



# Yorkshire Phoenix



POSITION	P	W	L	T	NR	PTS
5th	10	4	6	0	0	16

## Season So Far

**Y**orkshire Phoenix's progress in Division One of the Norwich Union National Cricket League this season can be summed up in one word. Inconsistent.

David Byas' side have been unable to win back-to-back matches all season and will have to show an improvement in their remaining six matches if they are to avoid the drop to Division Two. The White Rose county are currently one of three sides on 16 points, with Kent Spitfires and Lancashire Lightning below them on 12, and with three teams due to be relegated at the end of the season, Phoenix are facing a fight to retain their place in the upper tier of the Norwich Union competition.

They made the best possible start to the season, recording a 19-run victory over cur-

rent league leaders Worcestershire Royals, but failed to press home that advantage, losing to the same opponents by nine runs at Headingley just one week later. Byas' troops bounced back well against Gloucestershire Gladiators, in their second of four successive Headingley outings, and although they were assisted by the Duckworth/Lewis method, any victory over Mark Alleyne's men should be savoured.

Leicestershire Foxes were the next side to visit Leeds, and they departed with all four points after a three-wicket triumph, before the Yorkshire Phoenix roller-coaster climbed again with a 24-run win over Kent Spitfires. Successive heavy defeats followed, by 51 runs against Gladiators and 60 runs at the hands of Northamptonshire Steelbacks, be-

fore pride was restored with an impressive triumph under the lights against bitter Roses rivals Lightning at Old Trafford.

But once again, Phoenix could not build on the momentum they had gained and were undone by former overseas star Michael Bevan, now with Sussex Sharks, before also slipping to defeat at the hands of Somerset Sabres.

Australian import Darren Lehmann has, as expected, impressed with the bat and tops the Phoenix batting averages. Worryingly for Byas, he is the only player to have an average of above 30 so far this season. Craig White and Chris Silverwood have both shone with the ball, while Matthew Hoggard is Phoenix's leading wicket-taker with 16 victims so far.

## 2000 National Cricket League

### Batting averages

Name	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Avg
D.S.Lehmann	10	10	1	336	89	37.33
R.J.Blakey	10	10	1	255	62	28.33
V.J.Craven	1	1	0	28	28	28.00
A.McGrath	4	4	1	82	32*	27.33
D.Byas	10	10	0	226	52	22.60
G.M.Fellows	10	10	0	208	65	20.80
M.J.Wood	6	4	0	73	31	18.25
G.M.Hamilton	8	6	1	77	31	15.40
I.D.Fisher	2	2	0	24	20	12.00
M.P.Vaughan	5	5	1	36	11	9.00
R.J.Sidebottom	7	6	2	36	21	9.00
S.Widdup	1	1	0	8	8	8.00
C.White	4	4	0	30	14	7.50
C.Silverwood	4	3	0	17	12	5.66
J.Middlebrook	8	5	0	15	9	3.00
M.J.Hoggard	9	6	3	4	2*	1.33
D.Gough	3	3	3	36	15*	-
R.J.Harden	1	1	1	2	2*	-
P.M.Hutchison	5	2	2	1	1*	-

### Bowling averages

Name	O	M	R	Wkts	Avg	Best
M.P.Vaughan	7.5	1	34	4	8.50	4-27
C.White	32.2	1	101	9	11.22	3-26
C.Silverwood	25.4	3	87	7	12.42	3-16
G.Ramsden	4	0	26	2	13.00	2-26
I.D.Fisher	18	0	58	4	14.50	3-20
M.J.Hoggard	70	8	291	16	18.18	3-20
G.M.Hamilton	49.2	3	183	10	18.30	3-29
D.Gough	26	4	81	4	20.25	2-29
J.Middlebrook	59	0	256	10	25.60	3-16
P.M.Hutchison	31.3	4	141	5	28.20	3-27
D.S.Lehmann	41.4	1	178	6	29.66	2-13
R.Sidebottom	43	4	183	2	91.50	1-23
G.M.Fellows	1	0	10	0	-	-
C.J.Elstob	5.2	0	31	0	-	-

## 2000 Norwich Union National Cricket League Rankings

### Batting

Pos	Name	Total
3=	D.S.Lehmann	95
11=	R.J.Blakey	84
22=	D.Byas	69
37=	G.M.Fellows	62
107=	G.M.Hamilton	31
120=	A.McGrath	28
131=	M.J.Wood	25
144=	D.Gough	21
168=	M.P.Vaughan	15
173=	R.J.Sidebottom	14

### Bowling

Pos	Name	Total
12=	M.J.Hoggard	94
27=	G.M.Hamilton	79
42=	J.D.Middlebrook	71
65=	C.White	58
71=	D.S.Lehmann	57
80=	R.J.Sidebottom	51
85=	C.E.W.Silverwood	47
95=	D.Gough	40

### Highest Team Totals

Score	Against
225 for 5	Lightning
202	Sharks
189 for 3	Foxes
164 for 9	Royals
163 for 9	Spitfires
160 for 3	Gladiators
160	Gladiators

### Wicket Takers

Name	Wkts
M.J.Hoggard	16
G.M.Hamilton	10
J.D.Middlebrook	10
C.White	9
C.E.W.Silverwood	7
D.S.Lehmann	6
P.M.Hutchison	5

### Leading Scorers

Name	Runs
D.S.Lehmann	336
R.J.Blakey	255
D.Byas	226
G.M.Fellows	208
A.McGrath	82
G.M.Hamilton	77
M.J.Wood	73
D.Gough	36

### Sticky Fingers

Name	Catches
(catches)	
D.Byas	8
M.P.Vaughan	3
M.J.Wood	3
G.M.Fellows	3
D.S.Lehmann	2
D.Gough	1
A.McGrath	1

## Best Individual Scores

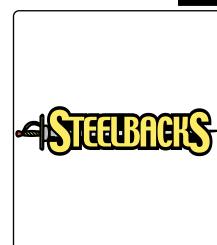
Name	Score	Teams	Venue
D.S.Lehmann	89	Phoenix v Sharks	Arundel Castle
G.M.Fellows	65	Phoenix v Foxes	Headingley
R.J.Blakey	62	Phoenix v Foxes	Headingley
D.S.Lehmann	62	Phoenix v Lightning	Old Trafford
G.M.Fellows	57	Phoenix v Lightning	Old Trafford
D.Byas	52	Phoenix v Spitfires	Headingley

## Best Individual Bowling

Name	Wkts/Runs	Teams	Venue
M.P.Vaughan	4/27	Phoenix v Gladiators	Bristol
J.D.Middlebrook	3/16	Phoenix v Gladiators	Headingley
C.E.W.Silverwood	3/16	Phoenix v Spitfires	Headingley
M.J.Hoggard	3/20	Phoenix v Royals	Headingley
I.D.Fisher	3/20	Phoenix v Sabres	Scarborough
J.D.Middlebrook	3/24	Phoenix v Spitfires	Headingley



## Northamptonshire Steelbacks



POSITION	P	W	L	T	NR	PTS
6th	10	4	6	0	0	16

### Season So Far

Following a disastrous start to their Norwich Union National League Division One campaign, Northamptonshire Steelbacks have gone some way to repairing this early-season damage with four victories in their last six encounters.

