



# zipleague



## 2018-2019 Match Reports

### Round 13 March 25th - Winner's League 3/3

#### Hethersett & Tas Valley U14 v Topcroft

Tas turned in one of their best performances of the competition to put themselves firmly in the frame for the title should Old Buckenham slip up later in the evening. Even with Topcroft's impressive bowling performance, their soundest this season, the runs flowed freely with 40 accumulated after eight overs. But we have been here before when a decent start has failed to materialise into a challenging target. Not tonight though. The final pair tallied a further 38 to set Topcroft 179 to win.

This was an unlikely target for Topcroft to chase down and they quickly lost early wickets with almost all chance of a victory snuffed out by the end of the eighth over. With nearly seventy still required from their final pair they threw caution to the wind providing an exhilarating and entertaining epilogue to their season; scoring 52 runs but unfortunately losing six wickets.

Hethersett & Tas Valley U14 178 for 3 (38 points). Topcroft 118 for 11 (4 points).

#### Old Buckenham v Ashmanagh & Barton Wanderers

Old Buckenham have yet to lose a game this season and although Wanderers restricted their first four batsman to just 15 they were unable to prevent the final pairing, as they have done so many times before, running riot and piling on the runs - showcasing just how the indoor game should be played. They looked to be heading towards the highest total of the competition before a stunning off the wall catch from the final ball of the innings curtailed this milestone.

Too many early wickets gathered by a determined Old Buckenham side scuppered Wanderers' chances of challenging the large total but they gave it their best shot. They were a little more tentative with their running than in previous games and this reticence gave the final pairing far too much to do. It was a madcap last four overs featuring runs and wickets galore that provided a fitting finale to the eighth indoor season and at last, after coming close before, an extremely well deserved first title for Old Buckenham.

Old Buckenham 175 for 3 (40 points). Ashmanagh & Barton Wanderers 108 for 13 (3 points).

Final results

1st Old Buckenham

2nd Hethersett & Tas Valley U14

3rd Ashmanagh & Barton Wanderers

4th Topcroft

### Round 12 March 18th - Winner's League 2/3

#### Ashmanagh & Barton Wanderers v Topcroft

Wanderers have mastered this format of the game quickly and demonstrated, in their first season, how close they are to the finished article. Again they turned in an accomplished performance with the bat against Topcroft who largely bowled and fielded well but were unable to prevent Wanderers posting a large total.

Losing early wickets, Topcroft struggled to get back in the game and even with a rallying innings from the second pair there was too much left for their tail enders to do. They added 44 off their four overs but the task was too much even for this talented brace of cricketers.

A & Barton Wanderers 186 for 4 (33 points). Topcroft 154 for 5 (9 points).

### **Hethersett & Tas Valley U14 v Old Buckenham**

A win for Tas against an unbeaten Old Buckenham side would almost certainly have brought them the title in this eighth season and their first two pairs provided an excellent start with 39 on the board after eight overs. With their strongest duo and two power plays for Tas to come a huge total beckoned but some outstanding death bowling by Old Buckenham conceded only 16 runs off these last four overs leaving a target well within Bucks' reach.

Tas started strongly bagging three wickets and restricting Bucks' first four batsmen to just 14. 42 still required from the last two batters sounds a lot but they have delivered this on many occasions before and did so again. The runs flowed freely but unfortunately for Tas the wickets didn't and this final pair again provided a masterclass of the indoor game adding 53, and it could have been more, to win by 12 runs.

Tas Valley U14 155 for 3 (8 points). Old Buckenham 167 for 3 (29 points).

The competition is now finely poised with three of the four teams still in with a chance of lifting the Derek Barnard Trophy.

### **Round 11 March 11th - Winner's League 1/3**

#### **Old Buckenham v Topcroft**

This first fixture of the winners' league proved to be a contest of the final pairs from both sides as after eight overs Old Buckenham had added only a net two (102) while Topcroft were on minus four (96). Only a single run was attempted during this time; by Topcroft who lost a wicket in the process.

Both teams had opted for the final two overs as their power plays and while Old Buckenham's buccaneering and ever reliable duo gathered 50 from these, losing only a single wicket, Topcroft, chasing the game, lost three to peg their final pair's contribution to 37.

Old Buckenham 152 for 6 (32 points). Topcroft 133 for 7 (9 points).

