

SPARKY's SCOOP - Week 22

Since 1787 it would be harder to see a greater achievement than the 2017 season of Sudbury Cricket club. It was lovely to see the whole club celebrating the season's achievements on Saturday night. It will take a while to sink in but the club have reached the pinnacle of club cricket in East Anglia after we won the East Anglian Premier league on Saturday. It's recognised as one of the top 5 leagues in the country and we were top from week 1 to week 22. An amazing achievement considering we were relegated 3 years ago.

The 'crunch match' against Swardeston was finally abandoned at 2:50 after many pitch inspections and an early lunch. The start was rescheduled for 2:30 at 32 overs per side, but just as the players were about to take the field the heavens opened up again and the umpires called the game off. Big thanks to David Oakes and the ground team for all their efforts to get the game on.

The 2nd XI couldn't quite pip Little Bardfield to the title. They only managed 16 overs at Exning before returning home to join in the celebrations as the rain worked its way south. Still an amazing achievement for Stuart Whitehart to gain promotion to Two Counties Division 2. Well done everyone.

Big thanks to Willie Amos and Lee Wotten at Twinstead. They got a game in and produced a great match. The 3rd team ended the season on a high as they won off the last ball for more wild celebrations! What a way to end the season (Ben Duncan 2 - 18, and Will Amos 47*). The boys still have a chance of staying in Division 7 with possible league adjustments for new teams entering the league - watch this space.

The celebrations continued into the night with the annual Players Dinner and Website Awards - many thanks as usual to Chairman Louis Brooks for conducting proceedings. There was so much energy, passion, fun, smiling and togetherness in the pavilion. The Suffolk Cup, EAPL, promotion, the great effort from the 3rd, 4th, Junior and Ladies teams are all the result of one club pulling together. The titles are for everyone. Who would have thought that little old Sudbury could be the best in East Anglia from week 1 to 22. Tom Huggins was a man with a 3 year plan and he carried it off to a tea. With a little help from his friends!

Thanks to the Keith Martin Group, ALT Training, all our sponsors, advertisers, lunch teams, Vice Presidents, spectators and visitors to the ground. Sudbury are the best and we will try to do it all again next year. Thanks also to all the Free Press readers and everyone else who helped to make it happen.

It's now time to put the ground to bed, and start planning for next year. If you fancy some cricket we welcome everyone of all abilities. You know where to come. The work never stops but it is all worthwhile as Saturday proved - **WHAT A FANTASTIC CLUB** - and thanks to all our supporters who have visited Friars Street and offered messages of 'good luck' throughout the season - **A REAL CREDIT TO THE TOWN**.