



End of Season Roundup

The late summer weather proved a bit of a stinker this year, washing out many of the league's final fixtures. But despite this, there was still plenty to celebrate in this ninth year of the competition as a record fifty entries demonstrated there is still plenty of life in the youth game.

In the U17 league it was soon clear that the primary contest would be between title holders Dereham and new boys Gt.Melton. Both won all five of their games setting up a tasty final between the two, but frustratingly, this was another victim of the truculent climate which left Dereham to retain the trophy with their marginally superior points' total. Diss' Campbell Young's 95no against Mattishall was the best with the bat while Dereham's Sam Inston took 4 for 3 against the same club to bag best bowling.

At U15, the destination of the trophy was clearer as Cringleford Lodge blazed a trail in winning all of their games with some big hitting innings and securing the title well before the season ended. Hardingham finished second and could have run them close had their season not rather fizzled out in the latter rounds - Gt.Melton, last year's champions, finished third. Appropriately, it was Lodge's destructive Ishan Singh whose 108 against Mulbarton, the only century, was best knock with Ollie South of Tas Valley returning best bowling figures with his 5 for 16 against Mattishall, the solitary fifer of the summer.

In the larger U13 league, Melton were favourites from the off and duly delivered losing only one of their games to, surprisingly, Gt.Melton Girls. Topcroft also performed strongly as runners up winning as many games followed closely by Tas Valley and Old Buckenham. With compulsory retirement being trialled this season there were no best batting awards in the U13 or U11 age groups but Topcroft's Lewis Reeder dominated with the ball filling both top slots, his best being 4 for 4 against Rocklands.

Like the U15 age group, there was to be a new name on the U11 Derek Bernard Cup as Mulbarton finally secured a title in their seventeenth year. Their compact and cohesive squad dominated throughout the summer and never really looked like losing any games and, in the end, finished well clear of the chasing pack led by Topcroft, whose Luke Bettridge scooped best bowling with 4 for 5 against Dereham, with Tas Valley second and Melton third, all separated by less than a single point.

Joe Harris September 7th 2015

U9 League - big win for Melton secures trophy

A maximum points win against Hethersett & Tas Valley was just enough for Gt.Melton to overhaul Brooke at the last gasp in one of the tightest finishes of The League's history.

A full sixteen points were required from Melton's final fixture and their team duly obliged, dispatching Tas by a margin of 117 runs, the largest in the season's competition.

Brooke can perhaps feel a tad unlucky to be occupying the runner up slot after winning three of their own matches, including a 9 run success against the eventual title holders and tying the fourth against Rocklands, but Melton's greater winning margins were enough to carry them over the line by a solitary point.

Rocklands finish third while Tas Valley and Gt.Ellingham's encounter, the last of the summer, will determine the destination of the wooden spoon.

JH August 23rd 2015

U13 GREAT MELTON GIRLS v GREAT MELTON

Beth Harmer scored 80 not out to lead Melton U13 Girls to a nail biting 1-wicket win over the boys in a thriller of a match that went to the final ball. Needing three to win, Beth swept James Bridges' final delivery to the fine-leg boundary to signal a first defeat for Melton's Boys in their quest to retain the South Norfolk Community League Championship.

Both teams were under-strength but the girls produced an excellent all-round performance and, on the night, had the game's outstanding player in Beth Harmer who had to retire having scored 40 but returned with just 4 overs remaining when the sixth wicket fell. With 50 runs still needed to win and 8th batsman Alice Greenslade at the wicket, the boys were still firm favourites but, with Alice offering excellent support, Beth smashed 2 sixes and 6 fours off the final 4 overs to spark huge celebrations.

A victory for the girls looked highly unlikely early on as, despite losing Finlay Hughes for 13 to a catch by Harmer of Lucy Morton, Melton Boys raced to 81 off 8 overs with James Bridges (24) and Josh Wright (26) in control. However, with Wright run out and Bridges and Olly Black (1) both stumped by Becky Greenslade off Cassie Mawby, the girls fought their way back into the match. Sam Williamson bowled her brother Jack for a duck and Vicky Monsey bowled Oli Leinster to claim her first-ever wicket but sensible batting over the last 4 overs by Cameron Graveling (18 not out) and Marcello Merdyke (2 not out) pushed the boys score to 135-6.

It looked an uphill struggle for the girls when Lucy Morton was bowled by Bridges in the second over but excellent running by Harmer and Greenslade, plus a few boundaries, kept the score ticking along. Greenslade was brilliantly caught one-handed diving backwards by Olly Black at mid-on for 12 and, after Harmer retired, Sam Williamson scored a valuable 12. There were two wickets in an over by Black who bowled Williamson & Monsey (0), Mawby (0) was run out off the first ball she faced and Graveling bowled Caitlin Ellis (0) and, at 86-6, the boys were firmly in the driving seat.

Beth Harmer had other ideas, however, and the result was great entertainment as the girls pulled off an audacious win.

Steve Phoenix August 8th 2015

U15 Cringleford Lodge Season Roundup

Like many clubs historically Cringleford have struggled to put teams out much beyond July and having successfully completed all matches last season (2014) were determined to repeat the feat once again in 2015. Not part of the plan was having the only May fixture rained-off and with four fixtures to play in July the season was going to become very compressed. We had five fixtures to play in June which combined with the teams Alliance commitments generated a memorable ten game cricket-fest in the first 25 days of June with a testing six game run split by the weekend but the weather being generous to the fixture schedule.

We played some good cricket along the way and made mistakes; we faced some good cricketing teams and cricketers but seemed to have hidden depths when things didn't quite go to plan. Winning was always an objective but happy to sacrifice a point or two at times to enable lower order bowlers and batsmen to have their chance to shine in the spirit and ethos of the league. Two batsmen posted a combined SNCL season total of 618 runs over the nine innings for the combined loss of 10 wickets with Singh recording 76 per innings with Duffy on 47. Two bowlers secured three wickets that of Curtis 3 for 10 and Williams 3 for 7 in the final game. Bowling this season was generally unremarkable and the team missed paceman Jones to revision and exams.

Despite being unbeaten Hardingham could still overhaul us on average points but need three maximum point wins to do it; historically they too have often struggled to play their matches once the schools pack up for summer.