#### **Ashmanough & Barton Wanderers v Hethersett & Tas Valley U14**

Wanderers' innings was a much more balanced affair and even with Tas' outstanding fielding performance, particularly catching, all three pairs made valuable contributions to the final total. With two overs to go this looked a little light but a flourish off the final twelve balls added an extra 30 to see them post a decent target of 155.

Tas' batters made measured progress towards their goal and try as they might, Wanderers were unable to dislodge them and it was the end of the sixth over before the first wicket fell. Even so, Tas' last pair required only 24 to seal the win and at this stage it looked an easy ask. But two wickets from the final two overs, both power plays, left them still ten adrift with four balls remaining. It was a nervy finish before Tas gathered the ten required and batted out the final ball to win the game by a single run.

Ashmanough & Barton Wanderers 154 for 6 (9 points). Tas Valley U14 155 for 4 (31 points).

### **Round 10 March 4th**

#### **Hethersett & Tas Valley U11 v Gt. Ellingham**

Wickets weighed heavily on Tas in the penultimate game of group two and despite the exuberant and highly productive start by their first pair, 5 wickets, including three in the fourth over power play seemed to knock the stuffing out of their successors. But make no mistake, Ellingham were great value in this contest, bowling with

renewed vigour, blocking the runs and, best of all hanging on to their catches. They were handsomely rewarded with twelve wickets overall.

Small, or in this case non-existent, targets can prove difficult but Ellingham demonstrated a real sense of purpose in their reply, minimising the risks and choosing their running opportunities carefully. Tas never gave up as the power play overs can always turn the match around but in the end Ellingham deserved this solid result in their final game.

Hethersett & Tas Valley U11 87 for 12 (5 points). Gt.Ellingham 125 for 5 (34 points).

### **Ashmanaugh & Barton Wanderers v Topcroft**

Some teams completely new to the competition can struggle to adapt to the needs of the indoor game but not The Wanderers who reached this point unbeaten against a Topcroft side who had already qualified for the winners' league. Allegedly understrength, Ashmanaugh turned in a terrific performance with the bat, losing only a single wicket against Topcroft's probing attack. This was an impressive display with all pairs making valuable contributions, the second particularly outstanding adding an unbeaten 44 off their four overs.

This was a huge total to chase and without the need to win or gather any points at all Topcroft's reply lacked its usual urgency. Wanderers made life very difficult though, collecting six wickets from the first two pairs and while the tail-enders gave it their very best shot, there was far too much to do and the game had gone.

The result means that Ashmanaugh are group winners with Topcroft runners up as the competition moves towards the winners' league starting next week.

Ashmanaugh & Barton Wanderers 171 for 1 (35 points). Topcroft 111 for 8 (2 points).

## **Round 9 February 25th**

### **Garboldisham v Old Buckenham**

Old Buckenham booked their place in the winners' league, joining Hethersett & Tas Valley, as they finished the group stage unbeaten with a final victory against a much improved Garboldisham side.

But OB didn't have it all their own way as Garby racked up their highest score of the competition with the second pair particularly effective; contributing 46 to the final total of 155.

Replying, Old Buckenham's initial quartet, despite Garboldisham's best efforts, would not be dislodged and added a valuable 31 without loss. Needing just a further 25, their go-to final pair quickly collected the necessary total to win the game by 22 runs.

Garboldisham 155 for 7 (7 points). Old Buckenham 177 for 2 (34 points).

### **Rocklands v Acle**

In what was effectively a third place playoff, Rocklands' first four batsmen endured a pretty torrid time of it as the wickets tumbled with neither pair able to make a positive contribution. Acle fielded staunchly and it was left to Rocklands' final two to add a level of respectability to the score with a dashing 48 runs; a total which at least gave them something to bowl at.

Acle also found the going tricky but lost fewer wickets than Rocklands. In the end this was to prove the difference between the two sides. There was a great atmosphere in the hall with generous support from the assembled

spectators as Acle's tail-enders, batting with great composure, steered their side to third place in the final game of group one.

Rocklands 145 for 7 (7 points). Acle 166 for 3 (33 points).

## **Round 8 February 11th**

### **Ashmanaugh & Barton Wanderers v Hethersett & Tas Valley U11**

Wanderers have adapted quickly to the new format and again turned in an impressive performance against Tas Valley's young U11 team. There were improvements all round in evidence and while Wanderers prospered with the bat, Tas upped their game fielding and bowling with considerably more consistency.

