



# zipleague



## Match Reports 2014-2015 Season

### Round 1 Monday November 3rd 2014

#### Gt.Ellingham v Cringleford Lodge

Ellingham prospered in the first game of the competition with a tip and run strategy against zipleague debutants Cringleford Lodge. Not quite sure what had hit them with the score mounting at an alarming rate, Lodge also further compounded their agony with some rather wayward bowling, gifting rampant Ellingham rather too many extras as their first pair added 36, second 37 and final two 39, losing only three wickets in the innings, demonstrating the depth and consistency of the team.

Lodge's response, unsurprisingly with their lack of experience in this new format, was rather over cautious as they struggled to get the board moving. Unnecessary run outs occasioned by their hesitation and Ellingham's alert fielding also took their toll as they finished on 104 for 9, almost certainly learning much from this rather bruising encounter.

Gt.Ellingham won by 108 runs. Gt.Ellingham 40 points, Cringleford Lodge 3 points.

#### Hethersett & Tas Valley v Mulbarton

Not quite as hyperactive as their predecessors, Tas produced a solid start to their campaign against a very young Mulbarton side who largely bowled and fielded rather well despite a few chances going begging. Tas had to work a lot harder for their runs than Ellingham had in the previous game as Mulbarton's six wicket tally pegged them back to 176.

Although pretty solid in reply, Mulbarton, like Cringleford before them, were not bold enough with their running and with Tas fielding well and particularly mean with their donation of extras, bowling only three in the whole innings, they found it difficult to generate any real momentum and finished well short on 115 for 6.

Tas Valley won by 61 runs. Hethersett & Tas Valley 32 points. Mulbarton 7 points.

### Round 2 Monday November 10th 2014

#### Old Buckenham v Topcroft

Old Buckenham were on the back foot right from the beginning and in this, their first fixture of the season, were largely the architects of their own downfall. Topcroft bowled and fielded with their characteristic application but it was Old Bucks themselves who helped them along gifting several wickets with rash high shots and ill-judged runs. None of the three pairs were really able to assert themselves managing only a net five, four and four between them - ending on 113 for ten.

This trifling total should not have presented any problems for Topcroft and they were eight runs ahead by the third over before torpidity swept over them and they became becalmed as Bucks reigned them in. The second pair managed only five scoring shots in their twenty four balls and by the eighth over the scores were level again. The final duo set about settling the game but a powerplay wicket in the eleventh put them just one ahead and a real upset looked possible before this last two marshalled the team home in a decidedly edgy thirteen run victory.

Topcroft won by 13 runs. Topcroft 32 points. Old Buckenham 5 points.

#### Rocklands v Ashwellthorpe Nomads

Rocklands looked convincing if a little rusty as they opened their account against newbies Ashwellthorpe Nomads and, batting first, they knocked the ball around keeping the board ticking over. The Nomads bowled and fielded well though and kept a pretty tight lid on Rocklands batting ambitions, taking five wickets and restricting them to 136.

If Nomads had batted as well as they bowled they would have undoubtedly won the game but while they scored plenty of runs, they also lost plenty of wickets, many unnecessarily, and were never able to generate any momentum at all. In fairness Rocklands performed far better with the ball than they had with the bat, taking 12 wickets, and there were some excellent catches too, but in the end they were just too good. Nonetheless, the Nomads showed plenty of potential and if only they can sort out their running and keep the ball on the ground...who knows.

Rocklands won by 45 runs. Rocklands 35 points. Ashwellthorpe Nomads 5 points.

### **Round 3 Monday November 17th 2014**

#### **Mulbarton v Gt.Melton**

This was a disappointing start to the evening with Mulbarton, for reasons that were not entirely clear, only able to muster four players. Gt.Melton, current title holders, were a little rusty themselves and a better team might have taken advantage of this, but with Mulbarton's shortage, there was little option other than to make the game as fair as possible to ensure an equitable distribution of points should they count at the end of the preliminary rounds. Mulbarton batted just two pairs, losing 8 wickets and scoring 78 - for the purpose of the result this was adjusted to 79 for 12

Melton asserted themselves from the beginning of their innings with their first pair adding 62, 42 off their powerplay. The momentum drifted a little after this as Mulbarton's lonely four wheeled away, but with absolutely no need to recklessly chase runs Melton finished on a solid 210 for 5. All credit to Mulbarton's four players who kept going, without complaint, to the bitter end.

