

● TITLE HOPEFULS GO HEAD TO HEAD

Leicestershire Foxes will be looking to take another huge step towards securing the Norwich Union League crown when they take on second-placed Kent Spitfires on Sunday.

The Foxes, who last claimed the title in 1977, have made their best ever start to the season, winning eight from eight while building a four-point advantage over the Spitfires, and an eight-point cushion over Warwickshire Bears in third.

With a game in hand over Matthew Fleming's side, the Foxes know that if they were to collect another four points from their trip to the St Lawrence Ground they

would have established a commanding lead at the top.

But Kent, with James Hockley looking to impress again, clearly have their own agenda, and can put the pressure firmly back on Shahid Afridi and co by picking up their seventh victory of the season.

Two sides who will be looking to give their Norwich Union League campaigns a much-needed boost and move away from the Division One drop-zone are Yorkshire Phoenix and Surrey Lions.

David Byas' Phoenix team showed explosive form in their last game to beat Warwickshire Bears by 173 runs. And they will be looking for a repeat performance, with a little help from all-rounder Gavin Hamilton, against the Lions at Headingley as only their superior run-rate over Somerset Sabres is keeping them out of the relegation places.

Adam Hollioake's Lions have won just one game all season and are already eight points from a position of safety and staring an immediate return to Division Two in the face.

The division's other match features reigning champions Gloucester Gladiators, who are still not safe from the drop, and the out-of-form Northamptonshire Steelbacks, who lie second from bottom.

Gavin Hamilton of Yorkshire Phoenix



James Hockley of Kent Spitfires



Gavin Hamilton of Yorkshire Phoenix

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● HAWKS OUT TO STING SCORPIONS AGAIN

Hampshire Hawks' hopes of claiming the Norwich Union League Division Two title will gather more momentum if they can record their second victory of the season over Derbyshire Scorpions.

Robin Smith's side won the first meeting between the two teams on July 15 by 16 runs to re-affirm their position as title challengers.

The Hawks are currently in third place, but with games in hand over the teams above them - Durham Dynamos and Worcestershire Royals - they still have realistic hopes of topping the table at the end of the season.

The Scorpions' form has been disappointing this season and they have struggled to make an impact on the Norwich Union League.

The Midlands outfit, with Lian Wharton in their side, have only won three of their 10 matches and their inability to reach the small total of 155 set by the Hawks at the Rose Bowl demonstrates why they are way off the promotion pace in sixth place.

The other Division Two game pits the well-placed Glamorgan Dragons against Lancashire Lightning, who are down in seventh spot.

Steve James has led his Dragons side well this season with Matthew Maynard showing continued form with the bat, and Robert Croft being rewarded for his bowling efforts by an England recall.

But if they are to take advantage of the three games they have in hand over the Royals and the Dynamos they need to inflict more misery on a traditionally strong one-day Lightning side, who will feel that they have under-performed this season.



Lian Wharton of Derbyshire Scorpions

Division 1 table at a glance	Points ▼
	32
	28
	24
	22
	18
	12
	12
	8
	4
Division 2 table at a glance	Points ▼
	32
	28
	26
	20
	16
	12
	12
	8
	6

● CRICKET STARS BACK YOUTH TRAINING SCHEME

Last week, England's cricket captains, Nasser Hussain and Clare Connor went back to basics and joined up with a number of youngsters at the Lilian Bayliss School in London, to take part in the launch of a nationwide grassroots cricket scheme - Norwich Union Inter Cricket Summer Schools.

There are 27 Norwich Union Inter Cricket Summer Schools taking place all across England and Wales over the next few weeks. Organised through the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) and County Cricket Clubs, the Summer Schools are three-day training sessions for 11-16 year olds focusing on teaching children basic cricketing skills through playing Inter Cricket.

At the launch Nasser Hussain said: "This scheme provides a much-needed opportunity to develop cricketing skills at grassroots level. The key to being a successful cricketing nation is based on both the number of children we can involve in the game and the quality of the training they receive. Schemes like the Norwich Union Inter Cricket Summer Schools help to answer this need, giving high quality coaching in a fun, relaxed environment. In years to come we hope to see someone who attended a Norwich Union Inter Cricket Summer School playing for England."



A young hopeful shows what the future holds for English cricket

The game of Inter Cricket was launched last summer by the ECB with support from Norwich Union. It has created great interest with both schools and clubs, as it bridges the gap between Kwik Cricket and the hard ball game. The format gives all players a chance to bat, bowl and experience cricket but also incorporates 'real cricket' tactics providing an inspirational link to the senior game. For example, it has a minimum of eight players a side, four bowlers must be used and although batsmen must retire after 15 runs (you can hit a six on 14 to



take you to 20) they are allowed back when the last batter remains.

Clare Connor, captain of the England women's cricket team also supports the wider use of the new game. She said: "The appeal of Inter Cricket is that it gives children the chance to play cricket in a fun environment. Because it can be played almost anywhere, everyone can participate whether they are from the inner city or a small country village. We hope to see the results of the Inter Cricket experience in the England sides in years to come."

Bill Reynolds, Norwich Union Sponsorship Executive, said: "Inter Cricket forms an integral part of Norwich Union's commitment to cricket. Through the scheme we are able to offer important grassroots level support in addition to our support of the senior game through the Norwich Union League."

The Norwich Union Inter Cricket Summer Schools also follow an extremely successful series of nationwide indoor cricket festivals held throughout April and May this year.