Next season the majority of the team will return as U17s and we expect to lose perhaps two players to other endeavours and interests. Over the season the team has featured 17 players with a nucleus of six core players. Next season it would be great to see the unnecessary extras halved and a greater commitment to catches with some safe hands when they get there. The squad has developed well over the last three seasons and hope to make an impact next season.

Tim Duffy (Cringleford Lodge) August 7th 2015

U15 Hethersett & Tas Valley v Cringleford Lodge

Cringleford's previous visit to TAS was but nine days earlier and coincided with the heavens opening mid-transit and in a scene reminiscent of a Dick Whittington pantomime everyone turned-again...and headed home. So this was that rearranged fixture and like last time all looked positive throughout the day with fluffy white clouds and dry but just as the clock ticked past 5:30pm so too the cloud colour turned an ominous grey colour and more worryingly spots of rain... luckily everyone could see a clear summer's evening approaching and so this was to be Cringleford's final U15 game of the 2015 season.

Cringleford won the toss and contrary to earlier instructions elected to bat with the TAS bowlers enticing the Lodge batsmen in to playing shots that yielded catches that were mopped up by effective keeping and fielding. Solid performances from Singh & Mermagen posting twenty odd runs but assiduous TAS fielders doing a splendid job of guarding and protecting the boundaries that could put the French Eurotunnel security to shame. The total posted was a chase-able 117 and a target TAS are capable of.

TAS took to the bat and started to rack up the runs at the prescribed 7 or 8 an over with a combination of smart running and boundaries from the determined opening pairing of Cooper and Worley. A change of bowler was needed and Mermagen stood tall to deliver three total reducing overs yet the TAS batsmen stubbornly staying-put. If the game was to be won then the threatening pair would need to be removed and so it was during a magical spell by Curtis and Williams who claimed six wickets between them for the leakage of only 17 runs. Once the wickets of Worley and then Cooper fell TAS found it hard to steady themselves and challenge the total and so it

was that TAS were all out for 70 and all before the returning Jones saved for the final overs could impose himself on the batsmen.

Tim Duffy (Cringleford Lodge) August 7th 2015

U11 Mulbarton v Cringleford Lodge

The U11s dodged the rain and beat Cringleford with another strong performance, recording an emphatic 6th win in 6 matches to stay top of the table.

Mulbarton won the toss and the captain, Arjuna, elected to bat first. With the loss of Bobby Stuart-Sheppard in the second over, bowled Potter, Freddie Paterson, caught and bowled Downing, and a run out bringing Mulbarton to 22 for 3 off 6 overs, Mulbarton needed the steady innings of Arjuna and Matthew Burton to recover to a decent total of 105 for 4. Johnny Taylor was batting really nicely and was unlucky to be run out, Sam Johns was pushing the run rate ahead when he was run out for 4 and Rohan came to the crease in the last over, connecting really well with the ball to score 5 not out. Mulbarton 105 for 4.

The Mulbarton bowlers were on top form with superb figures all round. By the tenth over Cringleford were reeling on 12 for 6 and it was only the return of Jake Cutter to the crease scoring 20 which enabled Cringleford to bat out their overs. All the bowlers contributed really well with Freddie Paterson an excellent 3 overs, 2 maidens 2-1, 2 wickets for 4 to Matthew Burton and 1 for 8 to Arjuna, supported by good fielding all round and a stumping from Bobby Stuart-Sheppard restricting Cringleford to 45 for 6.

Anne Osborn (Mulbarton) July 26th 2015

U13 Gt.Melton v Hethersett & Tas Valley

With their South Norfolk Community League title and unbeaten record threatened in their previous match at Great Ellingham, Melton U13s made no mistake in the follow-up, sweeping one of their nearest challengers, Tas Valley, aside in just 9 overs to win by 5 wickets.

Skipper-for-the-day Ben Granville and James Bridges did most of the damage after Melton had lost Finlay Hughes for 18. Bridges hit some superb shots through the offside, including 5 fours in successive balls in a quick-fire 37 not out while Granville was out for 26, very well caught off his own bowling by Groves but, by then, Melton were only two runs short of their target of 94.

Earlier Josh Wright had taken the bowling honours with 2-5 in 2 overs as Tas scored 93-3. Ben Davies batted particularly well for the visitors, his 37 including some excellent cuts and pulls. Jack Gibson contributed 14 to a useful opening stand while Olly Black (3-0-16-1) and James Carter (2-0-5-0) also impressed with the ball.

Steve Phoenix July 23rd 2015

U13 Cringleford Lodge v Gt.Melton Girls

Melton U13 Girls, minus several key players, were not quite strong enough to overcome Cringleford but played their part in an enjoyable game.

After Cringleford had won the toss and decided to bat, Melton bowled and fielded with great enthusiasm to restrict the home side to 96-4. Direct-hit run outs by Alice Greenslade and Lucy Morton, a batsman clean-bowled by Alice and a catch by Cassie Mawby that dismissed the Cringleford opener for 38, accounted for the 4 wickets.

Batting wasn't so good, however. Holly Marchant was run out first ball of the innings and, thereafter it was a struggle. Skipper Becky Greenslade top scored with 15 but Melton were bowled out for just 45 to give Cringleford a 51-run win.

The girls had a great attitude to the game and thanks to Nick Morton and Duncan Greenslade who umpired and John Marchant who scored. Becky captained a young side well and Caitlin Ellis celebrated scoring her first four as if she'd scored a century!

Hannah Brook July 21st 2015

U13 Rocklands v Topcroft

Topcroft travelled to Rocklands in rain and were pleasantly surprised to arrive to a bone dry ground. Topcroft did however arrive with only 7 players as 1 failed to turn up. Topcroft batted first with openers Archie Conway scoring 30 and Olly Shippam 40 retired. Topcroft finished on 102 for 3, with Andrew Thresh taking 2 for 14 and claiming a run out.

In reply it was the danger man Thresh being the backbone of the innings scoring 27. When he was out though the home side collapsed from a good position to 64 all out. Skipper Archie Conway took a wicket but it was the Reeder brothers that claimed the other six. 11 year old Jamie Reeder took 2 for 7 from his 2 overs but it was 8 year old

Lewis Reeder that stole the show with an outstanding 4 wickets for 4 runs from his 3 overs. Topcroft ran out winners by 38 runs.