After early setbacks to their first pair, Wanderers rarely looked back, their second duo delivering an almost perfect 41 runs from their four overs before the tail enders added a further 38. Tas bowled well at the death restricting Wanderers to just twelve off their two power plays and claiming two wickets but their final total was the joint highest of the season.

Undaunted by the huge target, Tas batted and ran for all they were but frequent wickets constantly nibbled at their progress. But this was a confident performance against a well organised and motivated team and their best is still ahead of them.

Ashmanaugh & Barton Wanderers 185 for 5 (40 points).

Hethersett & Tas Valley 117 for 12 (6 points).

### **Gt.Melton v Gt.Ellingham**

Melton's innings in the second fixture embraced a more sedate approach to the game and their total of 123 at the halfway mark achieved more by careful protection of their wickets than attention to run scoring. Ellingham were more consistent with the ball in this game and runs did not come easily. They captured four wickets from Melton's final pair limiting them to a fairly modest total of 140.

Bowling wise, there was little to choose between the two teams but Melton were more organised with their running. Ellingham lost too many wickets to run outs and this weighed heavily on their ability to challenge the total. In the end it proved a rather easier than expected win for Melton.

Gt.Melton 140 for 4 (34 points). Gt.Ellingham 100 for 10 (4 points).

## **Round 7 Monday February 4th**

### **Acle v Old Buckenham**

Old Buckenham mustering only four players offered little advantage for opponents Acle who sportingly donated substitute fielders to enable the game to go ahead. Acle could choose who bowled and batted again but this choice was little help simply being between the good and the very good.

But Acle made a smashing start, adding 42 off their first four overs; unfortunately the zenith of their innings as regular wickets fell and the score drifted downwards to finish only another one run to the good.

Old Buckenham's finest pair again made hay adding an impressive 56 helping the team to post 168. Acle really deserved more from the game and their sporting gesture was not lost on the supportive crowd.

Acle 143 for 8 (7 points). Old Buckenham 168 for 3 (34 points).

### **Hethersett & Tas Valley U14 v Garboldisham**

The second game became something of a demolition job played in an uncannily silent hall. Tas Valley batting first were never really under any pressure from this improving Garboldisham side. There was a measure of success for

the bowlers and the fielding was considerably improved on their last outings but Tas were just too good for them setting an unlikely target of 190.

A flurry of wickets early in the winnings buried any chance of Garby seriously challenging the huge total and 108 was the best it got. But there were green shoots in evidence here with a more aggressive approach to their running and many of this young team with more experience could have a bright future here.

Hethersett & Tas Valley 189 for 3 (40 points). Garboldisham 93 for 12 (3 points).

### **Round 6 Monday January 28th**

#### **Ashmanough & Barton Wanderers v Gt.Melton**

Having impressed on their first outing, Wanderers started positively against a robust Melton attack and helped by dropped catches they had 39 on the board after eight overs before being pegged back in the final session to finish on 138. Wanderers batted confidently, scoring plenty but losing wickets too, most of them run outs, and there was potential with more judicious running to post another twenty at least.

There was no expectation that Melton would be troubled in chasing down such a small total but Wanderers fielded stunningly and it wasn't until the final four overs, containing both power plays, that Melton approached the winning line. But a wicket in the tenth had scores level before another in the first power play left five still required from the last six balls; a superb final over yielding only four runs to produce the first ever tied match in the zipleague competition. What a game – well done everyone.

Ashmanough & Barton Wanderers 138 for 7 (16 points). Gt.Melton 138 for 3 (20 points).

#### **Topcroft v Hethersett & Tas Valley U11**

The second game was a calmer affair as Tas grappled with their line and Topcroft were grateful to accept the extras without needing to chase down singles. There was some well-earned success for the bowlers but they were unable to prevent Topcroft from posting a substantial total.

Tas batted more confidently than in their first game with the second pair particularly assertive; some big hitting keeping the board moving and for a while there was the outside chance of another upset. But regular wickets stifled their ambition and a return of 150 was an excellent performance against the current title holders.

Topcroft 185 for 3 (36 points). Hethersett & Tas Valley U11 150 for 8 (8 points).

### **Round 5 Monday January 21st**

#### **Acle v Hethersett & Tas Valley**

A young Acle side featuring three debutants turned in a gutsy performance against their older and more experienced opponents. This was never a game they were going to win but they refused to be intimidated with their second pair performing particularly well. They are to be commended for finishing the innings twenty runs to the good against a well organised Tas attack.