Gt.Melton won by 131 runs. Gt.Melton 43 points. Mulbarton 5 points.

#### **Hethersett & Tas Valley v Cringleford Lodge**

With The League still looking for its first close game, Cringleford Lodge turned in a greatly improved showing with the ball against a solid and experienced Tas side. Two powerplay wickets backed up with sharp fielding and good bowling by Lodge left Tas only 31 to the good after eight overs. But Tas' last pair got away, losing only one wicket and adding 45 to end on a much more respectable 176 for 5.

Lodge's first pair built a decent platform adding 20 by the third over before losing three wickets in their powerplay. After this the innings collapsed as wickets tumbled and the scoreboard headed rapidly downwards. Tas looked really sharp in the field and punished any mistakes and Lodge must have been relieved to end their innings having lost, like Mulbarton before them, 12 wickets.

This was a much more polished performance by Cringleford with the result not entirely representative of their efforts.

Hethersett & Tas Valley won by 115 runs. Tas Valley 39 points. Cringleford 5 points.

### **Round 4 Monday November 24th 2014**

#### **Rocklands v Garboldisham**

Rocklands set the tone of what was to be a less than inspirational evening as they abandoned their entertaining approach to the game and, eschewing the opportunity of any actual runs, seemed content to knock the ball about for the occasional single. As Garboldisham bowled and fielded with real commitment, donating only four extras and taking five wickets, this proved a flawed tactic as the score bounced back and forth; the final total of 105 poor reward for their efforts.

Teams often struggle chasing tiny totals but not Garboldisham whose opening female duo added 17, an achievement replicated by the following two pairs. Rocklands did their best but were unable to winkle anyone out and Garby's innings ended without losing a single wicket and 58 runs to the good, amply justifying their fourth seeding.

Garboldisham won by 58 runs. Garboldisham 31 points. Rocklands 0 points.

### **Ashwellthorpe Nomads v Old Buckenham**

The Nomads were looking to improve on their last performance when they lost 12 wickets and finished in negative territory. And it was an improvement although, like Rocklands before them, they were not aggressive enough with their running, passing up many opportunities to add to their score. Old Buckenham made life difficult though and regular wickets meant the Nomads were never able to move forward, finishing on 106.

Old Buckenham were not interested in taking any risks chasing this tiny total and only the second pair roused the spectators from their near somnolent state when there was a chink of light for Nomads. It could have all gone horribly wrong with Bucks still having to negotiate two power plays in their last four overs but the two batsmen just dotted these out for their first win of the season by 17 runs.

Old Buckenham won by 17 runs. Old Buckenham 31 points. Nomads 3 points.

### **Round 5 Monday December 1st 2014**

#### **Mulbarton v Cringleford Lodge**

The hors d'oeuvre on this evening's menu featured this game between two teams looking for their first win in the tournament. Mulbarton have fielded a predominantly very young team in this competition and they have, despite their plucky efforts, struggled to put runs on the board - and so it was tonight against a fast improving Cringleford Lodge team. But take nothing away from them, there was a real improvement here as a good all round effort saw them finish on 131 for six wickets, their best effort so far.

A total like this has won many games but Lodge's first pair turned in an absolutely brilliant performance chalking up a league record of 88 runs off their 24 balls to put the result beyond doubt. It was hard to believe that this was only their third game and having blown away Mulbarton the remaining two pairs still made positive progress, but in a more sedate manner, as Lodge finished on 212 to run out winners by 81 runs.

Cringleford Lodge won by 81 runs. Lodge 37 points. Mulbarton 5 points.

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

The entrée of the night was a tasty clash between Gt.Ellingham and Gt.Melton. Ellingham started positively, their first pair adding 33 with their now characteristic speed between the wickets and this provided an excellent platform for their innings. But Melton slowed their progress in the second four overs as, despite losing just a single wicket, Ellingham managed to add only 15 runs. The last pair also found life difficult, losing three wickets, two rather unnecessarily, as Melton turned the screw, restricting them in the end to 160, probably 20 short of what was required.

Melton matched Ellingham almost ball by ball in their reply until the end of the eighth over when they were 17 shy of their target and their last pair batted sensibly working their way methodically towards the winning line. Ellingham's last hope was the tenth over powerplay but once Melton had safely negotiated this without loss to level the scores, both batsmen played out the final two overs without incident to win by 13 runs.

This was, without doubt, the best game of the league so far but, as is often the case, Melton's consistency and discipline was just enough to shade it on the night.