To join a Norwich Union Inter Cricket Summer School children or parents should contact the relevant County Cricket Development Officer.

The Norwich Union Inter Cricket Summer School Schedule:

Somerset

Weston super Mare
23-25 July

Northamptonshire

Old Northamptonians CC
23-25 July 2001

Kent

Folkestone 8-10 August

Lancashire

Westhoughton, Bolton
8-10 August

Derbyshire

Spondon CC, Derby
13-15 August

Suffolk

St Josephs College Ipswich
15-17 August

Wales

Tondu CC 15-17 August

Wales

Newport CC 15-17 August

Devon

Axminster CC 17,22 & 24 August

Derbyshire

Denby CC 20-22 August

Lancashire

Blackburn 20-22 August tbc

Staffordshire

Blurton High School Stoke
20 - 22 August

Lancashire

Rainford CC, St Helens
21-23 August

Gloucestershire

Bristol University
28-30 August

Huntingdonshire

Rasmey CC, Huntingdon
29-31 August

Wales

Cardiff Sophia Gardens
29-31 August

Jersey

Grainville Playing Fields
29-31 August

* (spaces on Summer Schools may be subject to availability)



Div 1	Gloucs	Kent	Leics	N'hants	Notts	Som	Surrey	Warks	Yorks
Gloucs		27/8	02/9	05/8	Gloucs	No result	16/9	Warks	Glous
Kent	Kent		05/8	09/9	Kent	Tied	14/8 F	No result	29/8
Leics	Leics	Leics		Leics	Leics	27/8	Leics	05/9 F	19/8
N'ants	Gloucs	12/8	22/8		02/9	30/8	Surrey	Warks	N'ants
Notts	Tied	Kent	16/9	19/8		Notts	09/9	Notts	13/8 F
Som	Glous	Kent	12/8	16/9	Notts		21/8	02/9	Som
Surrey	12/8	Kent	Leics	N'hants	Notts	Som		30/8	03/9 F
Warks	Warks	16/9	Leics	Warks	No result	19/8	Warks		27/8
Yorks	10/9	Kent	Yorks	Yorks	26/8	Yorks	05/8	Yorks	

Teams score four points for a win and two points each for a tie or no result.

F = day/night floodlit match.

Div 2	Derbys	Durham	Essex	Glam	Hants	Lancs	Middx	Sussex	Worcs
Derbys		Durham	Derbys	Derbys	05/8	16/9	Derbys	27/8	Worcs
Durham	12/8		02/9	Durham	15/8 F	Durham	Durham	Durham	09/9
Essex	09/9	Durham		Glam	Hants	26/8	28/8 F	Sussex	12/8
Glam	Glam	27/8	19/8		29/8 F	05/8	16/9	Glam	Glam
Hants	Hants	Hants	Essex	12/8		27/8	09/9	Hants	Hants
Lancs	03/9 F	No result	Lancs	Glam	No result		Lancs	20/8 F	Worcs
Middx	Middx	No result	Tied	26/8	Hants	12/8		02/9	19/8
Sussex	Sussex	26/8	Sussex	04/9 F	16/9	30/8 F	Sussex		Worcs
Worcs	Worcs	Worcs	16/9	02/9	26/8	Worcs	Worcs	Worcs	

THE DUCKWORTH/LEWIS SYSTEM

If matches are rain-affected the Duckworth Lewis system is used to reset targets. The system is based on what percentage of its resources (overs and wickets) a team have left. With 50 overs left and 10 wickets remaining, a team has 100 per cent of its resources left. The table shows the percentage of resources at other stages in the innings.

The procedure for working out targets is as follows:

- For each innings: Use the table to calculate the resource percentage lost by the interruption and therefore calculate the resource percentage still available.

2) If team 2 have less resources available than team 1, calculate the ratio of the resources available to both teams. Team 2's revised target is obtained by scaling down team 1's score by this ratio.

3) If team 2 have more resources available than team 1, calculate the amount by which team 2's resources exceeds team 1's.

Work this out as a percentage of 225 (the average 50-over score in ECB matches and one-day internationals). This gives the extra runs to add to team score to give team 2's target.

OVERS LEFT	WICKETS LOST				
	0	2	5	7	9
50	100	83.8	49.5	26.5	7.6
40	90.3	77.6	48.3	26.4	7.6
30	77.1	68.2	45.7	26.2	7.6
25	68.5	61.8	43.4	25.9	7.6
20	58.9	54.0	40.0	25.2	7.6
10	34.1	32.5	27.5	20.6	7.5

HOW THE NORWICH UNION LEAGUE WORKS

The Norwich Union League operates on a three-up, three-down basis with the top three finishers in Division Two replacing the bottom three in Division One. Four points are awarded for a win, while teams will take two points each if matches are tied or the weather intervenes before the required number of overs have been completed and there is no result.

Matches will start at 1pm and end at 7.10pm with 45 overs per side, although all fixtures will begin 30 minutes earlier in September. Floodlit games will start at 4.10pm. The free-hit rule for no-balls applies to front-foot no-balls only. A batsman cannot be

dismissed from the bowler's next delivery after such an infringement.

This season teams will face penalties for slow over rates. If in the opinion of the umpire there are still overs to be bowled at the cut-off point then six runs will be added to the batting team for every over left to be bowled. If at cut-off time there are still four overs left to be bowled then 24 runs will be added to the batting team's score. The batting team will then go on and finish their overs. These will appear as penalty runs on the scorecard. If this takes the batting team over the target required then the match will finish at that point.