Led by Australian Test star Matthew Hayden, much had been expected of this highly-talented outfit which includes the big-hitting batsman David Sales and off-spin star Graeme Swann. But any hopes of a successful start were blown away with successive defeats against Kent Spitfires, Gloucestershire Gladiators, Somerset Sabres and the high-flying Worcestershire

Royals.

The Steelbacks' first win came against Lancashire Lightning at Northampton - more than a month into the season. Lightning's all-star line-up had also endured a less than impressive start to the campaign and a tidy, if not penetrative, bowling performance kept the score under 200. Mal Loye, who had been so prolific the season before, then produced a timely display of his obvious talents to score 61 and help the Steelbacks claim their first four points.

The victory effectively kick-started Steelbacks' season and they followed it up with a 22-run success over Somerset Sabres. Loye again contributed with a knock

of 54, but it was Sales who was the heavier scorer and his impressive 72 helped the side reach 251 from their 45 overs. A fine all-round bowling performance, which included a tight two-wicket spell from Swann, accounted for the Sabres who struggled to 229 all out.

Steelbacks have secured two more victories since that win and their league position is now looking healthier.

One concern for Hayden and his side is their poor run-rate, but they are now just eight points off second-placed Sabres and looking to mount a late challenge. The top three could yet be threatened by this talented side.

### 2000 National Cricket League

#### Batting averages

Name	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Avg
D.J.G.Sales	9	9	2	334	72	47.71
M.L.Hayden	10	10	1	329	96*	36.55
M.B.Loye	9	9	0	218	61	24.22
K.J.Innes	7	6	1	121	55	24.20
J.W.Cook	9	9	0	150	45	16.66
G.P.Swann	10	9	0	136	57	15.11
D.Ripley	10	9	3	88	30	14.66
A.L.Penberthy	9	9	1	108	27	13.50
A.S.Rollins	5	5	0	58	28	11.60
R.J.Logan	2	2	0	17	17	8.50
D.M.Cousins	8	6	3	16	7*	5.33
J.F.Brown	6	2	1	4	3*	4.00
M.K.Davies	2	2	1	4	4	4.00
D.E.Malcolm	8	6	1	16	6	3.20
R.J.Warren	2	2	0	5	4	2.50
M.R.Strong	4	3	1	2	1*	1.00

#### Bowling averages

Name	O	M	R	Wkts	Avg	Best
M.K.Davies	12	0	57	3	19.00	2-29
K.J.Innes	41.2	2	191	9	21.22	2-14
G.P.Swann	51.5	1	250	11	22.72	4-14
A.L.Penberthy	57	4	241	10	24.10	3-37
D.M.Cousins	49	1	219	9	24.33	3-27
J.F.Brown	47	2	199	7	28.42	2-28
M.R.Strong	27.4	1	138	4	34.50	2-38
D.E.Malcolm	51	4	243	4	60.75	1-12
M.L.Hayden	11	0	73	1	73.00	1-16
D.J.G.Sales	4	0	17	0	-	-
R.J.Logan	9.5	0	82	0	-	-

### 2000 Norwich Union National Cricket League Rankings

#### Batting

Pos	Name	Total
4=	D.J.G.Sales	93
10=	M.L.Hayden	86
31=	M.B.Loye	66
72=	J.W.Cook	48
79=	G.P.Swann	43
85=	A.L.Penberthy	40
85=	K.J.Innes	40
101=	D.Ripley	35
148=	A.S.Rollins	20
194=	D.M.Cousins	9

#### Bowling

Pos	Name	Total
43=	A.L.Penberthy	70
43=	G.P.Swann	70
63=	D.M.Cousins	60
74=	K.J.Innes	55
77=	D.E.Malcolm	54
78=	J.F.Brown	52
115=	M.R.Strong	25
135=	M.K.Davies	15

#### Highest Team Totals

Score	Against
251 for 8	Sabres
240	Sabres
217	Sharks
192 for 6	Foxes
191 for 3	Lightning
189 for 7	Phoenix
178	Lightning

#### Wicket Takers

Name	Wkts
G.P.Swann	11
A.L.Penberthy	10
K.J.Innes	9
D.M.Cousins	9
J.F.Brown	7
M.R.Strong	4
D.E.Malcolm	4

#### Leading Scorers

Name	Score
D.J.G.Sales	334
M.L.Hayden	329
M.B.Loye	218
J.W.Cook	150
G.P.Swann	136
K.J.Innes	121
A.L.Penberthy	108
D.Ripley	88

#### Sticky Fingers

Name	(catches)
A.L.Penberthy	4
A.S.Rollins	3
D.J.G.Sales	3
M.L.Hayden	3
G.P.Swann	3
R.J.Warren	2
K.J.Innes	2

### Best Individual Scores

Name	Score	Teams	Venue
M.L.Hayden	96*	Steelbacks v Foxes	Leicester
D.J.G.Sales	72	Steelbacks v Sabres	Northampton
D.J.G.Sales	71*	Steelbacks v Phoenix	Headingley
M.B.Loye	61	Steelbacks v Lightning	Northampton
G.P.Swann	57	Steelbacks v Sabres	Taunton
K.J.Innes	55	Steelbacks v Royals	Worcester

### Best Individual Bowling

Name	Wkts/Runs	Teams	Venue
G.P.Swann	4/14	Steelbacks v Phoenix	Headingley
D.M.Cousins	3/27	Steelbacks v Foxes	Leicester
A.L.Penberthy	3/37	Steelbacks v Foxes	Leicester
K.J.Innes	2/14	Steelbacks v Lightning	Old Trafford
A.L.Penberthy	2/20	Steelbacks v Gladiators	Northampton
J.F.Brown	2/28	Steelbacks v Phoenix	Headingley



# Sussex Sharks



<b>POSITION</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>NR</b>	<b>PTS</b>
7th	9	3	4	1	1	16

## Season So Far

Sussex Sharks are currently in the relegation zone of the Norwich Union National Cricket League Division One, but their recent form suggests they will still be in the upper echelon of the one-day game next season.

Sharks made a dismal start to Norwich Union NCL campaign, failing to record a victory in their first five matches, but they have made a mockery of that poor opening, with three wins from their last four contests.

With 28 points still to play for, captain Chris Adams will be confident that his side can climb towards a position of safety in mid-table, but the 10-point gap to league leaders Worcestershire Royals looks to be too large to bridge at this stage of the season. Sharks can also take heart from the fact that all their

losses this season have been narrow, the largest margin they have been defeated by all season is 16 runs at the hands of Somerset Sabres.

Adams' men opened up against Gloucestershire Gladiators at Bristol, and went down by 10 runs, a respectable result, given the quality of the opposition. Sharks picked up their first points of the season in a tied match against Leicestershire Foxes, with the scores level after 45 overs.

