



# zipleague



## U14 Match Reports 2015-2016 Season

### Round 1 November 2nd 2015

#### Cringleford Lodge v Hethersett & Tas Valley

After an outstanding start in which their first pair delivered a masterclass in indoor batting, adding 38 without loss, Cringleford Lodge suffered a nightmare four overs in which their second two lost seven wickets, five of them in power plays. Lodge were to a certain extent architects of their own downfall with some reckless running and inappropriate high balls, all of which cost them dearly. It was a shame as they scored plenty of runs too. The final pairing appeared, unsurprisingly, rather subdued as Lodge's promising start fizzled out as they finished on 121 for 9.

Tas have played plenty of indoor cricket and set about their task in a calm and orderly manner, overhauling Lodge's tentative haul by the fourth over. From then on it was measured progress as the second pair added 30 and the final two another 19 ending well clear on 180 for 1.

Both teams bowled and fielded well and were pretty equally matched. On another night the result could easily have been reversed but on this occasion, Tas' cohesive and organised approach gave them the perfect start to this fifth season.

Lodge 121 for 9. Tas Valley 180 for 1. Hethersett & Tas Valley won by 59 runs.

#### Topcroft v Rocklands

Both teams rather struggled in the opening of the second match; Topcroft with the bat and Rocklands with the ball. While Topcroft found life difficult getting the board moving, Rocklands helped out with a generous sprinkling of extras. There was little real momentum until the third pair finally got things moving with some great shots and quick running, only to have the gloss taken off with wickets on the last two balls. Even so, 140 for 6 was slightly below par for this experienced team.

Rocklands lost early wickets quickly, one off their first ball, and although they kept going in spirited manner, whenever they looked like threatening Topcroft's score, another wicket fell. They got to within 18 of the target in the tenth over and with the power play to come, an exciting finish did look possible. But four wickets in the last two overs snuffed out any chance of victory.

Topcroft 140 for 6. Rocklands 99 for 10. Topcroft won by 41 runs.

### Round 2 November 9th

#### Gt. Ellingham v Norwich

This proved to be a breathless start to the evening as title holders Gt. Ellingham, batting first with a completely fresh team, took on new boys Norwich.

Like a snowball running downhill, their innings gathered momentum as the overs progressed. After a relatively sedate start in which the first two added a modest 18, the second couple, after losing three wickets, upped the tempo putting on a further 23. Norwich bowled pretty well but they were let down at times by their catching with several missed chances. Ellingham's new look eight emulated the swashbuckling approach of their predecessors as their final two plundered 40 even with the loss of two power play wickets. Their final score of 181 represented the sternest of challenges for their new opponents.

They think it's all over? It certainly looked that way as Norwich struggled against some cohesive bowling and fielding as the wickets fell with rather too much regularity. But pair two rejuvenated the innings, taking a leaf out of Ellingham's book and by the end of the eighth over were within 33 of Ellingham's huge target. Sadly, it was not to last as the final pair suffered badly losing seven wickets, some to rather unnecessary run outs, and finishing exactly 50 short. But this was an extremely promising start from Norwich who will have taken much from this game and were perhaps unlucky to come up against the title holders in rampant mood for their first fixture. Ellingham's impressive total of 40 points from the first round of fixtures puts them firmly at the top of the table.

Gt.Ellingham 181 for 6 (40 points). Norwich 131 for 12 (9 points). Gt.Ellingham won by 50 runs.

### **Old Buckenham v Gt.Melton**

The second game was a rather more sedate affair as three time winners Gt.Melton delivered a polished demonstration of excellent bowling and fielding. Five wickets lost for the first pair saw Old Buckenham reeling and it was only their final two who managed to take the attack to Melton, adding a spirited 25.

Melton have generally performed better with the ball than bat in this competition, but, even so, this was going to be a difficult total for Bucks to defend. Melton's reply was mature and composed; they were 7 ahead by the eighth over but, after a wicket in the eleventh, only nine to the good with the final power play to come. But there was to be no upset as a flurry of extras lifted any pressure from the final pair; the margin of 31 probably larger than they expected.

Old Buckenham 120 for 8 (5 points). Gt.Melton 151 for 3 (33 points). Gt.Melton won by 31 runs.