David Reeder (Topcroft) July 15th 2015

U15 Mattishall v Cringleford Lodge

Cringleford visited Mattishall, in this rescheduled fixture owing to a Mattishall call-off three weeks earlier due to numbers, for what will be Cringleford's penultimate game of the season. Player shortages resolved and travel arrangements as always testing the mettle of the team co-ordinator with everyone getting there somehow.

Cringleford won the toss and chose to bat rather than chase. A switch in batting order saw two early wickets against some useful bowling that of Chetwood, Bateman and Dickerson the second wicket...a catch to test the concentration of any pair of umpires and no means of referral at this level. The crowd pleasing Duffy (58 no) entered at four to join Singh (65 no) who together batted out to post a testing 145 despite the Mattishall field keeping them honest at every opportunity.

Mattishall's Batemen and Chetwood opened and Cringleford were lucky to secure the wicket of Bateman caught on 12 and after being pegged back in the first ten (63) had too much to do in the final six but posted 115 without further loss. The Cringleford bowling lacking any real depth and missing pace-man Jones who returns from the physios couch.

The team are looking forward to their final match against Tas with many off on vacation style holidays.

Batting: Ishan Singh 65 not out Cringleford Lodge, Rob Duffy 58 not out Cringleford Lodge, G Chetwood 58 not out Mattishall

Tim Duffy (Cringleford Lodge) July 13th 2015

U11 Mattishall v Mundford

Mattishall batted first and got off to an excellent start with openers Trent Stoltz and Ciaran Lake putting on a 56 partnership in 11 overs when Trent was bowled on 23. Mattishall finished on 76/3 with C Rees from Mundford taking 2 wickets for 9 runs.

Mundford were pegged back early on with 2 excellent catches and a run out leaving them at 18/3 off 6 overs. Opener C Long batted well throughout the innings scoring 21 not out. Mattishall's young bowling attack and fielding have improved throughout the season restricting Mundford to 49/6. The saying that catches win matches proved correct as both teams were evenly matched however the 3 difficult catches taken by Mattishall was the deciding factor. Mattishall won the game by 27 runs.

Garth Stoltz July 12th 2015

U15 Cringleford Lodge v Gt.Ellingham

A mistake in the fixture listing saw this game played a week later than intended with some Ellingham regulars off to the Oval to see how the pros go about it causing the pack to be reshuffled.

Ellingham batted and some loose first overs saw their total rocket to 22 after two, bowling steadied in the third with 29 and smart bowler switches saw five runs off the next 3 (so 34 after six). Ellingham batted out for the loss of one wicket that of the difficult to shift Spelman (31) trying to put another four runs on the board from the penultimate ball that was dead centre. Great performance from his partner Lake unlucky not to make fifty (one short) or leave Ellingham posting 108 for 1.

Cringleford opened with Duffy and Singh and it was the less stylish but effective Duffy that found his groove to post 65 with some big-hitting, a reverse swept four and finally bowled with the score on 95. The innings finished in the tenth over for the loss of one wicket.

Unfortunately the capable Ellingham batting pair were pegged back by some decent bowling and effective fielding and the Ellingham bowling attack was unable to inflict any damage on this occasion.

Tim Duffy (Cringleford Lodge) July 5th 2015

U15 Rocklands v Cringleford Lodge

The tension built early for this match well away from the pitch with original travel plans shredded on the day owing to changing work logistics but fortunately two willing souls rallied to cram eight burly lads and eight large cricket bags into two cars for the showdown. Certainly the extensive and decently appointed facility at Rocklands puts many in the shade.

Unseen by the writer Cringleford batted first and edged themselves to a total north of 140 with a spirited 49 (out) from Jones playing once again after a long break involving revision and some public exams. The innings finished just as an unexpected shower started to dampen things down and freshen things up.

Appetites whetted and refreshed, shirts nicely damp, shower passed and Cringleford took to the field. Some tidy early bowling from Cringleford meant that the run-chase became ever distant; the returning Jones opened his bowling attack in the third over with a wicket maiden and the score-board on 14. The second and third wickets fell in quick succession (the score-board unchanged on 25) and Rocklands found themselves with way too much to do. Cringleford always looking to promote the less experienced, unleashed Coyle whose confidence grew with every dot ball and two wickets after two overs. The final over: who else but Coyle entrusted to bowl out the innings and looking for his third wicket and a place in the stats.. no fairy tale ending this time. Unfortunately Rocklands were unable to overcome a solid performance by Lodge that day.

Tim Duffy (Cringleford Lodge) July 5th 2015

U17 Dereham v Garboldisham

On the day off the game it didn't look too good as Garby only had 5 players, however some late determination from manager 'Peter Barners' lead to Garby finding an extra 3 to fulfil the fixture with both Finnley Marshall, Matt Foster, Sophie Snowling and Toby Culling making their Under 17 debuts. Travelling to Dereham we knew it was going to be a very difficult challenge with Dereham having won all 4 of their games so far.

Garby decided to field first with both openers Sam Inston and Ryan Fitt starting well and scoring 46 off the first 5 overs. Fitt batting well then took the attack further onto Garboldisham hitting a massive 25 off one over. With the score at 90-0 off 8 overs, Garboldisham were looking at a high score to chase down, however an excellent spell of bowling from Tommy Ling and Callum Olpin slowed Dereham's scoring rate. Ling removed Inston for 31 with the help of an excellent catch from Sophie Snowling. Foster took the late wicket of West for 7, however Fitt continued to bat well and finished 91 not out, as Dereham posted a challenging 144 target. A great effort from Garboldisham considering the 4 debutants.

In reply openers Callum Olpin and Luke Hollend started slowly but soon picked up the pace with the score at 50 off 7 overs, however when Callum lost his wicket to Ryan Batson-Long Garby struggled to keep up with the rate. Luke Hollend continued to bat well and along with Toby Culling they both managed to steer Garboldisham to a respectable score off 121 for 1, falling 23 runs short of the total, with Hollend 45 not out and Toby Culling 22 not out

Despite the loss, Garby were very proud with the way they played against a very good side in the shape of Dereham. A very enjoyable game of cricket, where cricket was the real winner.