The dreaded Duckworth/Lewis method went against them when they met Worcestershire Royals, suffering a four-run defeat after a rain-affected encounter, and they were then defeated by Sabres at Bath. But Sharks refused to fold despite their poor start, and picked up four points for the first

time against Leicestershire Foxes at Horsham, only to suffer another narrow defeat, this time by a mere three runs, against Kent Spitfires.

Sharks again bounced back, and have begun to show their true potential, with their last two matches ending in comfortable victories over Northamptonshire Steelbacks and Yorkshire Phoenix.

In Australian star Michael Bevan, Sharks have one of the finest exponents of limited overs cricket in the world. Bevan has amassed 420 runs in his eight innings so far, and boasts an astonishing average of 105. Adams has also led from the front with the bat, scoring 351 runs so far, including a century against Steelbacks.

## 2000 National Cricket League

### Batting averages

Name	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Avg
J.M.G.Bevan	8	8	4	420	89*	105.00
C.J.Adams	8	8	0	351	100	43.87
R.R.M'gomerie	8	8	0	243	65	30.37
W.J.House	7	7	2	125	33	25.00
R.J.Kirtley	8	4	3	18	13*	18.00
J.R.Carpenter	4	4	1	49	29	16.33
A.D.Patterson	5	2	0	32	20	16.00
U.B.A.Rashid	8	5	0	72	34	14.40
P.A.Cottey	8	8	0	81	47	10.12
R.S.C.M-Jenkins	7	5	0	35	20	7.00
N.J.Wilton	3	3	1	4	3*	2.00
B.V.Taylor	5	2	1	1	1*	1.00
M.A.Robinson	8	3	1	1	1	0.50
M.H.Yardy	1	0	0	0	0	-

### Bowling averages

Name	O	M	R	Wkts	Avg	Best
M.G.Bevan	8.1	0	51	4	12.75	3-17
R.J.Kirtley	63	4	265	17	15.58	4-32
M.A.Robinson	70	6	254	13	19.53	4-23
W.J.House	40.5	2	183	8	22.87	3-34
B.V.Taylor	35.4	3	146	6	24.33	2-30
R.S.C.M-Jenkins	54	4	240	9	26.66	2-31
U.B.A.Rashid	61.5	2	298	10	29.80	3-38
M.H.Yardy	3	0	15	0	-	-
C.J.Adams	4	0	30	0	-	-

## 2000 Norwich Union National Cricket League Rankings

### Batting

Pos	Name	Total
2=	M.G.Bevan	111
5=	C.J.Adams	90
20=	R.R.Montgomerie	70
75=	W.J.House	45
127=	P.A.Cottey	26
127=	U.B.A.Rashid	26
148=	J.R.Carpenter	20
180=	R.S.C.Martin-Jenkins	12
180=	A.D.Patterson	12
188=	R.J.Kirtley	10

### Bowling

Pos	Name	Total
16=	M.A.Robinson	91
19=	R.J.Kirtley	89
65=	U.B.A.Rashid	58
74=	R.S.C.Martin-Jenkins	55
87=	B.V.Taylor	46
90=	W.J.House	45
143=	M.G.Bevan	12
170=	C.J.Adams	4

### Highest Team Totals

Score	Against
272 for 6	Phoenix
260 for 3	Steelbacks
219	Foxes
212 for 4	Spitfires
181 for 8	Sabres
164 for 9	Foxes
135	Gladiators

### Wicket Takers

Name	Wkts
R.J.Kirtley	17
M.A.Robinson	13
U.B.A.Rashid	10
R.S.C.Martin-Jenkins	9
W.J.House	8
B.V.Taylor	6
M.G.Bevan	4

### Leading Scorers

Name	Runs
M.G.Bevan	420
C.J.Adams	351
R.R.Montgomerie	243
W.J.House	125
P.A.Cottey	81
U.B.A.Rashid	72
J.R.Carpenter	49
R.S.C.M-Jenkins	35

### Sticky Fingers

Name	Catches
(catches)	
C.J.Adams	7
M.G.Bevan	6
U.B.A.Rashid	5
J.R.Carpenter	3
P.A.Cottey	3
R.R.Montgomerie	3
R.S.C.M-Jenkins	2

## Best Individual Scores

Name	Score	Teams	Venue
C.J.Adams	100	Sharks v Steelbacks	Northampton
M.G.Bevan	89*	Sharks v Phoenix	Arundel Castle
C.J.Adams	82	Sharks v Spitfires	Hove
M.G.Bevan	69	Sharks v Sabres	Bath
R.R.Montgomerie	65	Sharks v Spitfires	Hove
M.G.Bevan	59	Sharks v Foxes	Leicester

## Best Individual Bowling

Name	Wkts/Runs	Teams	Venue
M.A.Robinson	4/23	Sharks v Foxes	Leicester
R.J.Kirtley	4/32	Sharks v Spitfires	Hove
R.J.Kirtley	4/41	Sharks v Royals	Hove
M.G.Bevan	3/17	Sharks v Sabres	Bath
R.J.Kirtley	3/18	Sharks v Gladiators	Bristol
W.J.House	3/34	Sharks v Gladiators	Bristol



# Kent Spitfires



<b>POSITION</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>NR</b>	<b>PTS</b>
8th	10	2	6	0	2	12

## Season So Far

**K**ent Spitfires have so far failed to justify retaining their place in Norwich Union National Cricket League Division One. And coach John Wright knows there must be a dramatic turnaround in form if the side is to avoid slipping into the lower league tier.

Moments to cheer this season have been few and far between. The Spitfires have crash-landed at the foot of the division, with 12 points to their name, only above rock-bottom Lancashire Lightning on run-rate.

Ten fixtures in the Norwich Union NCL this year have produced just two wins. The first came at Canterbury on May Day, when

Northamptonshire Steelbacks were skittled for a mere 76 runs, and the second four-point haul was against south coast rivals Sussex Sharks in a day/night match at Hove five weeks ago.

The hosts looked to be strolling to victory before both openers were bowled and the Spitfires grabbed a three-run win. So Wright and skipper Matthew Fleming know there is a major task ahead if Division Two next year is to be avoided. And matches like the five-wicket reverse to Gloucestershire Gladiators last week must certainly be avoided. At Cheltenham, the Spitfires batted first and hit 199 runs from 45 overs.

But the bowlers failed to pin down the Gladiators in their response, with the hosts securing a five-wicket win after wicketkeeper Jack Russell and captain Mark Alleyne put on an unbeaten 91 to guide the Gladiators to victory. And if the Spitfires are to turn around their season and climb into the top half of the table, they will have to do it the hard way.

Plenty of testing matches are coming up, starting with Leicestershire Foxes' visit to Canterbury and followed by the day/night relegation scrap with Lancashire Lightning at Old Trafford on August 15.

