply and they were only troubled during the middle section of their innings when Acle threatened to claw themselves back into the game; taking their only four wickets. Great credit to Acle's sheer determination which kept them in the game up to the tenth over but Melton's technique with the bat proved superior as the final pair, doing no more than was necessary, secured the first victory for their team.

Acle 123 for 7 (6 points). Gt.Melton 139 for 4 (30 points).



Round 3 – Monday November 27th

Gt.Ellingham v Rocklands

Gt.Ellingham bounced back from their narrow defeat against Old Buckenham turning in an assured performance with the bat to post the season's highest total. Rocklands were pretty solid in the field but were unable to contain Ellingham's exuberant second pair who added 63 making the most of their two power play overs. Rocklands restricted the final pair to just four runs as a consolation helped by an astonishing reaction catch.

There was little chance of Rocklands overhauling the huge total and instead they opted for a cautious approach. The first pairing hung in there well before a cascade of wickets for the second two obliterated any hope of an unlikely victory.

Gt.Ellingham 181 for 4 (39 points). Rocklands 67 for 11 (4 points).

Acle v Hethersett & Tas Valley

Two wickets in their first four overs, including a power play, prevented Acle from making any headway at the start of their innings and their middle order hesitated too much in their running losing several wickets to Tas' assured fielding and throwing. It says much for the side's determination that they managed to drag themselves back into positive territory with the final pair losing only a single wicket.

Chasing a non-existent total can often prove more challenging than a larger one and this was a nervy reply from Tas. Acle bowled and fielded extremely well taking seven wickets and were in the game right up to the end when a couple of power play wickets could have sunk Tas; a solid effort from this young team.

Acle 100 for 8 (7 points). Hethersett & Tas Valley 132 for 7 (31 points).



Round 2 – Monday November 20th

Topcroft v Hethersett & Tas Valley

This was an entertaining and exciting start to the evening from two experienced indoor teams.

There were few fireworks from Topcroft's opening two pairs and although they lost four wickets still added 31 to provide a perfect springboard for the final pairing. With the power plays eleven and twelve, the case with all sides tonight, the innings was delicately poised. This duo provided plenty of excitement adding a further 36 and totalling 167.

In reply, Tas exhibited similar restraint in the first two thirds of their innings and came to the last four overs on an almost identical score. With 141 on the board and their two power plays to finish their prospects looked positive before three wickets derailed their charge to the winning line. Topcroft bowled more tightly than Tas and this was largely the difference between the two sides.

Topcroft 167 for 9 (33 points). Hethersett & Tas Valley 143 for 7 (13 points).

Old Buckenham v Gt.Melton

Old Buckenham were the only team to have already played a game this season and it showed. Their first two pairs batted sensibly losing just two wickets. The result of this was an ideal platform for their buccaneering final duo who didn't disappoint, scampering runs that others would have chosen to ignore. A huge score looked likely before Melton removed some of the gloss off Old Buckenham's innings with power play wickets on their two final balls.

Melton bowled extremely well, a feature of their indoor game over the last few seasons. It is the bat with which they have often struggled. This was a young team who were almost all new to the indoor game and there is much to learn. They were really never in the hunt as wickets tumbled, some self-inflicted and some to Bucks' assured performance with the ball. But they possess huge potential and, like Rocklands last week, will have learned much from this first outing.

Old Buckenham 145 for 6. (36 points). Gt.Melton 113 for 12. (7 points).



Round 1 – Monday November 13th

Rocklands v Acle

Last year's title winners Rocklands, fielding a completely new side, took on U12 orphans Acle in the first fixture of the seventh season.

Acle though, having played in the short lived U12 competition last year, were the more experienced and with their accurate attack soon had the new boys in trouble. A clutch of wickets fell in the first four overs from which Rocklands never recovered. Wickets tumbled throughout the innings although the second pair were the most resilient.

No heroics were required by Acle as they chased a negative total but Rocklands bowled steadily taking six wickets. This was not enough to put their opponents under any real pressure but must offer some encouragement for their campaign and hopefully they will have enjoyed the experience and learned much from this rather bruising first encounter.

Rocklands 58 for 12 (6 points). Acle 139 for 6 (35 points).

Gt.Ellingham v Old Buckenham

Ellingham adopted an aggressive approach from the off in their innings with a tip and run strategy. But Old Buckenham's tight fielding and Ellingham's recurrent hesitation led to an avalanche of wickets early on. Regrouping from this initial shock, they abandoned the tactic and, without losing any further wickets, rebuilt their innings with the second pair adding 32 and the third 14 ending on 135.

Bucks looked pretty comfortable early on chasing this modest total but Ellingham bowled and fielded with increasing confidence as the second pair lost seven wickets, several of their own making with often injudicious shot selection. With fifty still needed the final pair had plenty to do but their tip and run strategy prevailed where Ellingham's had failed. The final two overs, both power plays, saw them still 38 short of the target but they displayed great maturity

with some excellent shots and fearless running. A difficult chance behind the stumps off the fourth ball of the last over could have derailed their efforts but they held their nerve to scrape home by three runs in a pulsating game.

Gt.Ellingham 135 for 6 (13 points). Old Buckenham 138 for 10 (29 points).