

EDITORIAL 2009

There was a welcome increase in both the number of teams and players during the 2009 season. Teams were up to 43 including two brand new entries, All Trades and Dumpton Youth plus a revamped Monkton/Ramsgate side reappeared under the British Legion banner. This increase was reflected in the number of players which increased to 467. The League's Web-site continues to grown in popularity and received some 10,000 hits in the past year.

The Broadstairs band wagon continues on what appears to be an unstoppable journey. Their first team won the Division One title for the 10th successive season and the 22nd occasion since the league began back in 1976. Westgate the runners-up level on points but with an inferior run-rate.

Their A team however won the Division two title by one point from Minster. Division Three has, over the years, proved to be one of the most competitive and 2009 was no exception only run-rate separating the winners Hartsdonians A from Sandwich B. Dairies won Division Four with St. Nicholas just two points behind while Westbrook A enjoyed a comfortable margin of six points at the top of Division Five over Nelson A. Sixteen sides took parting the K.O. Cup which was again played using a handicap system. Broadstairs a and Sandwich reached the final with the former emerging victorious.

HIGHEST Partnerships - there were three new Divisional records, for the 2nd wicket in Division Three and the 1st & 2nd wickets in Division Five. By one of those quirks of statistics there had never been a century stand for the 2nd wkt in D3 so an unbroken stand of 112 by Sandwich D removes the previous best (99) set by Northdown back in 1990. The previous high for the 1st wkt in D5 was raised on no fewer than three times during the season all at the expense of the Margate ladies team. The record of 176 set by Hartsdonians B is just three runs short of the highest ever partnership for any wicket. Co-incidentally the previous best for the 2nd wicket in this Division was also bettered on three occasions and now stands at 127 eclipsing the previous best (101) which had also stood since 1990.

Bret Kirk (Margate A) took full advantage of the increased number of matches in Division Five and amassed a formidable total of 540 runs from 17 innings the best since 1997 and the third highest ever achieved.. Three others, Bob Spence (475), Darren Cousins (440) and Olie Robinson (417) all past the 400 mark. Perhaps no surprisingly the bowlers had a somewhat quieter season Steve Wood with 16 wickets was followed by Nicky Knight on 15 and no fewer than five players each took fourteen wickets. A further indication that bowlers could be in decline is shown by the fact that only three were able to complete the season and concede less than five runs per over. Two of these were in Division One and the other in Division Four.

Three of the ever dwindling band of veterans, Terry Gilliland, Derek Mackrill and Jeff Sargeant failed to reach the srat line in 2009 leaving just three who have played continuously since our opening back in 1976 John Jones, Gary Sandwell and Chris Woodall.

Gary Sandwell becomes the 12th player to reach the 7,000 run mark and Clive Thurgate the 19th to score in excess of 6,000 runs. Andy Chapman & Vernon Laslett reached the 4,000 run mark.

Among the bowlers Nicky Knight and Jarrett Smith join a select group of who have taken 200 wickets.

In the Double section Clive Thurgate joins the elite group of six all rounders who have scored 6,000 runs and taken 200 wickets a remarkable achievement. Three others, Terry Bond, Darren Cousins and Alan Nicholson attained the qualification of 5,000 runs and 150 wickets while a further seven, a mixture of young and mature players, begin the progression up this ladder with 1,000 runs & 50 wickets.