## 2000 National Cricket League

### Batting averages

Name	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Avg
A.P.Wells	8	8	1	266	90	38.00
J.B.Hockley	3	3	1	70	29	35.00
M.V.Fleming	8	7	1	164	63	27.33
R.Dravid	7	7	1	154	49	25.66
M.J.Walker	8	8	0	191	63	23.87
M.A.Ealham	8	7	1	142	49*	23.66
D.P.Fulton	5	5	0	91	69	18.20
P.A.Nixon	8	7	2	78	30*	15.60
E.T.Smith	1	1	0	14	14	14.00
R.W.T.Key	5	5	0	41	16	8.20
M.M.Patel	7	5	1	18	14*	4.50
K.Adams	6	5	3	8	6*	4.00
D.D.Masters	8	5	1	16	10*	4.00
S.A.Marsh	2	2	0	5	4	2.50

### Bowling averages

Name	O	M	R	Wkts	Avg	Best
B.J.Phillips	7	0	25	4	6.25	4-25
K.Adams	44	2	195	8	24.37	4-19
M.M.Patel	62	8	269	10	26.90	2-25
M.V.Fleming	58.1	3	237	7	33.85	2-44
J.M.Golding	13	2	38	1	38.00	1-18
M.J.Walker	13	0	77	2	38.50	1-1
M.J.McCague	5	0	40	1	40.00	1-40
M.A.Ealham	64.4	8	220	5	44.00	3-38
D.D.Masters	57.1	6	254	4	63.50	2-10
R.Dravid	11	0	56	0	-	-

## 2000 Norwich Union National Cricket League Rankings

### Batting

Pos	Name	Total
35=	A.P.Wells	65
52=	M.J.Walker	54
64=	R.Dravid	51
70=	M.V.Fleming	49
76=	M.A.Ealham	44
105=	P.A.Nixon	32
131=	J.B.Hockley	25
139=	D.P.Fulton	23
168=	R.W.T.Key	15
194=	M.M.Patel	9

### Bowling

Pos	Name	Total
17=	M.A.Ealham	90
46=	M.V.Fleming	69
65=	M.M.Patel	58
65=	K.Adams	58
83=	D.D.Masters	49
123=	J.M.Golding	20
127=	B.J.Phillips	18
143=	R.Dravid	12
150=	M.J.Walker	11

### Highest Team Totals

Score	Against
241	Sabres
215 for 7	Sharks
199 for 6	Gladiators
186	Gladiators
179 for 9	Sabres
141 for 9	Foxes
139	Phoenix

### Wicket Takers

Name	Wkts
M.M.Patel	10
K.Adams	8
M.V.Fleming	7
M.A.Ealham	5
B.J.Phillips	4
D.D.Masters	4
M.J.Walker	2

### Leading Scorers

Name	Runs
A.P.Wells	266
M.J.Walker	191
M.V.Fleming	164
R.Dravid	154
M.A.Ealham	142
D.P.Fulton	91
P.A.Nixon	78
J.B.Hockley	70

### Sticky Fingers

Name	Catches
(catches)	
R.Dravid	3
M.J.Walker	3
D.P.Fulton	2
M.M.Patel	2
M.V.Fleming	2
S.A.Marsh	1
M.A.Ealham	1

## Best Individual Scores

Name	Score	Teams	Venue
A.P.Wells	90	Spitfires v Sharks	Hove
D.P.Fulton	69	Spitfires v Gladiators	Tunbridge Wells
M.V.Fleming	63	Spitfires v Sabres	Taunton
M.J.Walker	63	Spitfires v Sabres	Maidstone
A.P.Wells	59	Spitfires v Sabres	Maidstone
M.A.Ealham	49*	Spitfires v Gladiators	Cheltenham

## Best Individual Bowling

Name	Wkts/Runs	Teams	Venue
K.Adams	4/19	Spitfires v Foxes	Leicester
B.J.Phillips	4/25	Spitfires v Steelbacks	Canterbury
M.A.Ealham	3/38	Spitfires v Phoenix	Headingley
D.D.Masters	2/10	Spitfires v Steelbacks	Canterbury
K.Adams	2/17	Spitfires v Phoenix	Headingley
M.M.Patel	2/25	Spitfires v Phoenix	Headingley





# Lancashire Lightning



POSITION	P	W	L	T	NR	PTS
9th	8	2	4	1	1	12

## Season So Far

The champions for the past two seasons are finding out what life is like at the opposite end of the table this season.

Rooted to the foot of Norwich Union National Cricket League Division One, the Lightning have it all to if they are to avoid the dreaded drop to the Second Division.

Their poor form has certainly been hard for the Old Trafford members accustomed to one-day success to swallow.

But their side remains packed full of experience and quality players and with two games in hand on some teams, they are well capable of dragging themselves out of trouble.

The Lightning have definitely been affected by the loss of England pair Peter Martin

and Ian Austin. The duo have been badly missed for their tight bowling at the beginning and end of innings and it has left a lot of responsibility on Glen Chapple and Mike Smethurst.

A lot will now depend on how John Crawley can prepare his side for the challenge ahead. Tough day/night games against Sussex Sharks and Yorkshire Phoenix lie in wait and the Lightning will need all their resolve.

Neil Fairbrother has again been Mr Dependable for the champions. Averaging over 40 in the competition this season, 'Harvey' remains the player most likely to dig the county out of a hole.

Former captain Michael Watkinson has

also found himself being summoned from second team duties and has not let anyone down.

The encouraging signs for the Lightning are that India captain Saurav Ganguly, who has probably bowled more overs than he expected, is starting to find his touch with the bat.

The Lightning looked to have turned the corner with their impressive recent win over second-placed Somerset Sabres at Taunton, thanks to Mike Atherton's 105, but defeat against Leicestershire Foxes followed.

The task awaiting the Lightning is certainly a tough one, but with half of their games still to play, they still have plenty of time on their side.

## 2000 National Cricket League

### Batting averages

Name	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Avg
S.C.Ganguly	6	6	1	255	82	51.00
M.A.Atherton	5	5	0	207	105	41.40
N.H.Fairbrother	7	7	3	164	75	41.00
W.K.Hegg	7	5	1	101	33	25.25
A.Flintoff	4	4	0	88	64	22.00
M.Watkinson	3	2	0	42	33	21.00
J.P.Crawley	7	7	1	121	71*	20.16
G.Chapple	7	4	1	33	14*	11.00
G.D.Lloyd	7	6	1	45	22	9.00
J.C.Scuderi	3	2	0	17	14	8.50
C.P.Schofield	5	3	0	17	8	5.66
I.D.Austin	4	3	2	4	3	4.00
M.P.Smethurst	5	2	0	3	3	1.50
P.C.McKeown	1	1	0	1	1	1.00
R.J.Green	1	1	1	3	3*	-
G.Yates	3	0	0	0	0	-