Thomas Ling (Garboldisham) July 4th 2015

U13 Garboldisham v Gt.Melton

Josh Wright succumbed to the first ball of this match, lbw to Arthur Johnson. Finlay Hughes and Sam Nutt then began the process of building the total, helped by several extras in a partnership of 44 in 4 overs. When Finlay and Sam departed in quick succession, Pat Walton (1×6, 5×4) and Saxon Earley (1×5, 8×4) compiled an entertaining partnership of 109 in the next 8 overs. Sam Johnson and Jack Williamson kept the momentum up until Johnson and Zak Ashdown were bowled by successive balls from G Self. However, that only allowed Saxon to return to complete his 50 from the last 3 balls of the innings. Melton posted a mammoth total of 190 from 96 balls.

The Garboldisham reply initially stuttered with Sam Nutt, Pat Walton and Josh Wright bowling 4 batsmen early on. Arthur Johnson (1×6, 6×4) was then joined by Jess Davey and they put together a partnership of 48, striking any loose deliveries well. When Johnson retired on 41 that prompted another flurry of wickets with Sam Johnson and Ben Johnson (fielding for the unwell Finlay Hughes) both taking wickets including a well taken high catch by Zak Ashdown.

When the home team's innings closed, Melton were the winners by 101 runs.

A good evening of cricket was played in a positive atmosphere.

Anon July 1st 2015

U11 Mulbarton v Brooke

Mulbarton turned in a strong performance to make it 4 wins out of 4 in a match which started in sunshine and ended in rain. Congratulations to Robert Mackintosh who reached 101 runs in his 4th consecutive innings (having been retired in the last 3). We were pleased to welcome Rohan Damodar for his U11 debut match with the team.

Mulbarton won the toss and the captain, Arjuna Puvanachandra, elected to bat first. Robert Mackintosh opened the batting with George Morris, but Brooke struck early with C Windle bowling Robert for 6 in the 4th over. Freddie Paterson joined George and with boundaries flowing this pair continued until George was retired on 30, despite the efforts of his brother, Frederik, who was playing for Brooke. Arjuna and Freddie pushed the score on until Freddie was out ct Windle off Taylor for 25 and Matthew Burton closed the Mulbarton innings taking the score to 132 for 2.

Brooke struggled to get into their stride and, even though Mulbarton did give away rather a lot of extras, they kept Brooke to a run rate of less than 5 an over, with Ollie Gaudian taking the first wicket in the 11th over, bowling Joseph (4). There was good fielding all round in wet and slippery conditions and plenty of good stops to some fast bowling by George behind the stumps and Johnny Taylor and Rohan in the field. The opening batsman for Brooke batted steadily and was retired on 30 in the 15th over. Robert Mackintosh took a second wicket in the final over, with Brooke closing on 91 for 2.

Anne Osborn (Mulbarton) June 28th 2015

U11 Hethersett & Tas Valley v Old Buckenham

Tas won the toss and opted to field first.

Garboldisham 76 all out in 16th over. Tas 78 -2 in reply. Tas win by 5 wickets.

The Garby opening batsmen started strongly until Alex Bird (in his very first game of hard ball cricket) bowled to Will who hit the ball extremely hard to Will Worley who took a stunning catch almost behind him in mid-air. 10-1. Jack came in to join James in the middle and the pair settled down to put another 37 on the board before in the 8th over James was out C&B to Will Worley for 18. Next came no 4 Drew, providing a good partner helping Jack to move the score on to 71-2. They were looking solid until in the 13th over Mohit made a breakthrough, bowling danger man Jack for 22. The Tas bowlers then pinned down the remaining batsmen losing only 5 more runs for the remaining 4 wickets with captain Ben Way taking 3 wickets in his final over with a very intelligent use of the slower ball and then Will Robertson removing the final batsman C&B on the last ball of the innings. A much improved bowling performance by the Tas bowlers, conceding much fewer extras than in previous weeks and supported by some very good fielding.

Garby Top Scorers Jack (22) and James (18). Best bowling figures Ben Way 3-3.

In reply, Tas openers Ben Way and Will Robertson were looking solid, moving the score on very well to 30 after 4 overs before Ben Way was run out on 5 by a direct throw from Jack which was hard enough to break the top off the middle stump. Will Worley came in and together with Will R (and helped by extras) took the score to 72 in the 11th over before Will R was bowled on 16 by Will Wright. Needing only 5 to win, newcomer Alex then came to the crease and contributed 3 of the 6 of the final runs. A great batting performance from Tas marked by several 4's but also with great running between the wickets.

Tas Top Scorers Will R (16) Will W 12 (n.o.)

Sara Worley (Hethersett & Tas Valley) June 28th 2015

U15 Cringleford Lodge v Mulbarton

Cringleford welcomed Mulbarton in their busiest week of cricket ever... and probably never to be repeated. In last year's fixture Mulbarton completely dominated the match and evidently in their camp some of those boys have moved up with age to U17s and a few that would have been age compatible have moved on such is the vagaries of club cricket. Happily replacements have been found. In contrast the Lodge U14s of last year return this year as U15s.

Mulbarton won the toss and decided to put Lodge in to bat with the intention of making an evening of it and involving everyone. This principle was sound but the bowling attack could not dislodge the Cringleford openers and the lower order bowlers were exposed to a batting master-class with Lodge posting a first wicket partnership of 163 with Singh caught on 108 in the thirteenth over and the all time top of 125 (Vivek Sharma) remains for others to challenge. Cringleford buoyed by Singh looked to go big and put on another 44 for two wickets to end on 208.

Great credit to Mulbarton because undaunted by the task they returned to the crease with determination and despite a couple of early wickets dug deep to make an evening of it and batted out with 125 on the board. An impressive display too from the powerful Matthews caught on 65 giving it his all with a total like his stature that would dwarf most.

Last year Cringleford went home to lick their wounds and this year but for Singh the match might have been much closer. Mulbarton should not be too disheartened and other teams should not underestimate them. This report sadly is unable to eclipse the performance.