Gt.Melton won by 13 runs. Gt.Melton 33 points. Gt.Ellingham 9 points.

### **Round 6 Monday December 8th 2014**

## **Rocklands v Old Buckenham**

Two full teams in the hall ready to start at 6.20; must be some kind of record and the relaxed atmosphere might have had something to do with Rocklands' rather torpid start, in which most of their runs for the first two pairs came courtesy of Old Buckenham's bowlers through extras; 20 of them. Rocklands displayed little urgency with their batting and by the start of the final pair totalled 129, having relied on said extras and the occasional side wall single to move the board upwards, achieving only one run single in their whole innings. The two power player overs offered hero or zero but here honours were even; the few scoring shots negated by two wickets, one a brilliant caught and bowled as Rocklands ended on 136.

Old Buckenham utilised their policy from previous games of sauntering, rather than sprinting, towards the target. Rocklands were equally generous with the extras but did grab three wickets in the first eight overs leaving Bucks just 27 shy of the winning line as the final pair strode to the wicket. In a thrilling climax to the game, Rocklands took wickets at crucial times and by the start of the final over, a power play, Old Buckenham still needed 33 to win – game over, surely? It certainly looked done and dusted as Old. Bucks lost a wicket on the first ball; 43 to win off five. 12 off the second ball, 6 off the third, 4 off the fourth, and then a wide (bowled again), two run singles off the wall – 10, and seven needed off the last ball to win – but six scored. And so it was, the very first tie of the competition – what a finish.

Match tied. Rocklands 20 points. Old Buckenham 17 points.

## **Garboldisham v Topcroft**

It was expecting a lot for this second game to live up to the excitement of the first contest but Topcroft turned in an exceptional performance with the ball, restricting Garboldisham's scoring with tight fielding snuffing out many opportunities for run singles. The final pair added only a net six off their two power play overs before giving their team a glimmer of hope in finishing on 139.

This was only a modest total to chase well within Topcroft's means but this was not to be their night. Garboldisham bowled and fielded just as well and frequent wickets, three each for the first two pairs meant that Topcroft never gained any real impetus as the final pair started still requiring 46 to win. Although old Buckenham had scored this off five balls, there was to be no repeat here as these last two also lost three wickets, two in the power play, finishing well short on 97.

Garboldisham (32 points) beat Topcroft (7 points) by 42 runs.

## **Round 7 Monday January 12th 2015**

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

After the Christmas break the top three in Group A were all in action playing for a place in the last four with the first game between the two seeded teams, Gt.Melton and Hethersett & Tas Valley.

Batting first, Tas's opening pair made a solid start with only a wicket off their final ball taking a little of the gloss off their solid 23. The next two consolidated this platform adding a further 13 runs without loss. With the final two overs containing both Tas' power plays, a big score looked a real possibility but, just when they needed it, Melton's accurate bowling attack made substantial inroads into this pair as they lost four wickets to add only a net single to the score and end on 137.

Melton's reply got off to an uncharacteristically disastrous start as Tas matched their prowess with the ball taking four wickets off the first pair. The carnage continued in the next four overs as, losing two power play wickets, Melton slumped to 82. With the last pair still needing 56, Tas kept their nerve, bagging another four wickets to take their match haul to 12 with a top class performance, underlining their number three seeding.

Hethersett & Tas Valley (35 points) beat Gt.Melton (5 points) by 59 runs.

### **Gt.Ellingham v Mulbarton**

Ellingham would have been disappointed to see the result of the first game as they must have hoped for a Melton win so big points were crucial in their game against Mulbarton's very young side. With Ellingham it's usually feast or famine and tonight it was feast as, even against a much improved Mulbarton attack, they helped themselves to a bucket load of runs. With 54 for the first pair, 44 for the second and 29 for the third, their final score of 227 was the second highest ever total in the competition.

Mulbarton's plucky youngsters have made great strides during the competition but in this, their final game, they came up against a rampant side and were suitably demolished. Losing 16 wickets and ending on 54 contributed to Ellingham's huge 48 points total but even so they will almost certainly have to win their final game against Tas to have any hope of qualifying for the super 4s.

Gt.Ellingham (48 points) beat Mulbarton (3 points) by 173 runs.