### Bowling averages

Name	O	M	R	Wkts	Avg	Best
A.Flintoff	29	1	115	6	19.16	3-41
I.D.Austin	29	3	98	5	19.60	2-20
G.Chapple	59	8	211	9	23.44	3-23
S.C.Ganguly	35	2	147	6	24.50	3-22
C.P.Schofield	42	1	197	6	32.83	2-37
J.C.Scuderi	19	0	103	3	34.33	1-30
M.Watkinson	24	1	122	3	40.66	2-46
G.Yates	18	0	85	2	42.50	2-36
P.J.Martin	9	0	43	1	43.00	1-43
M.P.Smethurst	31	1	156	1	156.00	1-36
P.C.McKeown	0.2	0	4	0	-	-
R.J.Green	4.5	1	24	0	-	-

## 2000 Norwich Union National Cricket League Rankings

### Batting

Pos	Name	Total
25=	S.C.Ganguly	68
69=	M.A.Atherton	50
73=	N.H.Fairbrother	46
92=	W.K.Hegg	38
97=	J.P.Crawley	37
127=	A.Flintoff	26
148=	G.D.Lloyd	20
165=	G.Chapple	16
173=	M.Watkinson	14
199=	C.P.Schofield	8

### Bowling

Pos	Name	Total
27=	G.Chapple	79
85=	S.C.Ganguly	47
90=	I.D.Austin	45
95=	A.Flintoff	40
103=	C.P.Schofield	32
118=	M.P.Smethurst	23
127=	G.Yates	18
132=	M.Watkinson	16

### Highest Team Totals

Score	Against
204	Royals
202 for 3	Sabres
187 for 6	Steelbacks
177 for 7	Foxes
162 for 9	Foxes
138	Phoenix
118 for 3	Steelbacks

### Wicket Takers

Name	Wkts
G.Chapple	9
A.Flintoff	6
C.P.Schofield	6
S.C.Ganguly	6
I.D.Austin	5
M.Watkinson	3
J.C.Scuderi	3

### Leading Scorers

Name	Score
S.C.Ganguly	255
M.A.Atherton	207
N.H.Fairbrother	164
J.P.Crawley	121
W.K.Hegg	101
A.Flintoff	88
G.D.Lloyd	45
M.Watkinson	42

### Sticky Fingers

Name	(catches)
S.C.Ganguly	4
G.Yates	2
M.Watkinson	1
M.A.Atherton	1
M.P.Smethurst	1
G.D.Lloyd	1
J.P.Crawley	1

## Best Individual Scores

Name	Score	Teams	Venue
M.A.Atherton	105	Lightning v Sabres	Taunton
S.C.Ganguly	82	Lightning v Sabres	Taunton
N.H.Fairbrother	75	Lightning v Royals	Old Trafford
J.P.Crawley	71*	Lightning v Phoenix	Old Trafford
N.H.Fairbrother	66*	Lightning v Steelbacks	Northampton
A.Flintoff	64	Lightning v Royals	Old Trafford

## Best Individual Bowling

Name	Wkts/Runs	Teams	Venue
S.C.Ganguly	3/22	Lightning v Steelbacks	Old Trafford
G.Chapple	3/23	Lightning v Sabres	Taunton
A.Flintoff	3/41	Lightning v Royals	Old Trafford
I.D.Austin	2/20	Lightning v Foxes	Old Trafford
A.Flintoff	2/30	Lightning v Steelbacks	Old Trafford
G.Chapple	2/32	Lightning v Foxes	Old Trafford



# Surrey Lions



**POSITION**  
1st

**P** 10   **W** 8   **L** 0   **T** 0   **NR** 2   **PTS** 36

## Season So Far

The Lions have been in formidable form this season and are well clear at the top of the Norwich Union National Cricket League Division Two as they move into the second half of the season.

Besides two washed out games, Adam Hollioake and his team have rolled over everyone in their way and are looking dead certs for promotion.

They will not be counting any chickens with six games still to go, but it will take a mighty effort now from any of the chasing pack to catch them.

Even if they are caught, their net run-rate is so impressive that it is hard to see them being overhauled.

Also top of the County Championship, the Lions have been blessed to have so many talented players in form at the same time.

Even with Alec Stewart absent, the likes of Ali Brown and Ian Ward have not been shy to come forward with runs.

Their top performer this season with the bat though has been Graham Thorpe. Recently recalled by England, the classy left hander underlined his return to form with a marvellous 126 not out as the Lions crushed Nottinghamshire Outlaws by 127 runs in their last match.

The Lions are not just strong with the bat however. Saqlain Mushtaq, Adam Hollioake and Martin Bicknell are all riding high in the divisional bowling averages.

Pakistan off-spinner Saqlain has rejoined his county colleagues after his country's tour of the West Indies and quickly picked up where he left off last season. In his six appearances, Saqlain has taken 12 wickets at

a very mean 10.66.

Skipper Hollioake has again proved his value to the team in one-day cricket. The all-rounder has backed up his astute captaincy with some good displays of his own.

The former England one-day captain blasted 111 against Glamorgan Dragons at the Oval and took 5 for 29 in the match with Durham Dynamos at the Riverside.

The Lions have now clocked up six wins on the trot the most impressive being the destruction of their closest challengers the Outlaws.

Their next two games are against two other promotion-chasing sides in the Crusaders and Warwickshire Bears. If they win those, the destination of the title could be all but secure.

## 2000 National Cricket League

### Batting averages

Name	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Avg
G.P.Thorpe	6	6	3	263	126*	87.66
A.J.Stewart	3	3	1	132	72*	66.00
I.J.Ward	8	7	1	265	90*	44.16
A.J.Hollioake	8	8	3	189	111	37.80
A.D.Brown	8	8	0	200	45	25.00
B.C.Hollioake	7	4	0	91	42	22.75
J.D.Ratcliffe	7	4	2	38	25*	19.00
M.A.Butcher	8	8	0	119	47	14.87
I.D.K.Salisbury	3	2	0	15	13	7.50
J.N.Batty	5	2	0	14	8	7.00
M.P.Bicknell	7	2	0	12	12	6.00
A.J.Tudor	6	4	2	12	7	6.00
N.Shahid	1	1	0	5	5	5.00
I.E.Bishop	2	0	0	0	0	-
C.G.Greenidge	4	0	0	0	0	-

### Bowling averages

Name	O	M	R	Wkts	Avg	Best
Saqlain	43	6	128	12	10.66	3-12
A.J.Hollioake	31.4	0	145	13	11.15	5-29
M.P.Bicknell	57	11	146	12	12.16	3-14
A.J.Tudor	42	6	161	10	16.10	4-26
B.C.Hollioake	40.4	0	149	9	16.55	4-42
I.D.K.Salisbury	16.4	0	70	4	17.50	2-32
A.D.Brown	4	0	18	1	18.00	1-18
J.D.Ratcliffe	46	2	173	8	21.62	3-39
I.E.Bishop	12	1	48	1	48.00	1-22
C.G.Greenidge	22.2	1	111	2	55.50	2-43

## 2000 Norwich Union National Cricket League Rankings

### Batting

Pos	Name	Total
16=	I.J.Ward	73
31=	G.P.Thorpe	66
31=	A.D.Brown	66
42=	A.J.Hollioake	57
79=	M.A.Butcher	43
92=	A.J.Stewart	38
120=	B.C.Hollioake	28
160=	J.D.Ratcliffe	17
206=	I.D.K.Salisbury	7
206=	J.N.Batty	7