Tas were on particularly solid form with the bat and had already overhauled the target by the third over. This could have been a truly monstrous score but Acle bowled tightly and fielded with real gusto limiting Tas in the end to 180.

Acle 120 for 9 (5 points). Hethersett & Tas Valley 180 for 3 (37 points).

#### **Rocklands v Old Buckenham**

Losing early wickets Rocklands struggled to make any real headway in the first part of their innings as Old Buckenham pinned them down with some positive bowling and fielding. The second six overs saw an improvement in their fortunes but the power plays rather disappointed and their final total of 155 looked a trifle fragile.

Old Buckenham often rely on their final sparkling pair to deliver the goods but tonight the first four, boosted by Rocklands rather erratic attack littered with extras, provided a perfect platform for these two taking the total to within twenty of the target for the loss of only one wicket. Sometimes this last pair, having too much to do have imploded, but not tonight as they added an almost faultless fifty runs to remain the only unbeaten side in group one.

Rocklands 155 for 6 (6 points). Old Buckenham 184 for 1 (34 points).

#### **Round 4 Monday December 10th**

##### **Gt.Melton v Topcroft**

Melton chose to bat first and made heavy going of it in the first four overs against some polished Topcroft bowling. But an excellent effort from the second pair totalling 42 runs without loss restored Melton's momentum and a large total now looked possible. But wickets in the ninth, tenth and eleventh overs halted Melton's charge while the two power plays proved rather lacklustre, delivering only a further 14 runs. Still 166 was a good score and enough to win most games.

Topcroft made a rather better start to their innings adding 27 without loss by the halfway mark but wickets in the seventh and eighth left them requiring 41 from the final pair and the game delicately balanced. With another wicket this became 42 from 3 and then 34 from 2. Both these last two overs, both power plays, would decide the result and while Topcroft rode their luck sprinting between the wickets, the ball would just not stick in the hands for Melton, as Topcroft scored 36 from these final twelve balls, the result only decided on the final delivery, to win the game by 3 runs.

Gt.Melton 166 for 5 (9 points). Topcroft 169 for 3 (31 points).

##### **Gt.Ellingham v Ashmanagh & Barton Wanderers**

Ellingham are always a hugely entertaining team to watch. And tonight was no different with their innings comprising a tip and run policy blended with frequent run outs. Still their raw enthusiasm and willingness to run on almost anything at least compensated for these wickets. Ashmanagh and Barton Wanderers playing their first game in the competition showed real maturity in this first appearance bagging seven wickets and restricting Ellingham to 150.

With Ashmanagh losing four wickets early on, a rout looked possible but their second pair batted solidly taking advantage of the butter fingers that had similarly afflicted Melton in the first game and adding 37 to take them within ten runs of the target. Just two shy of a win, the eleventh over power play would be crucial. With runs scored and a wicket taken Ashmanagh just needed to bat out the final over which they accomplished comfortably, adding a further two singles for good measure to win the game by seven runs.

Gt.Ellingham 150 for 7 (11 points). Ashmanagh & Barton Wanderers 157 for 6 (32 points).

And so two games both decided on the final ball...if only it could always be like this. Well done everyone. Happy Christmas and see you in the New Year.

#### **Round 3 Monday November 19th**

##### **Rocklands v Hethersett & Tas Valley U14**

This was a slow start to Rocklands' innings with their only runs in the first eight overs coming from extras or side wall singles. This, combined with the loss of four wickets, meant that the scoreboard made little positive progress. But as in their first game they were rescued by the efforts of the final pair who added a robust 28 runs to set Tas a target of 136.

Rocklands had rather more luck with the ball though and Tas had to work hard for their runs against a cohesive attack and polished bowling performance. Even after eight overs and five wickets Tas had still not overhauled Rocklands' modest total and it was left to the final pairing to drive the bus home with some quick running and lusty hitting.

Rocklands 135 for 7 (9 points). Hethersett & Tas Valley U14 181 for 6 (35 points).

### **Garboldisham v Acle**

After an extremely cautious start, a solid eighth over power play added 26 runs to provide Garboldisham's final pairing with a decent platform on which to build a generous total. Unfortunately though, there was a complete lack of communication between these last two who lost six wickets largely unnecessarily through run outs. Even with Acle gifting them a final twelve ball over that comprised six extras the eventual tally was a meagre 135.

