



## NECC Club Captain's Report - 2022 AGM

Dear NECC,

2021 was a year of quiet progress for the first team. The league table makes for relatively unremarkable reading as we comfortably avoided relegation and finished in sixth place with four wins. The number of wins could and perhaps should have been higher with several rain affected games. There were also a number of very close losses, for example, losing by two wickets, five runs and six runs to Totteridge Millhillians IIs, Luton Town & Indians IIs and Letchworth IIs respectively. With better luck, we could have easily finished with another 50+ points and a position higher in the table.

Availability across both Saturday league teams continued to improve relative to previous years and there was much less scrambling around for players on a Friday before a game. To some extent, this aided continuity of selection - although there is still much room for improvement in this regard - while also helping to preserve the sanity of both captains!

Much of the improvement in availability is due to an increasing number of u19s playing regular league cricket across both teams. In fact, the most positive aspect of last year was the contribution and progression of several younger players. Callum bowled well all season, taking 15 wickets at 26.9, and probably deserved more. He also scored some useful runs in the middle to lower order, registering his maiden league 50 in a great run chase away vs Dunstable IIs.

Ishan had an encouraging season and finished the second highest league run scorer in the side. He made his first league 50 and played several attractive cameos - the challenge is to convert these starts into more consistent scores as he is more than capable when fully applied and engaged! Elsewhere, Sam had a couple of promising innings towards the end of the season (vs Datchworth and Potton Town), Maroof bowled well when he was available (13 wickets at 24.6) and Tom Munt was always wholehearted and had a standout game away vs Luton Town & Indians IIs, taking 4-47 on a very hot day.

In terms of other notable performances, Derrick deservedly won the bowling award and ended the season with 25 wickets at 17.6. He consistently threatened with the new ball before one muscle or another would often let him down in his second spell! The batting award was won by yours truly (471 runs at 42.8), with Kieran also consistently scoring runs (212 runs at 42.4) when available although this was less than we all would have liked due to work commitments.

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As always, I must finish with a list of thank you's which is by no means exhaustive... To Del and Colonel (with support from Garry) for the incredible time and effort they put into the ground. To Jack for his patience and horse trading in weekly selection discussions. To Allan Jones and DVD for umpiring when they were able to. To Mark Coughlan for scoring every league game. To the rest of the committee who put in so much unseen work behind the scenes. And finally, to everyone that made themselves available and played.

It has been a pleasure to captain the side over the last four years and I'm sure - with the right mixture of youth and experience - we can continue to build on this progress in 2022.

**Tom Coughlan**

**NECC Club Captain**

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