### **Round 3 November 16th**

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

There was little to shout about in the first eight overs of Topcroft's innings as Tas tied them down and, taking seven wickets, left them only one to the good after two pairs. It was left to the final veteran duo to put some shine on what so far had been a rather dismal effort. They did it in style too, fully exploiting their two power play overs to add sixty runs and turn the game around, setting Tas 162 to win.

Tas scored 180 in their first game but they looked rather out of sorts on this occasion with much less of their confident and swaggering approach from their previous contest on show. Having dug themselves out of a hole, Topcroft were in the ascendancy and Tas, losing too many wickets, never came close to mounting a real challenge and were soundly beaten.

Topcroft 161 for 7 (39 points). Hethersett & Tas Valley 108 for 13 (7 points). Topcroft won by 53 runs.

#### **Gt.Ellingham v Cringleford Lodge**

Ellingham made a decent start to their innings adding 30 off their first four overs before Cringleford slowed the pace with four wickets for the second pair. Although they underperformed marginally in their power play overs, Ellingham continued their habit of scoring plenty of runs; even with seven wickets lost they still finished on 163.

Cringleford have improved steadily and a more measured approach to their game saw them mount a real challenge to Ellingham's score. Needing 43 off their last four overs, the final pair were well capable of the task. Even losing three wickets, there was still the possibility of a win when, with six power play balls to go, they needed 33. Such was their heroic effort that six from the last ball would have brought them a tie but it was not to be as only two runs left Ellingham winners by four runs.

This was a pulsating finish to the best game of the season so far demonstrating not only Ellingham's strength but the considerable improvement Lodge have shown this year.

Gt.Ellingham 163 for 7 (34 points). Cringleford Lodge 159 for 8 (12 points). Gt.Ellingham won by 4 runs.

### **Round 4 November 23rd**

## **Rocklands v Old Buckenham**

Rocklands were reluctant to stray from the crease during their innings - there was only one run three in the entire twelve overs – as they relied instead on sidewall singles supplemented by Buckenham's generous contribution of extras of which there were 26. The excitement intensity was low but the tactic proved satisfactorily productive as, losing five wickets, they set their opponents a target of 155.

Old Buckenham made heavy weather of their reply as Rocklands made run gathering a challenge. Five wickets for the second two left Old Bucks' 48 shy but with two power plays for their last pair, a win was still possible. It was really only at this stage that the game came alive as these final two ran for their lives. It was entertaining stuff but a superb final two overs from Rocklands, in which three wickets fell, extinguished any chance of victory.

Rocklands 154 for 5. Old Buckenham 116 for 10. Rocklands won by 38 runs.

## **Norwich v Gt.Melton**

New boys Norwich had learnt much from their first encounter and this was a game they really should have won. They batted with real commitment against Melton's consistent attack. Even losing three wickets, their first pair added 14 before the second two totalled another 34, despite the only maiden over of the evening. Melton were mean with their extras, bowling only six, and, pegging the last two back with three wickets, Norwich were unable to add to their score.

Melton looked a little circumspect with the bat but Norwich made life rather too easy for them, keeping the board ticking along with copious extras - 34 altogether. It says something for Norwich's application that even with this, they were still in the game with two overs to go as Melton searched for the 25 needed to win. Again, Norwich let them off the hook with more extras and an unfortunate overthrow in the power play. Although it was still anyone's game in the last six balls, Melton held their nerve to scrape the win by 4 runs.

Norwich 148 for 6. Gt.Melton 152 for 4. Gt.Melton won by 4 runs.

## **Round 5 November 30th**

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

Topcroft were in imperious form as they took on one man down title holders Gt.Ellingham and set about providing an exemplary demonstration of the indoor game. No big hitting, just tapping, nudging and racking up the two and threes without any hesitation or confusion. Ellingham bowled and fielded with real application but had little luck with their attempted run outs as the ball obstinately refused to hit the stumps. Topcroft's first two added 41, their second pair 19 with the final brace contributing 36 as they finished on 196 for the loss of a single wicket, taken by their own substitute fielder.