Tim Duffy (Cringleford Lodge) June 27th 2015

U13 Mulbarton v Gt.Melton Girls

Will Wright won the toss and put the opposition into bat. Arjuna Puvanachandra (3-0-14-0) made his debut for the U13s stepping up from the U11s and was confident with his bowling along with Matt Burton 2-0-10-0 another U11 bowling from the other end. Greenslade (39) and Herathge (25no) started solidly seeing off the opening attack, they then grew from strength to strength building a partnership for 50 after 8 overs before going on to make 100 then 106 in the 15th over before Will Wright bowled Greenslade. Harmer came in to support the score moving onto 115 for 1 off 16 overs. Well bowled Olivia Coman who made her debut for Mulbarton U13s with a very accurate opening over ending with 2-0-16-0.

Cam Amis and Will Wright opened the batting with Lucy Morton looking for an early Mulbarton Wicket. Tidy bowling from Morton 2-0-7-0 and Williamson 2-0-3-0 but no early wicket. Wright (5) was bowled by Harmer to break the opening partnership at 25. Joe Holden (1) came in to support Cam Amis (16) who put on 19 between them for the 2nd wicket. Good hitting by Ben Thorpe (12) at no 4 moved the score on, then as the drizzle started the score could not move on at the pace it needed. Mulbarton finished at 71-4 with Nathan Howell 2 not out and Matt Burton 1 not out.

Andrew Wright (Mulbarton) June 23rd 2015

U11 Garboldisham v Mulbarton

U11s kept up their unbroken record to return their 3rd win in 3 matches, with an excellent all round team performance v Garboldisham. Mulbarton were pleased to welcome Ruby Broad and Bobby Stuart-Sheppard for their U11debut matches with the team.

Garboldisham won the toss and elected to field first. Mulbarton's first three batsmen were all hitting the ball really well and, with some excellent running between the wickets, they all soon reached a score of 30 and had to retire with Robert Mackintosh 32 off 4 overs, Arjuna Puvanachandra 31 and Freddie Paterson 30. Sam Johns and Bobby Stuart-Sheppard carried on pursuing the run rate and, together with numerous extras, pushed the score to 152 for 1.

Matthew Burton opened the bowling and Garboldisham openers Cunningham and Whitlan were batting steadily until the 5th over when Freddie Paterson took a great caught and bowled off the first ball of his spell. Wickets then fell rapidly from the 7th over with Arjuna taking 3 for 3 off 2 overs, Ruby Broad with a wicket maiden in her first over caught behind by Bobby, a second wicket for Freddie and finally a stumping off the bowling of Faris Hanif to restrict Garboldisham to a total of 68 off 13. 5 overs.

Bowling: Matthew Burton 2 overs, 0 maidens, 0 wickets for 11; Faris Hanif 2-0-1-14; Robert Mackintosh 2-0-0-9; Freddie Paterson 2-0-1-8; Arjuna Puvanachandra 2-0-3-3; Ruby Broad 2-1-1-9; Sam Johns 2-0-0-6;

Batting: Robert Mackintosh 32 (retired); Arjuna Puvanachandra 31 (retired); Freddie Paterson 30 (retired); Matthew Burton 0; Sam Johns 6 (no) Bobby Stuart-Sheppard 10 (no).

Anne Osborn June 22nd 2015

U11 Hethersett & Tas Valley v Rocklands

Tas won the toss and opted to field first. Rocklands started well, taking stock of the bowling and playing some solid shots against the very tight Tas opening bowlers. However with the score at 13, in the 3rd over Mohit Badimela made the breakthrough for Tas, bowling opener S Allen. Unfortunately at this point the Tas bowling lost their focus and a whopping 28 was added to the total in only 4 overs only 1 of these runs coming from the bat. With U9 Amos Coates now at the crease with opener Harry Moody Rocklands settled dangerously into their game until promising U9 bowler Menuka Jayakody made the much needed breakthrough in the 10th over, and Moody was caught by Way attempting another big shot. With the score at 53-2 the pace slowed for the final 6 overs, as Tas took 3 more wickets, Barlow caught behind from Worley and Ben Way bowling Brown and Ashby in the final over. Rockland finished on 73-5 having scored 31 with the bat but being given a huge 42 in extras.

Best bowling figures from Ben Way 3 overs 2 for 2 runs including 2 maidens. Batting honours go to Amos Coates not out 15 and H Moody 13.

Tas had given themselves a lot of work to do and Rocklands weren't about to oblige them with loose bowling. Tas would have to fight for every single run and openers Ben Way and Will Worley did just that. With a partnership that showcased great running between the wickets and several boundaries the score moved quickly on. With the score at 54-0 Way retired and the run chase faltered as the Tas batsmen took time to take stock adding only 1 or 2 an over and with only 3 overs left Tas found themselves needing to make runs quickly. Badimela was dismissed C&B in the penultimate over and Jamie Wilks came to the crease. With 7 needed off the last over, the tension was palpable. A dot ball, followed by a quick single and a wide for 3 left 3 needed from 3 balls. Two quick singles followed and Tas now required 1 from the final 2 balls. Worley chose this moment to hit only his 2nd 4 of the game to seal a very tight win for the home side. Tas finished on 77-1 having scored 58 from the bat.

Best bowling figures A Cheeseman, 3 overs 1 for 13 runs. Best batting figures Ben Way 30 (retired) and Will Worley 24 not out.

Sara Worley June 22nd 2015

U15 Cringleford Lodge v Gt.Melton

What some people do to play cricket:

Cringleford Lodge were set to play a Thurs (18 June) away fixture but the opponents having flagged up difficulties with player numbers pulled the plug Tues at 3:50pm (16 June)... what to do. Sensing an opportunity to play rather than not-play Lodge contacted Gt Melton. What about that rained-off fixture from May.. now most men would have buckled under the pressure of such a challenge but not Martyn Moye and within about three hours he was back... I've got seven, let's do it...where are we playing. The reply was... not sure, I'll let you know tomorrow. Luckily our stand-by ground was available... show-stopping issues about boundary sizes resolved...game on.

