

NEWCOMERS GO HEAD TO HEAD

Surrey Lions begin life in the Norwich Union League Division One this weekend when they face Nottinghamshire Outlaws at The Oval.

Adam Hollioake's men swept to the Division Two title last season, winning 11 of their 16 games and losing just three.

With a strong batting line-up including Alec Stewart, Graham Thorpe, Mark Ramprakash and Alistair Brown, the Lions are always likely to post formidable targets and they will be confident of enjoying further success this season.

The Outlaws also surged to promotion last season, finishing just two points behind the Lions in Division Two after suffering one more defeat than their southern rivals.

Darren Bicknell will seek to maintain his red-hot form with the bat that he displayed last season, when he notched 537 runs throughout the Norwich Union League campaign to finish as third highest run-scorer in the division.

Gloucestershire Gladiators, who won the Division One title in 2000, will seek to record their first win of the campaign as they face the Northamptonshire Steelbacks, who are led this season by new captain David Ripley.



David Ripley

Mark Alleyne's side slumped to a two-wicket defeat in their opening game against Leicestershire Foxes despite the best efforts of Ian Harvey.

The Australian took two wickets for seven runs in his nine-over burst but it was not enough as the Foxes scraped home.

Yorkshire Phoenix, runners-up in the Norwich Union League Division One last year, begin their quest for success against Somerset Sabres, who avoided relegation by just two points in 2000.



Mark Alleyne

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HAWKS SET SIGHTS ON SOARING START

Worcestershire Royals, relegated to Norwich Union League Division Two last season, look to maintain their impressive start to the current campaign when they travel to face Hampshire Hawks at West End.

Graeme Hick's men swept to a five-wicket win against the Sussex Sharks a fortnight ago, with Hick and wicketkeeper Steve Rhodes guiding the Royals home after a sticky start in pursuit of 155 runs to win.

The Hawks will attempt to begin the season in a positive fashion after finishing in a disappointing eighth position in 2000.

Derbyshire Scorpions got off to the best possible start in the Norwich Union League Division Two when they brushed aside Glamorgan two weeks ago.

After dismissing the Welsh outfit for 138, Scorpions skipper Dominic Cork scored a magical 83 not out to lead his side to a four-wicket win and they will be full of confidence ahead of the visit of the Essex Eagles.

Ronnie Irani's men will hope to push for promotion this year with Irani, Australian Stuart Law and England captain Nasser Hussain expected to be pivotal figures.

Irani was the most economical bowler in Division Two last season, conceding an average of just 3.33 runs per over.



Dominic Cork

Division 1 table at a glance	Points
	4
	2
	2
	0
	—
	—
	—
	—
	—

Division 2 table at a glance	Points
	4
	4
	2
	2
	2
	0
	0
	—

● 2000 DIVISION ONE STANDINGS

	P	W	L	T	NR	Pts
Gloucestershire Gladiators	16	9	6	0	1	38
Yorkshire Phoenix	16	9	7	0	0	36
Northants Steelbacks	16	9	7	0	0	36
Leicestershire Foxes	16	7	6	2	1	34
Kent Spitfires	16	7	7	0	2	32
Somerset Sabres	16	7	8	0	1	30
Worcestershire Royals	16	6	8	0	2	28
Lancashire Lightning	16	6	8	1	1	28
Sussex Sharks	16	5	8	1	2	26

■ HIGHEST TEAM TOTALS (2000)

Total	Teams	Venue
295 for 7	Sabres v Spitfires	Maidstone
272 for 6	Sharks v Phoenix	Arundel
269 for 9	Gladiators v Foxes	Bristol
267 for 6	Foxes v Sabres	Taunton

■ LOWEST TEAM TOTALS (2000)

Total	Teams	Venue
53	Foxes v Phoenix	Leicester
68	Lightning v Phoenix	Headingley
76	Steelbacks v Spitfires	Canterbury
98	Royals v Spitfires	Worcester

■ MOST CATCHES (2000)
EXCLUDING WICKETKEEPERS

Name	Team	Ctchs	Mtchs
R.J.Warren	Steelbacks	11	13
C.J.Adams	Sharks	11	14
D.Byas	Phoenix	10	12