This was the highest total so far this season and Ellingham were under the cosh from the off. Uncharacteristically uncertain and hesitant in their running, they lost unnecessary wickets and passed up easy singles. But the force was clearly with Topcroft and they could do little wrong as Ellingham approached the final four overs still nearly 70 short. Two power plays could turn everything around but not this time as Ellingham lost four wickets, including a hat trick, in the final over, slumping to 112 for 10.

Topcroft 196 for 1. Gt.Ellingham 112 for 10. Topcroft won by 74 runs.

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

The second match was a rather more sedate affair as Old Buckenham found run scoring a challenge. Their innings never really got going as Tas wheeled away effectively, taking wickets whenever Bucks looked like generating any real momentum. All three pairs lost wickets and none were able to add more than a single figure to the total.

Old Bucks 110 was unlikely to be enough to trouble Tas, who proceeded with relative ease to concentrate on adding batting points and by the eighth over were already 32 ahead. There was some luck though for OB who staged something of a comeback as the last pair lost five wickets and had any of these overs been power plays, the end

scenario might have been rather different. But even with this late surge, Tas were too far ahead and they ran out winners by 19 runs.

Old Buckenham 110 for 7. Hethersett & Tas Valley 129 for 8. Tas Valley won by 19 runs.

### **Round 6 December 7th**

#### **Norwich v Cringleford Lodge**

This first fixture of the evening proved an entertaining contest between two evenly matched sides.

Norwich made solid progress in their innings against an accurate and focussed attack from Cringleford Lodge. There was nothing spectacular here but the score mounted steadily and by the half way mark Norwich were 32 to the good. It was unfortunate that the only two wickets they lost were both in power play overs, taking the shine off their final score of 138.

Lodge have shown in the past that they can score big when given the chance but Norwich made run gathering hard work. By the eighth over they had taken three wickets; their opponents still fifteen shy of the target. With the final two overs power plays and 7 still needed anything could happen but this final pair played with real maturity guiding their side to victory by four runs.

Norwich 138 for 2. Cringleford Lodge 142 for 4. Cringleford Lodge won by 4 runs.

#### **Gt.Melton v Rocklands**

Melton's batting was transformed as they motored to their highest total of the competition. It wasn't as if Rocklands bowled badly but there were some difficult chances spilled and too many wild throws at the stumps when a gentle underarm lob would have been the more effective option. But take nothing away from Melton, this was an impressive performance and their final total of 190 for 2 presented a challenging mountain for Rocklands to climb.

Sadly, Rocklands never managed to leave base camp and, losing four wickets in the first four overs, the match was effectively already over. There was some brilliant catching and fielding from Melton and, combined with their dependable bowling attack, poor Rocklands never really stood a chance.

Gt.Melton 190 for 2. Rocklands 77 for 13. Gt.Melton won by 113 runs.

### **Round 7 December 14th**

#### **Gt.Ellingham v Old Buckenham**

Ellingham resuscitated their title defence against an out of luck Old Buckenham in the last evening before the three week Christmas break.

Old Bucks started brightly though, taking four wickets off Ellingham's first pair but almost all of their bowlers struggled with their line as their opponent's score was swept along by a stream of extras. By the end of over eight, Ellingham were 42 to the good and their last pair played with commendable efficiency, bolstering the score to 200; the highest total so far had Bucks not nicked a wicket off the last power play ball.

Buckenham started their reply diligently but the runs were hard to find. Their second two developed some momentum adding 29 but, as in their game against Rocklands, there was far too much left to do for the final pair who turned in an exciting display as they chased an impossible task.

Gt.Ellingham 190 for 6. Old Buckenham 150 for 6. Gt.Ellingham won by 40 runs.

#### **Topcroft v Norwich**

Rocklands were on the end of a 74 run drubbing by Topcroft in their last fixture and it was as you were for their opponents again this time; Norwich.

Norwich bowled much better on this occasion and claimed some early success against the first pair. But from then on it was pretty much one way traffic as Topcroft built a solid platform for their final pairing to exploit; these two added 44 runs in an almost faultless display of the indoor game.

Norwich lost five wickets in the first four overs and an embarrassing rout looked possible but showing great spirit they kept going and by the end of the game had clawed their way back to 93; a plucky performance against such a good team.

Topcroft looked super slick; they bowled only 10 extras, took some truly outstanding catches, fielded brilliantly and had a real buzz about them. Is this their year perhaps?