They say tomorrow never arrives but that Thursday it did. Soon after arrival we quickly realised that there were no stumps... fairly crucial to the game. What to do? Kevin Taylor was contacted... evidently driving.. where are you? I'm on the A11 near to Wymondham.. situation explained, do you have any stumps.. yes; where? in the car.. great.. I'll drop them off to you. Kevin, we're going to need some keeper kit also, do you have any? Pause... long chuckle, yes; where? In the car.. more chuckling.

... and so this was the back-ground to the match between Cringleford and Melton. Both teams fielding under-strength teams through injury or absence with Lodge losing early wickets but saved by Singh who all but saw out the innings (two balls) and finish 77 (run-out) but luckily team doing enough to keep him there despite Melton's best efforts.

Like Lodge, Melton lost early wickets but crucially their key batsmen and team couldn't replicate what Singh had done. They ended up behind the chase with much-too-much to do. The Melton Captain had a simple philosophy when faced with a complaining Melton batsmen run-out unnecessarily with about four overs to go and 60 runs needed (more than they had managed in the first twelve overs) 'don't worry we couldn't have won anyway... the games gone'.

Whilst I wouldn't recommend this as a template for playing a match at short notice, certainly one that overcame much and more besides to work in this instance. The winners today: Kevin who's still chuckling, Singh on the bat, the Melton youngster a lesson in life from a wise Captain.

Tim Duffy June 22nd 2015

U11 Garboldisham v Gt.Melton

Charlie Green continued where he left off the previous evening at Garboldisham, following up his 30 runs for the U13s by scoring an unbeaten 21 and captaining the U11s to victory.

Having lost the toss Melton found themselves fielding first and, although Cameron Graveling Lohit Kannan, Charlie Green and Ben Johnson kept the bowling very tight it was not until the 7th over that Charlie Green took the first wicket. Ethan Rushton took the second wicket of the innings, an excellent caught and bowled in the 8th over, and Cameron Graveling bowled Garboldisham's top scorer Jess Davey in the 11th over. Ben Johnson and Nat Buxton then combined to run out Adam Balding as Garboldisham U11s finished their innings on 57-4, Ryan Twiddy and Ben Fletcher also contributed well to a good bowling and fielding performance while birthday boy, Nat Buxton did well behind the stumps again.

Great Melton's batting was opened by Charlie Green and Lohit Kannan but, in the first over bowled by Nathan Muggerridge, Lohit was run out and Ben Fletcher was bowled. In the third over, James Davey bowled Ethan Rushton and suddenly, the target of 58 looked huge. Skipper Charlie Green (21) and Cameron Graveling(17) reconstructed the innings, though, and looked in little trouble as they completed the run chase in 7.3 overs. Great Melton's final score was 59-3.

Kannan Kuppusamy June 17th 2015

U15 Garboldisham v Cringleford Lodge

Cringleford left Norwich for the Bermuda Triangle that is The Langley... I wonder how many people have got lost over the years in the leafy lanes and byeways.... luckily once found never forgotten. The Bermuda Triangle was at work back in Norwich because one player could not be found at the meeting point and has not been seen since. So it was that seven arrived at the Langley to find people with dark glasses... no not agents of the CIA but spectators enjoying the evening sunshine.

Cringleford went in to bat to amass their biggest total ever with the ball being knocked around with abandon and one player pulling-off a Dilshan only to be caught a few balls later... showboating some might think but in reality a

young lad having fun and not taking things too seriously and making room for the lower order batsmen rather than chasing a hall-of-fame total. Pick of the Cringleford batsmen Singh on 41 (caught), Duffy on 50 (caught), Curtis a powerful 21 out. By the end of the innings the dark glasses brigade like the Sun had disappeared... the Sun near to the horizon and the folk inside the clubhouse where Mr Karcher had been hard at work rather than George Formby with the clubhouse windows fully sparkled to reveal some dire 'cutting-in' but a clear view of the action from a much warmer vantage point.

Remember Lodge were a player short so stalwart scorer Jacob Sharred stepped up to help-out and a confident Cringleford took to the field with stand-in keeper Foster having to learn the ropes quickly. Garby had done their homework during the break and cleverly set about chasing the total preferring twos to singles and finding the long boundaries when possible. The impressive pair of Culling and Baker eventually silenced the field but Lodge finally put in three total-reducing overs and with no prizes for second place the Pairing had to take chances and so it was that Culling was run out on 55.. in reality so lifeless was the match-ball by now that he could have comfortably batted out the innings and posted a hall-of-fame 70+ total but sacrificed that for his team. His partner in crime was Baker who ended not-out on 65.

In contrast the bowlers on both teams need not bother checking-out their scorebook figures... this was a day for the batsmen with three on 50 or more and the losing team posting the top two scores. Congratulations to all the unsung grounds-men as The Langley wicket and outfield were in fine condition.. perhaps too predictable for some. Despite the totals both teams fielded decently and Garby on this occasion were unlucky to play against an on-fire Lodge team. A combined total of 307 and a highest losing score of 144 could be hard to beat.... extras, well least said soonest mended. Let's hope that the Bermuda Triangle releases the missing player in time for next week.

Tim Duffy June 12th 2015

U15 Garboldisham v Cringleford Lodge

Batting first, the visitors racked up a hefty 163 for 4, which is very good going at over 10 runs per over. Wickets were taken by Joe Baker, Oscar Lane and George Southgate with catches from Georgie Dunkinson and Max Elder, plus a run-out. Unfortunately there were 36 extras.

In reply, Garboldisham knew that they had a very tough job on their hands in chasing down Cringleford's total. Garby openers Toby Culling and Joe Baker set about their job with gritty determination and they quickly had the scoreboard ticking over with some excellent hard running between the wickets. Good fielding from the visitors, as they cut off the boundaries, kept Garboldisham's run chase under control but Culling and Baker pressed on. At the 8 over, half way point, the game was still in the balance. However, a tight 12th over from Cringleford, with one too many dot balls, saw Garby stalling and with 50 or so runs needed off the final 4 overs, a win finally looked like an impossible task for the Garboldisham batsmen – but the lads never gave up hope. Toby Culling was finally run out on 55 and was replaced by Angus Pringle. Joe Baker battled on to reach 65 not out and Garboldisham ended up 20 runs short. It was a fantastic fight-back from Toby and Joe and with help from Angus at the finish, but the heady Cringleford total, along with some excellent fielding from the visitors, proved to be just too much for the home side.