### **Round 8 Monday January 19th 2015**

#### **Garboldisham v Ashwellthorpe Nomads**

A rather late and slightly flustered Garboldisham still managed to make a decent start against improving Nomads and their first pair's 29 was a positive beginning to the innings. All this changed in the second four overs as, suddenly unable to keep the ball on the ground, Garboldisham lost seven wickets, almost all to catches gratefully received by this sharp fielding side who took eleven wickets in all. The final two repaired some of the damage but a final score of 124 was well below Garboldisham's capabilities.

Could The Nomads provide an upset in this group and derail their opponent's chances of reaching the final four? Well sadly the answer was an emphatic no as Garby took advantage of Nomads' tendency to continually sweep across the line precipitating an avalanche of wickets with at one stage dismissals off four consecutive balls, three of them powerplay. If The Nomads had batted as well as they bowled and fielded, this would have been a very close game but in the end it was a rather one sided affair as their innings closed on 60.

Garboldisham (32 points) beat Ashwellthorpe Nomads (11 points) by 64 runs.

#### **Topcroft v Rocklands**

Topcroft definitely needed a win if they were to reboot their campaign but they rather struggled from the off against an organised Rockland's side who pinned their first batsmen down, taking two wickets, and restricting them to a meagre three. The next two did better adding another 26 and the final duo did well to avoid losing any wickets, taking the final score to 145.

And so it was game on as Rocklands edged towards the total; 16 for the first two but only 5 for the second which considering Topcroft were rather wayward with the ball, delivering 24 in extras, was a disappointing haul off eight overs. With 25 needed off the last four the two power plays were to be key. Choosing to take both of these late in the game is always a risky strategy, piling more pressure on the batting side. The first six balls added just three but then - three power play wickets scuppered any chance of a Rocklands win as Topcroft ran out victors by 15 runs.

This was a great game between evenly matched sides played with great enthusiasm. As the competition moves towards the final stages, we thank Rocklands for the spirit and sportsmanship they always bring to the game.

Topcroft (31 points) beat Rocklands (7 points) by 15 runs.

### **Round 9 Monday January 26th 2015**

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

The winner of this game would most likely progress to the super 4s and while Tas were one of only two unbeaten sides in the competition, the importance of this game seemed to paralyse their batting and they exhibited none of the free flowing stroke play or confidence that had carried them to the top of the table.

Ellingham needed not just a win but a good win to guarantee their further passage in the tournament and were ruthless in this objective, bowling and fielding with total assurance and for the first time this year looking like real championship material. Tas were unable to generate any real momentum as the wickets fell and the runs dried up. In the end Ellingham took only eight wickets but it felt like a lot more as Tas staggered to 108.

With their conviction bubbling, Ellingham were never really troubled with the bat although, to their credit, Tas kept up the pressure, but with such a low score to defend the outcome was inevitable from the start. With each pair adding about twenty, a final score of 157 brought them another 5 points to make a total of 33 for the game guaranteeing them a place in the super 4s.

Gt.Ellingham (33 points) beat Hethersett & Tas Valley (5 points) by 49 runs.

### **Cringleford Lodge v Gt.Melton**

After this first result another team needing to win big was Gt.Melton - now 30 points adrift from second placed Tas. Title holders Melton have failed so far to really sparkle but there was no doubting their commitment and purpose tonight as they set about demolishing hapless Cringleford. There was to be no repeat of Lodge's heroic 88 first wicket stand in their last game. Instead the score went in only one direction – down. Their quick running which had worked so effectively before was punished by ruthless fielding aided by a certain amount of indecision on their part. Melton's thirteen wicket tally had already carried them over the line and Cringleford must have been relieved when the innings ended with them still in positive territory.

One could hardly expect any surprises here and Melton, totally freed of any pressure, proceeded to knock the ball around with clinical efficiency scoring 196 runs without loss. But despite their huge 42 points total, this was not enough to overtake Ellingham who finished group winners 7 points ahead.

Gt.Melton (42 points) beat Cringleford Lodge (0 points)

And so Gt.Ellingham and Gt.Melton become the first super 4 qualifiers of the fourth zipleague season. We say goodbye to Tas Valley with their positive and entertaining approach to the game and also to Cringleford Lodge too who have learnt much in their first season. We thank you all; players, parents and coaches for making such a valuable contribution to the competition and look forward to seeing you again next year.

