



End of season roundup – September 2015

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 junior 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, were 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 third and Melton fourth, all separated by less than a single point.

The U9s, albeit a small league, were the only group to complete all their games this summer. Title holders, Topcroft, did not enter this year and the result was closely fought between Brooke and Gt.Melton. Brooke could perhaps consider themselves a tad unlucky having not lost a game to miss out in the end by a single point to Gt.Melton. Rocklands finished third.