

County Teams Report 2015

This is my second report as County Match Secretary. The role and functions of this post were discussed in my report of last year so I won't repeat them; however I'll happily send a copy of last year's report to anyone who didn't receive one.

Anyway on to Season 2014-15. We entered the same teams as last year namely Minor Counties, Under 160, Under 140, Under 120 and Under 100. After our sweeping successes of last year, our results in the MCCU were mixed. Our Minor Team, national finalists in 2013-14 were swept aside in the regional stages losing to both Leicestershire & Lincolnshire with a consolation win over Derbyshire. If we are unable to field our top players, I'm afraid this sort of result is inevitable. To put this in context all three Midland qualifiers were convincingly beaten in the national quarter-finals. This at least enabled us to have another bite of the cherry in the Under 180 competition. Our Under 160 and Under 140 teams swept all before them and we became Midland Champions in both competitions. Our Under 120 team as National Champions might have expected a re-run to the finals – it was not to be as a rather freakish set of results meant that we were knocked out in the Midland stages. The Under 100s meanwhile finished in 2nd spot well behind zone winners Warwickshire.

However we still had four teams in the national stages as in 2013-14, so could we again fight our way through to the finals? The quarter-finals gave our Under 140 side a bye to the semis but our other teams drew opponents from every corner of the country. The Under 180 side lost narrowly to Devon by 8½-7½ whilst the Under 160s succumbed to Middlesex by the same score. I could have fielded an extremely strong side made up of players who were missing for these vital matches. As it was we failed in both; hindsight proving I should have perhaps shuffled the players around. On a brighter note the Under 100s narrowly beat Lancashire.

In the semi-finals, the Under 140s faced their nemesis team Hampshire who beat us in the Final of both 2014 and 2010 but this time we emerged triumphant by 8½-7½. The Under 100 team meanwhile accounted for the SCCU champions, Essex. The Finals were a double header with Kent. Our Under 140 team never really got going and trailed in 8½-7½ after always being behind. Meanwhile our Under 100 team in a wonderful performance beat the current national champions to wrest a title that the SCCU considered their own.

During the year a total of 103 players represented Nottinghamshire. A total of 21 matches were played in which we won 11, drew one and lost 9. This year we unfortunately defaulted four boards out of the 294 played. Three of these were in one match and the other was due to a breakdown on route.

Can I thank all the players who have acted as match captains and transport over the season. I hope for your continued support in 2015-16.

Neil Graham

6th July 2015

MCCU County Fixtures 2014-2015

Oct 4th	Under 120	Warwickshire	(away)	Lost	7½-4½	
Oct 11 th	Under 160	Warwickshire	(away)	Won	9½-6½	
Oct 18th	Counties	Lincolnshire	(away)	Lost	9-7	
Nov 1 st	Under 100	Leicestershire	(home)	Won	7-5	
Nov 8 th	Counties	Derbyshire	(home)	Won	7½-6½	
Nov 8 th	Under 120	Lincolnshire	(home)	Won	9½-2½	
Dec 6 th	Counties	Leicestershire	(home)	Lost	5½-10½	
Dec 6 ^{th#}	Under 120	Worcestershire	(home)	Won	8-4	
Dec 13th	Under 100	Warwickshire	(away)	Lost	8½-3½	
Jan 17 th	Under 140	Staffordshire	(away)	Won	4½-11½	
Jan 24 th	Under 180	Warwickshire	(home)	Lost	6½-9½	
Feb 7 ^{th#}	Under 160	Gtr Manchester	(inter)	Won	12-4	
Feb 21 st	Under 120	Staffordshire	(away)	Lost	9-3	
Mar 14th	Under 100	Staffordshire	(away)	Drew	6-6	
May	Under 180	Devon	(inter)	Lost	8½-7½	
May	Under 160	Middlesex	(inter)	Lost	8½-7½	
May	Under 100	Lancashire	(inter)	Won	6½-5½	
June	Under 140	Hampshire	(inter)	Won	8½-7½	
June	Under 100	Essex	(inter)	Won	7-5	
July	Under 140	Kent	(inter)	Lost	8½-7½	
July	Under 100	Kent	(inter)	Won	7-5	

Players represented the county as follows:-

103 players (98M, 5F) represented the county as follows:-

Gambit 18; Ashfield 13, West Notts 13; West Bridgford 11, Radcliffe & Bingham 11; Nomads 9; University 7, Central 7, Unattached 7; Newark 5; Mansfield 1, Long Eaton 1