Topcroft 185 for 3. Norwich 93 for 11. Topcroft won by 92 runs.

## **Round 8 January 11th**

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

The effects of too much Christmas pudding and turkey were evident at the beginning of this game as Tas Valley allowed Rocklands to score rather too easily; there were some missed run outs, wides and these, combined with patchy fielding, allowed Rocklands a positive start to their innings, adding 20 off the first four overs. But from then on, as if a switch had been clicked, Tas were into their stride bowling and fielding with supreme confidence as Rocklands' score drifted backwards to end on 115.

Tas also struggled at the beginning of their innings and by over four they had lost 4 wickets and were just two to the good. Rocklands must have fancied their chances at this stage but from then on the batting recovered and despite an improving performance in the field from their opponents, Tas put together a solid innings, finishing on 154.

Rocklands 115 for 7. Hethersett & Tas Valley 154 for 6. Tas Valley won by 39 runs.

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

Melton's trademark bowling and fielding performance suffocated Lodge's efforts to get into this game and, losing a wicket off the first ball, they were never in positive territory again. There was a mini revival by the final pair as they reached 99, but a power play hat trick in the eleventh over snuffed out any chance of posting a competitive score.

To their great credit, Lodge stuck to their task when fielding, taking four wickets and fielding enthusiastically, but Melton batted sensibly, building a solid platform and finishing well clear of their opponents.

Cringleford Lodge 79 for 12. Gt.Melton 148 for 4. Gt.Melton won by 69 runs.

## **Round 9 January 18th**

### **Norwich v Old Buckenham**

It was hard to believe, watching tonight's performance, that neither of these teams had managed to win a game this season.

Norwich, opening the session, batted steadily against a cohesive Buckenham attack, frugal with their extras, and added 13 off the first four overs and a further 19 off the second. With the score on 131, this provided a decent platform for the third pair to exploit. But despite the loss of only one wicket, this final couple were only able to add a further nine runs as Old Buckenham strangled their scoring opportunities with some accurate bowling and alert fielding. Even so, the final score of 141 was a competitive one.

Norwich then enjoyed plenty of early success, taking four wickets off Bucks' opening pair as their score meandered into negative territory. The second two enjoyed better success, adding 31 as they chased down the total finishing only 12 short, leaving the final pair of girls, who batted with great maturity, to steer them over the winning line.

Norwich 141 for 3. Old Buckenham 158 for 6. Old Buckenham won by 17 runs.

### **Gt.Ellingham v Rocklands**

Ellingham made a cautious start with the bat against an increasingly confident Rocklands and although the scoring was far from prolific, they lost only one wicket in the first eight overs providing real momentum for the final buccaneering pair to exploit. And exploit it they did too; by the middle of the last over they had already added 53 runs and a 200+ total looked on the cards. But Rocklands struck back in the final three balls, taking two power play wickets, to peg them back to 166 – still a good score.

Rocklands batting has not quite matched the proficiency of their bowling and fielding this year and they were under the cosh right from the start. Run scoring was a struggle and four wickets left them only marginally in positive terrain by the end of the eighth over. There was little choice but for the final pair to abandon caution in their quest for an unlikely victory. It was entertaining stuff as they lost four wickets but still managed to add 22 runs in a rousing finish to the evening.

Gt.Ellingham 166 for 3. Rocklands 125 for 8. Gt.Ellingham won by 41 runs.

### **Round 10 January 25th**

There were banana skins to negotiate tonight for the competition's top two teams as Topcroft took on Cringleford Lodge and Melton faced up to Tas.

#### **Topcroft v Cringleford Lodge**

Having chosen to bat first, Topcroft's first pair turned in a polished performance as they added 32 in the first four overs. Despite their best efforts, the next two were barely able to add to this promising start as Lodge took four wickets and the score cycled backwards. But still 34 to the good it was up to the last batsmen to set a decent target and Topcroft's experience served them well as they added a further 27 runs to finish on a decent 161.

It was not a huge score, but a hat trick in Lodge's first over was the worst possible start and the innings unfortunately plummeted downwards from then on. Never in positive territory again, Lodge lost 13 wickets against the best bowling and fielding performance of the whole season so far.