### Bowling

Pos	Name	Total
5	M.P.Bicknell	111
32=	Saqlain Mushtaq	76
54=	A.J.Tudor	66
54=	B.C.Hollioake	66
58=	J.D.Ratcliffe	63
81=	A.J.Hollioake	50
122	C.G.Greenidge	21
123=	I.D.K.Salisbury	20
130=	I.E.Bishop	17
162=	A.D.Brown	6

### Highest Team Totals

Score	Against
273 for 3	Outlaws
268 for 5	Dragons
230 for 7	Dynamos
198 for 7	Scorpions
185 for 9	Dragons
166 for 3	Warwicks

### Wicket Takers

A.J.Hollioake	13
Saqlain Mushtaq	12
M.P.Bicknell	12
A.J.Tudor	10
B.C.Hollioake	9
J.D.Ratcliffe	8
I.D.K.Salisbury	4

### Leading Scorers

I.J.Ward	265
G.P.Thorpe	263
A.D.Brown	200
A.J.Hollioake	189
A.J.Stewart	132
M.A.Butcher	119
B.C.Hollioake	91

### Sticky Fingers

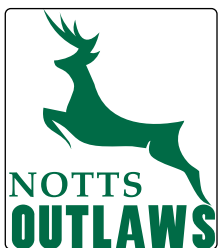
	(catches)
G.P.Thorpe	5
A.J.Hollioake	5
J.D.Ratcliffe	4
B.C.Hollioake	3
I.D.K.Salisbury	2
C.G.Greenidge	2

## Best Individual Scores

Name	Score	Teams	Venue
G.P.Thorpe	126*	Lions v Outlaws	Guildford
A.J.Hollioake	111	Lions v Dragons	The Oval
I.J.Ward	90*	Lions v Dragons	The Oval
A.J.Stewart	72*	Lions v Warwicks	Edgbaston
G.P.Thorpe	61	Lions v Dragons	Cardiff
I.J.Ward	53	Lions v Scorpions	Derby

## Best Individual Bowling

Name	Wkts/Runs	Teams	Venue
A.J.Hollioake	5/29	Lions v Dynamos	Riverside
A.J.Tudor	4/26	Lions v Hawks	The Oval
A.J.Hollioake	4/39	Lions v Dragons	Cardiff
B.C.Hollioake	4/42	Lions v Dragons	The Oval
Saqlain Mushtaq	3/12	Lions v Hawks	Southampton
M.P.Bicknell	3/14	Lions v Hawks	Southampton



# Nottinghamshire Outlaws



POSITION	P	W	L	T	NR	PTS
2nd	9	7	2	0	0	28

## Season So Far

The Outlaws are shaping up nicely as they seek promotion to the First Division of the Norwich Union National Cricket League.

Jason Gallian's side made a brilliant start in the competition, winning their first four games and after three further wins, they are second only to Surrey Lions.

Even though the much-trumpeted arrival of Pakistan paceman Shoaib Akhtar turned into a disaster, the Outlaws have built up a strong team spirit under coach Clive Rice and must fancy their chances.

Key to their success has been the bowling of seamer Paul Franks, the top wicket-taker in the division.

The recent England recruit has claimed 18 victims in his eight matches to date at an im-

pressive 14.5 apiece. The 21-year-old's form made him a worthy inclusion in England's squad for the recent triangular one-day series against Zimbabwe and the West Indies.

Franks has been well supported by left-armner David Lucas, who has not let the side down with his swing bowling.

The batting of experienced pair Gallian and John Morris has also been an important factor behind the Outlaws' strong showings.

Both former England Test players have performed consistently in the middle order and Darren Bicknell's contribution has also been important. With Paul Franks adding useful runs down the order, the side have batted well. They especially enjoyed batting second, having won five games when chas-

The Trent Bridge-based club started the season like a house on fire, chalking up two wins over the Durham Dynamos and further victories over Essex Eagles and Derbyshire Scorpions.

Unfortunately they then came unstuck in a top-of-the-table clash with fellow unbeaten side Middlesex Crusaders but they quickly bounced back, putting the Hawks, Scorpions and Eagles to the sword again.

They go into their next game on the back of a 127-run hammering by the Lions, but with the Oval side having so far brushed aside all in their path, they will not be too worried.

Their next three matches will be crucial to their chances as they come up against each of the teams immediately below them in the Crusaders, Bears and Glamorgan Dragons.

## 2000 National Cricket League

### Batting averages

Name	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Avg
P.J.Franks	9	8	7	109	32*	109.00
J.E.Morris	9	9	0	313	73	34.77
D.J.Bicknell	9	9	1	272	90	34.00
J.E.R.Gallian	8	8	0	263	74	32.87
D.J.Millns	4	3	2	25	13	25.00
G.R.Haywood	2	2	1	24	16*	24.00
G.E.Welton	6	6	0	137	42	22.83
P.R.Reiffel	2	1	0	18	18	18.00
U.Afzaal	6	6	1	88	30	17.60
C.M.Tolley	8	7	1	104	38	17.33
P.Johnson	4	3	0	47	37	15.66
C.M.W.Read	9	8	2	65	29*	10.83
A.J.Harris	7	2	1	8	7*	8.00
D.S.Lucas	8	3	0	4	4	1.33
R.D.Stemp	7	0	0	0	0	-
M.N.Bowen	1	0	0	0	0	-

### Bowling averages

Name	O	M	R	Wkts	Avg	Best
U.Afzaal	5	0	30	2	15.00	2-30
P.J.Franks	78.3	3	296	19	15.57	6-27
G.R.Haywood	8.5	3	34	2	17.00	2-34
D.S.Lucas	66.3	2	322	15	21.46	4-27
R.D.Stemp	58	3	200	8	25.00	2-27
A.J.Harris	63	6	278	9	30.88	5-35
D.J.Millns	33	2	185	4	46.25	2-46
C.M.Tolley	52.1	3	187	4	46.75	2-34
P.R.Reiffel	15	3	73	1	73.00	1-32
M.N.Bowen	9	0	23	0	-	-
J.E.R.Gallian	7	0	47	0	-	-

## 2000 Norwich Union National Cricket League Rankings

### Batting

Pos	Name	Total
8=	J.E.Morris	88
14	D.J.Bicknell	79
15	J.E.R.Gallian	76
73=	P.J.Franks	46
85=	G.E.Welton	40
97=	C.M.Tolley	37
105=	U.Afzaal	32
125=	C.M.W.Read	27
168=	P.Johnson	15
180=	D.J.Millns	12

### Bowling

Pos	Name	Total
7=	P.J.Franks	104
25=	R.D.Stemp	81
48=	D.S.Lucas	68
56=	C.M.Tolley	65
74=	A.J.Harris	55
138=	M.N.Bowen	14
141=	G.R.Haywood	13
143=	D.J.Millns	12
143=	P.R.Reiffel	12
164=	U.Afzaal	5