■ LEADING DISMISSALS (2000)

Name	Team	Dism's	Mtchs
N.D.Burns	Foxes	30	16
P.A.Nixon	Spitfires	26	14
R.J.Blakey	Phoenix	26	16
R.C.Russell	Gladiators	25	16

■ LEADING WICKET-TAKERS (2000)

Wkts	Player	Team
37	M.J.Hoggard	Phoenix
34	I.J.Harvey	Gladiators
30	G.D.McGrath	Royals
29	J.M.M.Averis	Gladiators

■ LEADING RUN SCORERS (2000)

Runs	Player	Team
706	M.G.Bevan	Sharks
569	S.C.Ganguly	Lightning
564	D.S.Lehman	Phoenix
547	D.J.G.Sales	Steelbacks

● 2000 DIVISION TWO STANDINGS

	P	W	L	T	NR	Pts
Surrey Lions	16	11	3	0	2	48
Nottinghamshire Outlaws	16	11	4	0	1	46
Warwickshire Bears	16	10	5	1	0	42
Middlesex Crusaders	16	8	5	1	2	38
Essex Eagles	16	7	7	0	2	32
Glamorgan Dragons	16	7	7	2	0	32
Durham Dynamos	16	5	11	0	0	20
Hampshire Hawks	16	5	11	0	0	20
Derbyshire Scorpions	16	2	13	0	1	10

■ HIGHEST TEAM TOTALS (2000)

Total	Teams	Venue
289 for 5	Eagles v Dragons	Southend
288 for 4	Outlaws v Lions	Trent Bridge
285	Dragons v Eagles	Southend
273 for 3	Lions v Outlaws	Guildford

■ LOWEST TEAM TOTALS (2000)

Total	Teams	Venue
73	Hawks v Lions	Southampton
87	Scorpions v Dynamos	Darlington
94	Hawks v Lions	The Oval
105	Scorpions v Bears	Derby

● BEST INDIVIDUAL BOWLING (2000)

Name	Wkts/Runs	Teams	Venue
P.J.Franks	6/27	Outlaws v Dynamos	Riverside
N.Killeen	6/31	Dynamos v Scorpions	Derby
A.W.Laraman	6/42	Crusaders v Dragons	Cardiff
A.W.Laraman	6/51	Crusaders v Dynamos	Riverside
A.J.Hollooake	5/29	Lions v Dynamos	Riverside
A.J.Harris	5/35	Outlaws v Hawks	Trent Bridge

● BEST INDIVIDUAL SCORES (2000)

Name	Score	Teams	Venue
G.P.Thorpe	126*	Lions v Outlaws	Guildford
M.E.Cassar	126	Scorpions v Dynamos	Derby
D.J.Bicknell	115	Outlaws v Lions	Trent Bridge
A.J.Hollooake	111	Lions v Dragons	The Oval
N.Shahid	109*	Lions v Outlaws	Trent Bridge
J.A.Daley	105	Dynamos v Lions	The Oval

■ MOST CATCHES (2000)
EXCLUDING WICKETKEEPERS

Name	Team	Ctchs	Mtchs
J.L.Langer	Crusaders	11	15
P.D.Collingwood	Dynamos	11	15
T.J.Mason	Eagles	9	14

■ LEADING DISMISSALS (2000)

Name	Team	Dism's	Mtchs
C.M.W.Read	Outlaws	27	16
K.J.Piper	Bears	22	15
A.N.Aymes	Hawks	16	11
D.Alleyne	Crusaders	15	11

■ LEADING WICKET-TAKERS (2000)

Wkts	Player	Team
29	N.Killeen	Dynamos
25	S.K.Warne	Hawks
25	D.R.Brown	Bears
25	P.J.Franks	Outlaws

■ LEADING RUN SCORERS (2000)

Runs	Player	Team
607	P.D.Collingwood	Dynamos
598	S.M.Katich	Dynamos
537	D.J.Bicknell	Outlaws
501	M.P.Maynard	Dragons