Topcroft 161 for 7. Cringleford Lodge 74 for 13. Topcroft won by 87 runs.

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

Put into bat, Tas made a convincing start adding 31. Again it was the middle pair who suffered as Melton's bowling attack swung into top gear, taking five wickets. The third pair batted with great care, choosing to protect the score rather than take any risks with the bat. It paid off too; even though only a further 19 was added, they didn't lose any wickets and the total of 152 was enough to put their opponents under some pressure.

But it all seemed business as usual for Melton as their opening pair, even losing two wickets, added 23. But Tas were a cut above tonight; much sharper in the field and this, combined with top class bowling, was soon taking its toll as Melton faltered. By the end of over eight they had lost eight wickets and were only a single run in credit. With the last pair needing to score 52 it was pretty much game over as they abandoned all caution in a dash for the runs. But Tas didn't falter adding a further five wickets to their bag making 13 in total.

Hethersett & Tas Valley 152 for 6. Gt.Melton 119 for 13. Tas Valley won by 33 runs.

### **Round 11 February 1st**

#### **Rocklands v Norwich**

This was a particularly polished performance with the ball by Norwich as Rocklands struggled to make any real headway with the bat. There was rather too much swinging across the line as wickets fell steadily throughout the innings. Of the nine wickets lost, seven of these were bowled, underlining the accuracy of Norwich's attack.

Norwich didn't actually need to make any runs at all and in these situations, teams often struggle - losing unnecessary wickets. But in a surprisingly subdued match, they kept their head down and, aided by a generous contribution of extras, made their highest total of the season to secure their first win by a substantial margin.

Rocklands 96 for 9. Norwich 163 for 2. Norwich won by 67 runs.

## **Old Buckenham v Cringleford Lodge**

Old Buckenham made a pretty torrid start, losing three wickets in the first four overs before the second pair steadied the ship. Arriving at the last two overs, both power plays, on 130, anything could happen. Over 11 produced 18 runs and with four balls to go there was 150 up. But Lodge struck back taking two wickets, one an astonishing reaction catch by the wicket keeper, in the last four balls pegging Buckenham back to 136.

Cringleford made an equally disappointing start and were only two to the good after four. Again the middle pair restored some calm and by the time the final two strode to the crease they were just 12 shy of the target. It was all going so well until one of the Old Buckenham girls derailed their chances with a hat trick in the tenth. There was still the faintest hope in the final over, a power play with 19 still needed, but, unfortunately for them, their hat trick nemesis returned to mop up another wicket and with it, the game.

Old Buckenham 136 for 6. Cringleford Lodge 115 for 8. Old Buckenham won by 21 runs.

## **Round 12 February 8th**

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

Ellingham's 111 achieved in the third over was to be the summit of their innings against an energised Tas side. Having beaten Melton on their last outing it should have come as no surprise that Ellingham were unable to settle against Tas' searching attack. The fielding was top class too as wickets tumbled and the score drifted downwards to end in negative territory.

Chasing a non-existent score can prove troublesome but Tas' pairs batted sensibly, easily achieving all that was required to put themselves in the box seat for this season's runner up slot.

Gt.Ellingham 96 for 12 (extras 8). Hethersett & Tas Valley 121 for 3 (extras 12). Tas Valley won by 25 runs.

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

Melton made the perfect start to the game with the first two adding a controlled 24 against Topcroft's accurate bowling. Not so the second pair who lost five wickets as Topcroft turned the screw, wresting the game back from their opponents. The match turned again in the final four overs as 26 was added, setting Topcroft a testing target of 148.

It was a dream start for Topcroft who, even though they lost a power play wicket, soon made up for it, their first pair finishing only eight shy of the total. Melton's normally rock solid bowling then rather deserted them as Topcroft's second two failed to record a single run but still added sixteen, all gathered in extras. Already over the winning line, Topcroft just had to play out the ninth over power play without loss which they did comfortably and just for good measure added a further 21 runs to secure, as well as the game, almost certainly this season's title.

Gt.Melton 147 for 7 (extras 16). Topcroft 176 for 1 (extras 30). Topcroft won by 29 runs.

