Results Secretary Report 2022

Thirteen teams started the 40 over competition in the 2022 season, with seven in Division 1 and six in Division 2. In the T20 competition, withdrawals from Great Waltham, Witham and Frinton just before the start of season, saw the competition reduced to 7 teams, and the decision made to make one qualifying group of 7 playing for the top four spots on the Finals Day.

The T30 competition saw 10 teams enter this year, with further successes on the field for the younger players starting out on their cricket careers.

Congratulations to Division One champions Witham, Division Two champions Great Totham and T20 Champions Halstead, as well as to all the individuals who have picked up honours this evening.

Unfortunately, the growing disparity between team strengths caused a number of issues that were raised to the committee by neutral umpires and clubs alike. As a committee we have listened and have explored the competition rules and have proposed one new rule, and slight modifications to two other rules.

The new rule is to stop young ‘high-class’ Overseas players from playing in the NECL competitions, which we feel is to the detriment of the competition. We have not taken this decision lightly, but feel that at present the NECL is not a strong enough competition to have these players appearing in and dominating matches, at the expense of cricket chances for the local club cricketer.

In Division One last season one club conceded many games because they felt their side was not strong enough to compete with the strongest teams – it would be a waste of an afternoon to see one player dominating a game and knowing a forgone result.

In Division Two, Coggeshall withdrew early in the season, not being able to play three sides in T40, T30 and T20 and Great Horkesley & Lexden also had difficulty fulfilling fixtures, so disappointingly in what was a stellar season in terms of the weather, many teams in that division only played eight games. Great Horkesley & Lexden have sadly subsequently withdrawn for 2023, as have Great Waltham, but taking their places will be Chelmsford and Great Bentley.

We would also hope to see the T30 bear fruit with a number of clubs possibly entering the T40 competition at some point in the future, with possibly the second division increasing to 8 or 9 teams.

Another rule change put forward is that promotion to Division One will be optional, most teams in the top tier prefer the lighter load in Sunday games, but that is not necessarily the case in Division 2 and has caused some disquiet.

If there are six teams in Division Two for 2023, and there was enough support between the those clubs, I think the committee would happily agree to sides playing each other three or four times, giving a 15 or 20 game season.

There was £560 in fines this year, largely due to concessions but still an unnecessary amount to poor administration. Please can captains and administrators make themselves aware of the rules to avoid these fines, ensure results are uploaded in a timely manner, it should not be an issue in the age of mobile phones.

I would like to thank Graeson Laitt once again for his efforts in producing the fixtures for the 40 over competition. Unfortunately, Graeson has had health issues this year, so I wish him a full recovery.

Finally, the league will be implementing its new website from the end of October – [www.northessexcricket.co.uk](http://www.northessexcricket.co.uk) , with the functionality of Results Submission and Umpires Reports Submissions restored, so there will be no excuse for not getting the results in on time, or ensuring Umpire Assessments are completed.

Kevin Hewes

(Results Secretary)