### Highest Team Totals

Score	Against
212 for 8	Scorpions
209 for 6	Dynamos
199 for 6	Dynamos
190 for 7	Eagles
189 for 6	Scorpions
184 for 8	Bears

### Wicket Takers

Name	Wkts
P.J.Franks	19
D.S.Lucas	15
A.J.Harris	9
R.D.Stemp	8
D.J.Millns	4
C.M.Tolley	4
G.R.Haywood	2

### Leading Scorers

Name	Runs
J.E.Morris	313
D.J.Bicknell	272
J.E.R.Gallian	263
G.E.Welton	137
P.J.Franks	109
C.M.Tolley	104
U.Afzaal	88

### Sticky Fingers

Name	(catches)
J.E.Morris	3
P.J.Franks	3
J.E.R.Gallian	2
D.J.Bicknell	2
P.R.Reiffel	1
D.J.Millns	1

## Best Individual Scores

Name	Score	Teams	Venue
D.J.Bicknell	90	Outlaws v Scorpions	Derby
J.E.R.Gallian	74	Outlaws v Dynamos	Trent Bridge
J.E.Morris	73	Outlaws v Dynamos	Riverside
D.J.Bicknell	58*	Outlaws v Hawks	Trent Bridge
J.E.Morris	54	Outlaws v Scorpions	Trent Bridge
D.J.Bicknell	51	Outlaws v Scorpions	Trent Bridge

## Best Individual Bowling

Name	Wkts/Runs	Teams	Venue
P.J.Franks	6/27	Outlaws v Dynamos	Riverside
A.J.Harris	5/35	Outlaws v Hawks	Trent Bridge
D.S.Lucas	4/27	Outlaws v Scorpions	Derby
D.S.Lucas	4/38	Outlaws v Eagles	Trent Bridge
P.J.Franks	3/33	Outlaws v Dynamos	Trent Bridge
D.S.Lucas	3/55	Outlaws v Scorpions	Trent Bridge



# Middlesex Crusaders



<b>POSITION</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>NR</b>	<b>PTS</b>
3rd	10	5	3	1	1	24

### Season So Far

**M**iddlesex Crusaders' Norwich Union National League Division Two promotion campaign continues to gain momentum as they reach the critical second-half stage of the season.

The Crusaders, led by their brilliant Australian overseas signing Justin Langer, have shown a consistent streak of late, winning their last two games to move within four points of second-placed Nottinghamshire Outlaws.

In their latest victory against Hampshire Hawks at Portsmouth - which proved to be south coast county's final one-day clash in the historic city before they prepare to move to a new base in Southampton - Langer and

his team had to contend with the guile and world-class ability of Australian leg-spinner Shane Warne. But the Crusaders, with their confidence boosted by a thrilling one-run victory against Durham at Southgate, made short work of the 192-run target, thanks mainly to Mike Roseberry who top-scored with 54 in a four-wicket win.

Warne picked up just one wicket for 30 runs. This impressive display in the heat of summer was a far cry from their heavy opening-game defeat against rivals Essex Eagles in the early-season gloom. The precision medium pace of Crusaders veteran Angus Fraser proved an effective weapon on a helpful pitch and he looked to have bowled

his side into a winning position with a four for 18 spell. But despite being dismissed for just 143, captain Ronnie Irani and Mark Ilott combined to claim three wickets apiece and earn their side a crushing 60-run victory.

Fortunately for the Crusaders, their confidence was immediately restored with consecutive wins - a 71-run success against Derbyshire Scorpions which was followed up with a four-wicket win over the Hawks.

If Langer can continue his fine season with the bat and his decision-making as skipper, the Crusaders can look forward to Division One cricket next season.

### 2000 National Cricket League

#### Batting averages

Name	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Avg
M.A.Roseberry	6	6	0	193	72	32.16
A.J.Strauss	6	6	0	189	90	31.50
M.R.Ram'kash	6	6	0	168	46	28.00
P.N.Weekes	9	9	2	169	43	24.14
O.A.Shah	8	8	0	153	39	19.12
J.L.Langer	9	9	0	149	56	16.55
B.L.Hutton	1	1	0	14	14	14.00
A.R.C.Fraser	9	6	4	27	7	13.50
A.W.Laraman	6	5	3	26	11*	13.00
D.Alleyne	6	6	0	78	33	13.00
R.M.S.Weston	5	5	0	56	28	11.20
S.J.Cook	7	6	0	54	22	9.00
K.P.Dutch	5	5	1	29	17	7.25
J.P.Hewitt	4	3	0	17	12	5.66
R.L.Johnson	7	5	1	20	14	5.00
D.C.Nash	3	1	1	25	25*	-

#### Bowling averages

Name	O	M	R	Wkts	Avg	Best
A.R.C.Fraser	63.5	12	228	15	15.20	4-18
R.L.Johnson	53.4	4	216	14	15.42	3-37
C.J.Batt	13	0	50	3	16.66	2-23
A.W.Laraman	45.1	2	199	10	19.90	6-51
P.N.Weekes	54.5	2	266	13	20.46	4-26
S.J.Cook	51	4	180	7	25.71	3-31
K.P.Dutch	38	4	152	5	30.40	1-18
O.A.Shah	8	0	54	1	54.00	1-21
J.P.Hewitt	24	1	115	1	115.00	1-24
M.R.Ram'kash	9	2	26	0	-	-

### 2000 Norwich Union National Cricket League Rankings

#### Batting

Pos	Name	Total
37=	P.N.Weekes	62
47=	M.A.Roseberry	55
55=	O.A.Shah	53
61=	M.R.Ramprakash	52
64=	J.L.Langer	51
64=	A.J.Strauss	51
131=	D.Alleyne	25
139=	R.M.S.Weston	23
151=	S.J.Cook	19
165=	A.W.Laraman	16

#### Bowling

Pos	Name	Total
7=	A.R.C.Fraser	104
32=	S.J.Cook	76
37=	R.L.Johnson	74
60=	A.W.Laraman	62
62	P.N.Weekes	61
93=	K.P.Dutch	44
118=	J.P.Hewitt	23
123=	C.J.Batt	20
141=	M.R.Ramprakash	13
157=	O.A.Shah	8

#### Highest Team Totals

Score	Against
233	Dynamos
213 for 9	Eagles
192 for 6	Hawks
185 for 6	Scorpions
185 for 9	Dragons
173	Dynamos

#### Wicket Takers

Name	Wkts
A.R.C.Fraser	15
R.L.Johnson	14
P.N.Weekes	13
A.W.Laraman	10
S.J.Cook	7
K.P.Dutch	5
C.J.Batt	3

#### Leading Scorers

Name	Runs
M.A.Roseberry	193
A.J.Strauss	189
P.N.Weekes	169
M.Ramprakash	168
O.A.Shah	153
J.L.Langer	149
D.Alleyne	78

#### Sticky Fingers

Name	Catches
(catches)	
P.N.Weekes	7
J.L.Langer	7
M.R.Ramprakash	3
S.J.Cook	3
J.P.Hewitt	2
R.M.S.Weston	2