Acle didn't hold back as their first pair showed how the game should be played with quick running and straight hitting. This was a whirlwind start to the innings with Garboldisham's three wickets barely denting the rapid progress from these two. There was really little left for the rest of the team to do other than play sensibly. Even though they lost wickets they never wasted an opportunity to run the singles and this made all the difference; the second pair adding 26 and the last two another 18 as Acle posted the second highest score of the season.

Garboldisham 135 for 8 (10 points). Acle 179 for 7 (35 points).

## **Round 2 Monday November 12th**

### **Gt.Ellingham v Topcroft**

It was heartening to see that, even with an almost completely new team, Gt.Ellingham still retained the wonderful buccaneering spirit in which they play the game. There was no stopping them in this first fixture of group two with almost every stroke worthy of a run single. But some over optimistic calling teamed with Topcroft's high standard of fielding resulted in runs galore but unfortunately plenty of wickets too. They weren't all run outs though as Topcroft bagged eleven wickets from the first two pairs in a polished performance before a level of redemption came from the final pair who managed to add a spirited 30 to at least leave themselves something to bowl at.

Buoyed by their late resurgence with the bat, Ellingham set about making life difficult for Topcroft who rather toiled towards the modest target. Five wickets from the first eight overs left the final pair with still plenty to do and although there was a feeling that Topcroft should have put the game to bed long ago, they still required 10 from the final over, a power play. Nerves were a-jangling as they just managed to scrape through; with two wides at the end flattering their margin of victory.

Gt.Ellingham 136 for 13 (7 points). Topcroft 147 for 4 (37 points).

### **Hethersett & Tas Valley U11 v Gt.Melton**

This was always going to be a difficult game for Tas' U11 side in their first taste of indoor cricket against an experienced Melton side, many of whom had played the game before.

Melton have always been a strong bowling side in this competition and Tas not surprisingly found the going hard work against their sturdy attack. But Tas were prepared to look for the runs in an energetic innings which, like Ellingham before them, brought a combination of copious runs alongside plentiful wickets.

An early two wickets from Tas curtailed Melton's run rate but from the second pair onwards, the total mounted steadily. There were to be another two wickets for Tas including one off the final ball of the game as they stuck to their task with several outstanding bowling performances from this young team. They still have much to learn but this was a determined debut bristling with potential.

Hethersett & Tas Valley U11 106 for 9 (4 points). Gt.Melton 167 for 4 (35 points).

## **zipleague 2018-19 match reports. Round 1 Monday November 5th**

### **Rocklands v Garboldisham**

New season, new venue and it was Rocklands, 2016-17 champions, who batted first against a Garboldisham team returning to the competition after a year's absence. Rocklands' young team had matured since last season, making a confident start to their innings with the first two pairs both adding positive contributions. Garboldisham were unable to dislodge the batsmen in the first part of the game but some accurate throwing led to three run outs from direct hits before Rocklands' last two, even with the loss of two wickets, added a further 26 runs to post the first total of the year; 155.

Garboldisham were also prone to running jitters losing some rather unnecessary wickets but, even with this, they made solid progress towards their objective and with just 32 needed from the last pair they were probably still favourites at this stage. But a hat trick of wickets in the eleventh power play over turned the game around as Rocklands, in the end, ran out comfortable winners.

Rocklands 155 for 5 (34 points). Garboldisham 102 for 9 (5 points).

### **Hethersett & Tas Valley U14 v Old Buckenham**

Tas' first two pairs had a pretty torrid time of it all against by far the best attack of the evening, losing seven wickets in the first eight overs. It was down to their final pair to deliver a gutsy 49 runs and post a decent total; 145. Old Buckenham delivered only 14 extras in an impressive performance so early in the season.

But Old Buckenham rather fluffed their lines early on and the runs came agonisingly slowly; just 14 off the first eight overs. But the platform was there and the final pairing, one that entertained us all so much last season, added a further 27 off the penultimate two overs before the final power plays. They too had matured over the year, skilfully managing the run rate and, although there was a late run out offering Tas a glimmer of hope, it was not to be as these two did just what was required and nothing more.

Hethersett & Tas Valley U14 145 for 7 (8 points). Old Buckenham 153 for 3 (32 points).