## **Round 13 February 22nd**

### **Rocklands v Cringleford Lodge**

Despite their profligate contribution of extras to Rocklands' opening pair, Lodge took wickets as well – four of them as the first two finished on 96. Extras were to prove expensive for Lodge; they delivered 42 in total but Rocklands struggled to gain the initiative, even with this generosity, as wickets continued to fall. By the end of the eleventh over, only three to the good, something special was required from the final power play. Both teams contributed equally here with Rocklands adding runs and Lodge yet more extras; 36 altogether as Rocklands set Lodge a target of 140.

Lodge batted with considerably more maturity than they had displayed in some of their previous games, building their reply sensibly and avoiding taking too many risks. Their openers added 21 and the next two chipped in a further 11. With the final pair requiring only a further eight, this target was reached before the last two overs, both power plays. A single wicket would have sunk Lodge but Rocklands were unable to magic up anything as the final 12 deliveries were comfortably blocked out giving Lodge their second win of the season.

Rocklands 139 for 9. Cringleford Lodge 145 for 1. Lodge won by 6 runs.

### **Hethersett & Tas Valley v Norwich**

Tas still had rather more to play for in their final match against Norwich who, having put them into bat, bowled and fielded with real commitment. But Tas are one of the top teams and the runs mounted steadily. There was some limited success for Norwich as they took two wickets but all of Tas's three pairs made solid contributions to finish on 157.

Norwich have rather struggled with the bat this season but they were not prepared to take any chances, even chasing this substantial total. They only lost four wickets and with a slightly more adventurous approach they could have got a good deal closer to Tas's mark. With one for the first pair, 17 for the second and fifteen for the third they were only 24 light at the close. But Tas weren't complaining; another solid win puts them within touching distance of this year's well deserved runner up spot.

Hethersett & Tas Valley 157 for 2. Norwich 133 for 4. Tas valley won by 24 runs.

### **Round 14 February 29th**

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

There was a real end of term party atmosphere in the hall as Topcroft sought to make it seven out of seven and become the only team to have won all of their games in the five years of the competition.

But Old Buckenham, bowling first, were soon taking a toll of their batting, grabbing three wickets off the openers. Despite this, Topcroft still added 19 with their trademark quick running. The second two also lost wickets as the innings faltered under Bucks considerable pressure before the final pair restored some stability against some of the best bowling of the game; the final over even a maiden.

Chasing 148, Old Buckenham were soon in trouble too as the wickets fell and the runs dried up. Just 11 to the good after eight overs, it was left, as it has so often been in the past, to the final batters to find the necessary 38 to win the game. It was a big ask and they both performed admirably whittling down the runs required to just nine with two power play balls left. It was breathless stuff and they very nearly nicked it before a wicket off the penultimate ball dashed their hopes of delivering a real upset.

This was an exciting game to watch and there was plenty of noise between these two sides – it was pulsating stuff. Congratulations to both teams; to Topcroft for their cohesive performances over the season and to Old Buckenham for their best effort of the competition.

Topcroft 148 for 5. Old Buckenham 136 for 7. Topcroft won by 12 runs.

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

Both of these teams have previously won the competition but tonight they were pitted against each other in what was now a playoff for third place.

Melton's usually rock solid bowling attack completely deserted them in the first eight overs of Ellingham's innings as they delivered 32 in extras. Grateful for this generosity, Ellingham were content to add the odd single as the four opening batters added 51 for the loss of a single wicket. Things improved in the last four overs as Melton finally found their target but even with the loss of a power play wicket, Ellingham still added a further 22 to set them an extremely challenging total of 173.

Melton were rather out of sorts with the bat too as their innings meandered to 123 after eight. Ellingham bowled well and never let them settle. It was left to the last two to deliver a plucky performance as they got to within 16 of the target in a spirited end to the innings.

Gt.Ellingham 173 for 2. Gt.Melton 152 for 8. Gt.Ellingham won by 21 runs.

There was a short presentation at the end of the evening as Topcroft received the winner's trophy, medals and certificates from Gt.Melton's Clive Gristwood. Hethersett and Tas Valley were well deserved runners up with Gt.Ellingham third and Gt.Melton fourth.

Many thanks to players, parents, coaches and all those who have contributed towards our fifth successful season.