

19 and out!! 2016 cricket season review

So another cricket season has come and gone, in many ways a season of highs and lows, elation, frustration and ultimately resignation. Life in Division 3 of the Rutland League should have held few surprises after a comfortable 2015 season, however a 10 team division was soon reduced to 8 when 2 clubs withdrew; one of them before a ball had been bowled and the second after 2 games. This resulted in only 7 home fixtures, one of which we cancelled due to bad weather in August, and several large gaps between games that disrupted any momentum. The team were buoyant however, starting in new kit provided by sponsors VAPE CENTRAL E CIGS and DYNO GROUP.



Thus Stuart and his team endured an up and down level of performance coupled with a lack of player availability, in spite of recruiting 4 new members to a squad of 20 in total. After early losses Carlton went on an unbeaten run that saw us pushing eventual champions Weldon all the way. The cancellation in August against Werrington would dent any promotion hopes as we were overhauled by Burley Park on the final weekend, which meant we finished a very creditable 3rd. We enjoyed many fine performances with bat and ball; Josh Clelland a fine young all-rounder who moved into #41 last year, Dan Partridge who seems destined to skipper the side next season following Stuarts decision to step down due to family commitment. The cavalier like Ed Sumpter, the mercurial Greg Hofbauer and paceman Mikey Evans ensured we were competitive all season.

So why 19 and out? I have been the voluntary groundsmen for 19 years now; as well as Youth Development Officer, Club and Team Captain in that time; but have decided to step down to pursue some other interests. I would like to say a huge thank you to all the current and former players, committee members, tea ladies, parents, sponsors, residents and neighbour's that have supported me in any of the ventures that I have undertaken during that time. I should add that most of this current crop of players has represented the club since 2000 when they were 11 years old, these things being cyclical new emphasis, drive and energy is now required to take cricket forward so I would encourage readers to come forward and get involved if you wish to see the cricket club continue to thrive. Thank you.

Nick Sumpter