Anon June 11th 2015

U13 Gt.Melton v Topcroft

With 2 players, Sam Nutt and Marcello Moerdyk, making their debuts and another, Michael Baker, playing his first game of the season, Great Melton U13s showed the depth of their squad by still winning convincingly against Topcroft. This was after an opening partnership of 51 by Topcroft's Archie Conway and Ollie Shipham, featuring some very good off-side shots, that ended in the 9th over when Conway got a ball from Moerdyk that kept low and was bowled off his pads. Shipham retired having scored 43 and, with Jack Day bowled by Josh Wright, the Topcroft innings ended rather sedately on 94-2. The lack of urgency in picking up the singles was to cost the visitors the match but Melton's performance in the field was strangely muted too – missing the U13s usual bubbling enthusiasm – although the actual fielding standards were high, with Kai Wilkinson-Loines performing well behind the stumps, only conceding 3 byes.

The batting, however, showed a greater intensity with Josh Wright and Ben Granville taking quick singles wherever possible and dispatching any wayward bowling to the boundary. The pair put on 52 in 8 overs before Wright was caught and bowled by Luke Bettridge, son of former Melton player Ian. Finlay Hughes joined Granville and hit some fine shots before Granville retired, the straight drive for four to bring his total to 43, typical of his excellent knock. Ben has now scored 73 without being dismissed in his last 2 innings. Hughes hit a no ball for four soon after to bring up Melton's 100 and give them a 6-wicket victory in the 14th over.

Steve Phoenix June 9th 2015

U15 Gt.Ellingham v Mulbarton

Having put Gt. Ellingham into bat, Mulbarton's early success with the wickets of Spelman (2) and George (8) were to prove short lived as Lake bedded down, increasingly taking advantage of Mulbarton's rather wayward line, particularly on the leg side. His buccaneering 64 not out was the highlight of the innings and he was well supported by Hannett (29 no) as these two forged an unbeaten partnership of 114 to end Ellingham's effort on 142 for 2.

Mulbarton's team included some new players and so it was up to the stalwarts to post a decent total if the visitors were to get anywhere close to the target, but when both Sharpe (1) and Thorpe (4) were dismissed cheaply before the end of the fourth over, the game was up. There were some valiant efforts by the remaining batsmen, but they were no match for Ellingham's more accurate and focussed attack as they were bowled out in the eleventh over managing just 9 runs off the bat in a total of 28.

JH June 7th 2015

U11 Dereham v Hethersett & Tas Valley

The sun was shining (initially!) at Dereham CC for this morning's U11 match against visitors Hethersett & Tas Valley (Tas). Both teams were fielding young players and the game was a very friendly encounter played in a very supportive and encouraging way by both sides.

Dereham – Thomas Cox, Tom Johnson, Jake Grange, Josh Barrell, Campbell Tilcock, Oscar Dickman, Harry Gooch, Thomas Horncastle

Tas – Ben Way, Billy Gibson, Charlie English, Jacob Devlin, Jamie Wilks, Menuka Jayakody, Toby Groves, Will Worley

Tas captain Ben Way won the toss and elected to field.

Ben opened the Tas bowling and was quickly into his stride, trapping opener Thomas Cox LBW on the 3rd ball of the first over. After a tidy over from Will Worley Ben came back on taking the wickets of Tom J and Jake with his 2nd over. With bowling figures of 2 overs, 3 wickets for only 9 runs – surely he would be the pick of the Tas bowlers?

With the score standing at 11 for 3 Dereham faced an uphill struggle. The new batsmen Josh and Campbell played positively, running quick singles and taking advantage of fielding errors and the score quickly moved to 24-3. Menuka Jayakody, still only an U9 but fully deserving his space in the U11 side, took the ball for the 5th over. His pace was difficult to play and he bowled Campbell with his 5th ball. 24-4. With Oscar and Harry at the crease, the Dereham innings steadied somewhat with 15 being added to the score in 3 overs. 42-4.

Jamie Wilks came on in the 9th over to devastating effect. His very first ball bowled out Josh, then with his 4th and 5th balls he took the final two wickets to end the Dereham innings at 43 all out. Jamie's figures of 5 balls, 3 wickets for 1 run will surely be difficult to beat this season.

In reply, the Tas openers of Ben Way and Will Worley applied themselves very sensibly to the run chase. Harry Gooch, the pick of the Dereham bowlers, bowled accurately, giving away no extras and restricting Tas to only 6 off his bowling. But once they had got their eye in the boys started to hit out, Ben especially with some lovely shots around the ground and Will with a great 4 off his legs. It was looking as if these two would see Tas home but then Will fell LBW to a lovely ball from Campbell. Menuka came in at no. 3 and supported Ben well, with some good backing up, allowing them to take some quick singles along the way. The target of 44 was reached in the 9th over.

Final score Dereham 43 all out in 9 overs, Tas 44 for 1 off 9 overs. Best Bowling Figures – Jamie Wilks (Tas) 3 wickets for 1 run from 5 balls. Ben Way (Tas) 3 wickets for 9 runs from 2 overs. Best Batting Figures - Ben Way (Tas) 19 not out.

Sara Worley (Tas U11's) May 24th 2015

U17 Mulbarton v Mattishall

Put into bat, Mattishall were out of the traps like a shot, their first pair adding 39 in less than 5 overs before Davison (11) was removed by Sharpe (2 for 18), the pick of the Mulbarton bowlers. Strong knocks from Stokes (35), Chapman (23) and some particularly brutal hitting from Fisher (45) at the death kept up the momentum as the home side wrestled with their line and length. Several spilled chances didn't help either as Mattishall rode their luck in setting Mulbarton a challenging 137 for 4.

With eight plus an over needed, Mulbarton were under the cosh right from the off as Mattishall bowled and fielded with real commitment. Several batsmen made a start but the rate drifted steadily upwards as the home side struggled to find the boundary. There were decent knocks from Paterson (24), Samson (27) and Osborn (16) but none were able to go on. Mattishall took some great catches and this, combined with their better bowling and team cohesion, meant that the result was never in any doubt long before the end of the game. Sharpe (12no) and

D. Matthews (11) delivered a spirited end to the innings, navigating the home side to 101, but Mattishall were worthy winners on a warm evening at Orchard Park.