### **Round 10 Monday February 2nd 2015**

#### **Topcroft v Ashwellthorpe Nomads**

Batting first, Topcroft's first pair were in fine fettle, adding 28 without loss, in a game they were expected to win easily. While the Nomads have struggled with the bat they have had rather more success when bowling and after Topcroft's positive start, the innings became somewhat becalmed and marked by a reluctance to seek out any quick singles. A power play wicket pegged them back as the major contribution to the scoreboard came from the Nomads themselves with 12 extras. Three wickets gathered off the final pair reduced Topcroft to a meagre 125 to bring them only 8 batting points from their four games. They will need far more than this if they are to mix it in the super 4s.

Ashwellthorpe, still looking for a win in their final game, sensed their chance and a sensible start saw 18 on the board, only eight short of what was required. Two power play wickets knocked them back and they started the final four overs still only needing 10. At last realising that the game might be slipping away, Topcroft galvanised themselves taking a further two wickets. Despite this, at the start of the last over the Nomads were two runs ahead only needing to dot out the balls but in a thrilling finish, Topcroft snatched three wickets off the closing six deliveries to run out winners by 7 runs.

Topcroft (29 points) beat Ashwellthorpe Nomads (5 points) by 7 runs.

#### **Garboldisham v Old Buckenham**

Garboldisham, the only unbeaten team in the competition, faced Old Buckenham in the final match of the opening rounds and turned in an impressive performance with the ball as Old Bucks were never able to settle against some good bowling and energetic fielding - their runs quickly neutralised by wickets. With just 16 on the board after eight, the final two added another sixteen to at least make a game of it as Old Buckenham's innings closed on 132.

Old Buckenham bowled and fielded tenaciously too as Garboldisham scratched around for singles. It was hard work and although they were only short of victory by five runs when the last pair strode to the crease, there was still everything to play for. Three ahead with 12 balls to go, the eleventh over power play would be crucial and despite negotiating this safely, a wicket off the first ball of the penultimate over and then a back wall single left Garboldisham five runs clear. A wicket would have produced another tie but Garby safely navigated the last four balls to squeeze out a win and keep their unbeaten record intact.

Garboldisham (29 points) beat Old Buckenham (10 points) by 5 runs.

And so two cracking games to end the preliminary rounds as Garboldisham and Topcroft join Gt.Ellingham & Gt.Melton in the super 4s winners' league. We thank both Ashwellthorpe Nomads and Old Buckenham for their positive and entertaining contribution to this year's competition.

### **Round 11 Monday February 9th 2015**

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

Group B runners up Topcroft opened the evening against group A winners Gt.Ellingham with their first pair, despite losing a couple of wickets and a rather disappointing power play, mustering a satisfactory 17. Pair two played very positively, taking the game to Ellingham and powering their way to 150, five more than their previous highest score. With such a solid platform, a big total looked on the cards but Ellingham hit back with controlled bowling and two excellent catches which eventually restricted Topcroft to 156 – at least a competitive total.

Ellingham's reply started sluggishly before exploding into life during the third over, a power play, where 30 was added. The good work was continued by the second pair who navigated their way to 159, already over the winning line. A wicket in the ninth over offered Topcroft a glimmer of hope but they were unable to exert any further pressure on Ellingham as their attack disintegrated, reflected by the 28 extras they conceded as Ellingham won by 26 runs.

Gt.Ellingham (32 points) beat Topcroft (8points) by 26 runs.

#### **Garboldisham v Gt.Melton**

With late call offs, five man Melton offered Garboldisham a real chance to rack up the runs with only five in the field. But recently Melton have always been strongest bowling and their consistent line and length and accurate offside deliveries almost completely negated the absence of a sixth fielder. Garboldisham made a promising enough start with 17 but their second two were almost completely becalmed adding only a further 6 before the final pair lost four wickets, one a power play, to end on what must have felt like a hugely disappointing 109.

As Melton had only five players, Garboldisham could choose which player would bat twice; presumably the weakest. But Melton didn't really have a weak batsman and so, despite Garboldisham's best efforts bowling and fielding, the result of the game was never in any real doubt as it meandered almost completely bereft of any excitement whatsoever towards its conclusion - a 34 run win for the title holders.

Gt.Melton (30 points) beat Garboldisham (1 point) by 34 runs.

### **Round 12 Monday February 23rd 2015**

Two nail-biting finishes wrapped up the penultimate round of fixtures in this year's competition leaving three of the four teams still with all to play for in the final games next week.

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

Batting first, Ellingham made steady progress against Melton's usual disciplined attack and it wasn't until the seventh over that the first wicket fell. This second pair finished their contribution with the score on 144 and Ellingham must have been eyeing a big total. But as is so often the case, Melton struck back and the final two, although scoring plenty of runs, lost three wickets, including a completely unnecessary run out off the last ball, to finish on a slightly frustrating 156.