#### Best Individual Scores

Name	Score	Teams	Venue
A.J.Strauss	90	Crusaders v Dynamos	Riverside
M.A.Roseberry	72	Crusaders v Eagles	Chelmsford
J.L.Langer	56	Crusaders v Scorpions	Lord's
M.A.Roseberry	54	Crusaders v Hawks	Portsmouth
M.R.Ramprakash	46	Crusaders v Dynamos	Riverside

#### Best Individual Bowling

Name	Wkts/Runs	Teams	Venue
A.W.Laraman	6/51	Crusaders v Dynamos	Riverside
A.R.C.Fraser	4/18	Crusaders v Eagles	Chelmsford
P.N.Weekes	4/26	Crusaders v Scorpions	Derby
S.J.Cook	3/31	Crusaders v Dynamos	Southgate
R.L.Johnson	3/37	Crusaders v Hawks	Lord's
A.R.C.Fraser	2/7	Crusaders v Scorpions	Derby





# Warwickshire Bears



POSITION	P	W	L	T	NR	PTS
4th	9	5	3	1	0	22

## Season So Far

**B**ob Woolmer made an immediate impact on his return to Warwickshire as the Bears won their first four matches in the Norwich Union National Cricket League Division Two.

The early pacesetters have since slipped down the table a little but a return to the top flight is still very much on the cards at Edgbaston.

Their fate could be confirmed in the next few games as they enter a crucial phase of the season.

In their next four outings, the Bears face three of their promotion rivals in the Nottinghamshire Outlaws, Surrey Lions and Middlesex Crusaders.

The Bears were the first team to beat the Outlaws as they ended their unbeaten start to the season in a day/night encounter at the

end of May and will be desperate for a repeat result.

The Lions, the division's runaway leaders, will be a tough proposition next up as will be the Crusaders under the Edgbaston lights in mid-August.

Adam Hollioake's Lions have already won in Birmingham this season but a reversal of that result at Whitgift could have a dramatic impact at the top of the table.

Nick Knight has been the star performer with the bat so far, but others have also contributed in their five wins.

England batsman Knight is averaging over 50 from his six appearances and skipper Neil Smith will be hoping his dominant form continues as it come to the crunch.

All-rounder Dougie Brown has again been a key performer with both bat and ball.

Averaging 33 with the bat, the former England man has been as willing as ever to turn his arm over, his reward being 14 wickets at 16 each.

Spinner Ashley Giles has also been pretty wily when called upon with Smith himself also doing a useful job when needed.

With South African Allan Donald now back from a rib injury and returned to full fitness, they will be confident of being able to contain opponents.

But despite their good wins, they came unstuck against the Durham Dynamos in their last fixture, losing by 50 runs on home territory.

They must quickly get that result out of their system because with five of their remaining seven games away from home, their run-in will be far from easy.

### 2000 National Cricket League

#### Batting averages

Name	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Avg
N.V.Knight	6	6	1	252	82	50.40
D.R.Brown	8	7	2	165	45*	33.00
T.L.Penney	8	7	2	146	51	29.20
M.A.Sheikh	7	4	2	56	36	28.00
D.P.Ostler	9	9	1	185	55	23.12
M.J.Powell	6	6	1	114	39*	22.80
G.Welch	9	9	0	180	55	20.00
T.Frost	1	1	0	18	18	18.00
D.L.Hemp	7	6	0	87	45	14.50
A.F.Giles	8	6	0	86	40	14.33
A.A.Donald	3	2	1	14	11	14.00
N.M.K.Smith	9	8	0	78	27	9.75
A.Singh	1	1	0	3	3	3.00
E.S.H.Giddins	7	2	1	0	0*	0.00
K.J.Piper	8	3	3	13	12*	-
C.E.Dagnall	2	0	0	0	0	-

#### Bowling averages

Name	O	M	R	Wkts	Avg	Best
M.J.Powell	3.5	0	13	2	6.50	2-13
A.A.Donald	22	4	57	5	11.40	3-9
C.E.Dagnall	15	1	43	3	14.33	2-21
N.M.K.Smith	31.3	0	125	8	15.62	3-10
D.R.Brown	57	4	235	14	16.78	3-13
A.F.Giles	70	7	249	13	19.15	3-32
E.S.H.Giddins	48	6	153	5	30.60	2-15
M.A.Sheikh	56.3	3	210	6	35.00	2-24
G.Welch	71	7	246	5	49.20	2-35

### 2000 Norwich Union National Cricket League Rankings

#### Batting

Pos	Name	Total
22=	N.V.Knight	69
25=	D.P.Ostler	68
41	D.R.Brown	59
42=	G.Welch	57
61=	T.L.Penney	52
84	M.J.Powell	42
110=	D.L.Hemp	30
115=	N.M.K.Smith	29
115=	A.F.Giles	29
144=	M.A.Sheikh	21

#### Bowling

Pos	Name	Total
9	A.F.Giles	97
11	G.Welch	95
25=	E.S.H.Giddins	81
27=	D.R.Brown	79
40=	M.A.Sheikh	72
78=	N.M.K.Smith	52
90=	A.A.Donald	45
109=	C.E.Dagnall	28
154=	M.J.Powell	9

#### Highest Team Totals

Score	Against
222 for 7	Outlaws
215 for 8	Hawks
201 for 7	Dragons
162 for 7	Lions
158 for 5	Hawks
150 for 8	Scorpions

#### Wicket Takers

Name	Wkts
D.R.Brown	14
A.F.Giles	13
N.M.K.Smith	8
M.A.Sheikh	6
A.A.Donald	5
E.S.H.Giddins	5
G.Welch	5

#### Leading Scorers

Name	Runs
N.V.Knight	252
D.P.Ostler	185
G.Welch	180
D.R.Brown	165
T.L.Penney	146
M.J.Powell	110
D.L.Hemp	87

#### Sticky Fingers

Name	(catches)
N.M.K.Smith	5
A.F.Giles	4
G.Welch	4
E.S.H.Giddins	3
T.L.Penney	3
D.P.Ostler	2

### Best Individual Scores

Name	Score	Teams	Venue
N.V.Knight	82	Bears v Lions	Edgbaston
N.V.Knight	68*	Bears v Dragons	Edgbaston
G.Welch	55	Bears v Outlaws	Edgbaston
D.P.Ostler	55	Bears v Outlaws	Edgbaston
T.L.Penney	51	Bears v Hawks	Southampton
N.V.Knight	46	Bears v Hawks	Southampton

### Best Individual Bowling

Name	Wkts/Runs	Teams	Venue
A.A.Donald	3/9	Bears v Hawks	Southampton
N.M.K.Smith	3/10	Bears v Scorpions	Derby
D.R.Brown	3/13	Bears v Scorpions	Derby
D.R.Brown	3/23	Bears v Dragons	Edgbaston
A.F.Giles	3/32	Bears v Outlaws	Edgbaston
D.R.Brown	3/45	Bears v Dynamos	Edgbaston