JH May 23rd 2015

U17 Old Buckenham v Garboldisham

On a lovely summer's evening Old Buckenham played host to Garboldisham in the Under 17 league. Garby elected to field and the first overs were tight as Old Buckenham's openers Matt Hendrie and Joe Merdith batted sensibly. Merdith was the first to go as he was bowled by Blake Ingram for 2. Opener Hendrie also fell for two as he was caught and bowled by Georgie Dunkinson, after these two fell Old Buckenham struggled to score in the middle overs as wickets fell, Tommy Ling bowled both Matt Heusneider (9) and Joe Beales (1) before Nathan Burrows (9) was caught by Luke Hollend off the bowling of Georgie Dunkinson. Baker then caught a brilliant reaction catch off the bowling of Ling which dismissed Coles for 0. Former Garby player Hayden Watling was the final batsman to depart as Ling returned the favour to Baker with an equally good catch, as Old Buckenham finished 39 all out.

Chasing a low total Old Buck knew it was going to be hard to defend and it proved so as with some sensible batting from Callum Olpin 14 not out and Luke Hollend 16 not out. As Garby finished comfortable winners to win by 7 wickets, a game played in great spirit and lovely weather.

Thomas Ling May 23rd 2015

U13 Gt. Melton v Mulbarton

A man-of-the-match performance from Finlay Hughes was the highlight as Great Melton U13s made it 4 wins out of 4 this season with a 54-run victory over Mulbarton in their first South Norfolk Community League game of the season. Finlay scored an unbeaten 43 and took 2-5 in his 3 overs on a cold evening at Melton Park. He rescued Melton after Dayyan Mirzan's 3-17 had seen Matt Carter (0), Pat Walton (13) and Joe Mower (0) all depart cheaply. James Carter was also out for a duck and Melton looked in some trouble until Hughes found a willing partner in Olly Leinster who added 14 not out in a partnership of 83. With extras – mainly wides – swelling the Melton total by an extra 65 runs, the home side were able to pose a very challenging 136-4.

Mulbarton skipper Ben Thorpe hit 32 and Robert Macintosh 20 in Mulbarton's reply but Melton's bowling was much more accurate with only 19 extras conceded. Walton 3-0-12-0, Hughes 3-0-5-2, Mower 2-0-12-0, James Carter 3-0-15-0, Olly Black 2-0-9-0, Ezra Leverett 2-0-22-1 and Leinster 1-0-5-0 all bowled well and there was an excellent diving catch by wicketkeeper Matt Carter as Mulbarton were restricted to 82-4 from their 16 overs.

Steve Phoenix May 16th 2015

U11 Hethersett & Tas Valley v Gt. Ellingham

The SNCL season got underway with Tas Valley u11's welcoming Gt Ellingham u11's. Batting first Gt Ellingham made 87 for 4, of which it must be said scoring shots were somewhat restricted by Tas Valley conceding 70 in extras. Something to work on there Tas, although that could not be said of one of Tas Valley's promising u9's, Menuka Jayakody who took 2 wickets for 4 runs.

Facing what at u11's was a competitive score, the Tas Valley batsmen moved along steadily against some restrictive Gt Ellingham bowling and fielding and it was not until 13 runs were taken off the 15th over, with captain Ben Way leading the way with 26 not out and another of Tas Valley's promising u9's William Robertson with 14, that Tas Valley were able to make the game safe and win with 5 balls of the final over to spare. Well done to both sides.

Rennie Broughton May 12th 2015

U11 Mulbarton v Gt Melton

We had a lovely sunny morning for the opening match of the season at Orchard Park. Our U11 side rose brilliantly to the challenge of facing Great Melton in their opening game, looking keen, well organised and working well as a team. We were pleased to welcome two new players with Johnny Taylor and Robert Mackintosh playing for Mulbarton for the first time.

The Captain, Arjuna Puvanachandra elected to bowl first and Great Melton opened with Johnson and Green who put on 31 runs before Matthew Burton took the wicket of Johnson, caught by Arjuna in the 6th over. Arjuna struck again in the 9th over bowling the Great Melton top scorer Cameron Green for 22. The Mulbarton bowling from Ollie Gaudoin, Matthew Burton, Sam Johns and Jonny Taylor remained steady and along with an excellent debut by Elliot Beeson as wicket keeper, Great Melton were held to a score of 86 for 2 off their 16 overs.

Robert Mackintosh opened the batting with Arjuna and this pair had an excellent partnership of 76 before Arjuna (21 runs) was caught behind in the 14th over off Johnson. This brought Freddie Paterson to the wicket at a time when pushing the run rate was at a premium. Freddie was unlucky to be run out, bringing Matthew Burton to the

crease when 11 runs were needed off the last 2 overs. With Robert Mackintosh reaching 33 (not out) in the 15th over and having to retire, Ollie Gaudoin joined Matthew who struck a beautiful shot for 4 bringing the crowd to their feet. Ollie brought the side home with 4 balls to spare scoring a nice single to give the Mulbarton U11s a well-deserved 5 wicket victory in a match that showed great promise for this season and was played in good spirit by both teams.

Anne Osborn May 11th 2015

U17 Garboldisham v Diss

On a cold, wet and windy Wednesday evening. Garboldisham Under 17 team faced Diss in their first outing of the new season. Captain Olpin lost the toss and Garby were put into bat. After a quiet start the opening pair of Toby Culling and Callum Olpin soon added the runs before Culling was caught for 12 off the bowling off Ross Eddue. Luke Hollend was next in and next out, departing for 10 after being bowled by Heaton. Baker batted well with himself and Olpin bringing the Garby score to 131 for 2 with Olpin finishing up with an impressive opening knock of 75 not out

In reply Diss started well with some good stroke play but were pegged back when Owen Blakely was caught LBW by Oscar Lane. Young and Eddue then batted well to bring the score to 70 before Tommy Ling bowled Eddue. Young with his best efforts batted well before eventually being caught behind off the bowling of Culling. Browne and Hunt tried to reach Garby's total within the final overs but failed to do so as Diss finished on 101 for 3.

Thomas Ling May 7th 2015