Ellingham's attack looked sharp in the first four overs even though their fielding rather let them down on occasions, but three wickets for the first pair, including a power play saw Melton with only five on the board. After the calm of the first four overs, the next were chaotic as Ellingham spilled run out opportunities, bowled 14 extras and, despite a solitary wicket, Melton were now on their way only 28 short with four overs remaining. More wides boosted Melton's total to 150 by the end of the tenth and with seven needed off twelve balls surely the match was Melton's. But their batsmen remained rooted to the spot; just one came from the eleventh and with two balls to go just two were required. A dot ball and then a run out off the last delivery from a frantic bid for a single ended a pulsating game with a win for Ellingham by six runs.

Gt.Ellingham (30 points) beat Gt.Melton (9 points) by 6 runs.

### **Garboldisham v Topcroft**

After their disappointing last fixture, Garboldisham looked in much finer fettle with the bat as they navigated their way to 127 at the halfway stage. Like Ellingham before them, they had built a solid start but were unable to capitalise on this as Topcroft bowled and fielded with real determination. With 133 on the board after eight, the last pair struggled to generate any real impetus and, losing two wickets, one a power play, managed to add only a further 5 to the score as the innings closed on 138.

Like the match before them, it was the middle overs again that provided the carnage in this game. Topcroft, having made a positive start and half way to the target after four, struggled to get the ball away as Garby reined in the extras and grabbed two wickets. Still, twelve off four overs could still be tricky but Garboldisham were unable to keep up the pressure as Topcroft virtually won on extras alone; 16 off the last 24 balls to take them over the finishing line five runs to the good.

Topcroft (27 points) beat Garboldisham (7 points) by 5 runs.

### **Round 13 Monday March 2nd 2015**

With three of the four teams still in with a shout for this season's title, the final fixtures of the fourth zipleague did not disappoint. It was Gt.Ellingham's to lose but could they hold their nerve with Melton close behind?

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

Melton needed plenty of points if they were to challenge Ellingham but Topcroft made a promising start, losing only one wicket – a suicidal run out, as they added 17 to the board. The next pair remained rooted to the spot for much of their time at the crease with at one time ten balls, including a power play, passing without adding to the score. These two contributed just 9 and it was up to the final pair to post a decent target. No wickets were lost but Melton suffocated any chance of easy runs as Topcroft finished on 141, disappointing in the light of having lost only a single wicket.

In previous games Melton had tended to bolt the door once the required runs had been garnered but today, needing maximum points, they ploughed on with the first two adding 43. The second pair, the only ones to lose a wicket, topping this up with 17 more before top class batting in the last four overs saw another 40 scored ending Melton's innings on 200.

Gt.Melton (31 points) beat Topcroft (5 points) by 59 runs.

### **Gt.Ellingham v Garboldisham**

And so Ellingham knew exactly what they had to do; win or even lose but score at least nine points. And it all started so well as they knocked the ball around easily adding 20 off the first four. It got even better as their belief grew and at the start of the eighth power play over they had 143 on the board. But then disaster struck as they lost four wickets in six balls and the score plummeted downwards to 109. The innings could have completely imploded at this stage but the last pair batted sensibly and, despite losing two wickets managed to nudge the target back up to 128.

After their nervy innings, Ellingham were fired up and three wickets early in the game combined with a disappointing power play had Garboldisham quickly on the back foot and it wasn't until the sixth over that they were able to venture back into positive territory. Again Ellingham struck back taking further wickets and with four overs to go the match already looked lost for Garboldisham who were still only on 99. It was to be a nerve jangling end to the game with Ellingham still short on points and Garby's final pair staging a spirited revival as they set about chasing down the modest total – with eight balls left they were only ten short. Could it be any tighter? But the next power play ball produced a wicket and suddenly there was daylight between the teams. 20 from the last over was not impossible but a wicket off the first ball finally snuffed out Garboldisham's determined challenge and handed Ellingham a 24 run win.

Gt.Ellingham (29 points) beat Garboldisham (7 points) by 24 runs.

This was a worthy contest to finish the tournament. Congratulations go to Gt.Ellingham and also to runners up Gt.Melton. Topcroft finished third and Garboldisham fourth.

Many thanks also to players, coaches, parents and spectators for their support and contribution to the success of this fourth season.