

2011 Jolly's Drinks Cornwall Cricket League Season Preview

Whatever else the 2011 season has in store it will certainly go down in history. This year will see the latest ever finish to a League season. The final full day of games take place on Saturday 10th September with the East v West County finals the following week. The extension is due to the late Easter this year and the Premier League 50/50 Cup competition, where teams each have one bye. It means twenty-three match days are now required.

Saturday's opening day sees virtually a full programme of seventy-four games across the fourteen divisions. In the Premier League Cup the holders St Austell are at home to Callington and Werrington host Sunday's County 20/20 winners Grampond Road. In the West group Truro meet Paul and newly promoted Troon have a tough opener against St Just. Falmouth and Newquay have byes. On Bank Holiday Monday, in line with the general consensus to avoid a double weekend at the start of the season, only the extra round of Premier League Cup games take place with a handful of rearranged games elsewhere.

It is the first time in the 105 year League history that Easter Saturday has caused fixturing problems. The only previous occasion since 1886 that Easter Saturday has fallen on the 23rd April, or the latest possible date of 24th April, was in 1943 when league cricket was suspended due to the war.

There are no changes in the playing conditions in the ten team Premier League. The eighteen matches home and away will start on 28th May with the champions Paul starting their defence at home to Newquay. The Premier 50/50 Cup again takes up the first five match days. Some cup rule changes have been made with games now commencing thirty minutes earlier at 1pm. A semi-final round has been added so the first and second in each group of five teams will now qualify. Other cup changes are free hits for no ball foot faults and the introduction of power plays. The power plays will be made up of blocks of the first 10 overs and 5 overs each at the discretion of both sides. Restrictions are placed on the number of fieldsmen permitted outside the 30 yard circle in a power play.

County Division 1 games remain at 1.30pm starts (except after 14th August where they will start at 1pm). Outside of the county divisions the rules virtually remain the same apart from Divisions 2, 3 & 4 which will start at 1.30pm throughout the year. Division Seven games have been reduced to 40 overs a side instead of 48 and a standard match ball has also been introduced into Divisions 3 & 4 for the first time.

In the Vinter Cup fielding restrictions will now apply to all rounds and there will be free hits after a no ball foot fault. The Clive Rosevear Insurance Hawkey Cup has had another revamp with a return to a voluntary entry in a knock out competition rather than initial group stages. The semi-finals and final will remain an all day event however; at St Austell CC. Handicapping of 10 runs per division will also apply for the first time throughout. The County 20/20 Cup, played in four groups with a finals day, will commence in the second half of the season. Roche have recently withdrawn from the east group.

PREMIER LEAGUE

PAUL set out in defence of their title under the captaincy of Justin Stephens again with county all rounder Kelvin Snell second in command. New Zealander Matt O'Leary is again available and along with Stephens and Snell the trio are likely to continue to provide a potent

new ball attack. Stephens and O'Leary were the only Premier League bowlers to pass fifty wickets last year and all rounder Stephens also was second in the batting averages with an average of 53. On the transfer front Cas James has made the move to Penzance but moving the other way from St Clare are former skipper, all rounder Tony Riggall, and wicket-keeper batsman Charlie Goldsworthy. Long standing member Paul Osborne has become the new Club Chairman at Hutchens Park.

ST JUST, runners up last year, will be looking to return to the top after their six year winning run was halted. The news from Cape Cornwall Road is that a new skipper, Mark George, has taken over the reins from Gareth May, who continues in 'the ranks'. The experienced Gary Thomas is vice-captain. George will be looking to maintain his hundred per cent captaincy record having skippered St Buryan to the 1999 and 2000 titles in his two previous efforts. Last year's squad are again all available and will be bolstered by the arrival of 28 year old New Zealander Adam Williams, who is a right handed batsman and medium pace bowler. He skippered Wellington based Naenae Old Boys who have produced current Black Caps Jesse Ryder and Grant Elliot and former Test bowler Ewan Chatfield.

TRURO finished third last year extending their record to only one finish outside of the top three in the last twelve years. No co-incidence perhaps that in all this time they been led by Tom Sharp who starts his fourteenth year in charge, with Tim Marrion the new vice-captain. Club Professional Sharp impressed with the bat last year topping the Premier League averages hitting 747 runs at 57.41. Marrion, Barry Purchase and Alex Tunnadine gave good support. Kyle van Rooyen led the way with the ball impressively taking 46 wickets at 15 apiece. There has been limited transfer activity at Boscawen Park during the close season with no major ins and outs. Michael Munday is once again registered after being released from Somerset at the end of last season, so may play a few games.

A strengthened **CALLINGTON** improved to fourth last year after only avoiding relegation previously when the League was increased from eight to ten teams. Jim Shorten is skipper again with Dan Davis his deputy. Rob Harrison remains the club professional. One addition is the return of 35 year old Sri Lankan left arm spinner Sanjaya Rajapakse, who has taken up temporary UK residency. He starred for the club in 2008 helping them to the County Division 1 title taking 48 wickets at 11.02 apiece. Callington will be looking to their younger brigade for continued improvement. The Davis brothers Dan and Luke, Jake Libby and Matt Robins led the way with the bat last year. Robins headed the bowlers taking 24 wickets at 15 apiece.

ST AUSTELL, the Premier 50/50 & Hawkey Cup holders, will need to re-group with the loss of three key batsmen. Matt Rowe and Stefan Churcher have returned to their former clubs, Troon and Falmouth respectively. Dan Jarman's appearances will be limited due to working away. Slow bowler David Neville has also returned to Falmouth. Skipper Sean Hooper is unlikely to feature in the first month or so due to recovery from a knee operation. Leading wicket taker for the last two seasons Andrew Libby takes over the reins supported by Gary Bone. One new recruit is Alan George from the Birmingham & District Premier League side Olton & West Warwicks. He is a top order batsman and off-spinner. The bowling looks strong with Libby and Bone supported by the emerging Ben Kitt, Scott Barrott and Liam Watson. All rounder Steve Raven returns and outstanding young wicket keeper Taylor Williams will be aiming for county recognition and looking to fulfil his potential with the bat.

GRAMPOUND ROAD have a similar line up under the captaincy of Chris Hunkin again. They will be looking for continued improvement from a young team. A few players could

miss the early season with injuries and university commitments but hopefully by the start of June they should be at full strength. 20 year old batsman/off spinner Jake Preston returns from St Gluvias but they will be without Lee Tarbuck and Tom Trethewey, who have transferred to Roche and Lanhydrock respectively. They will also miss the experience of Martin Roberts who has retired after a distinguished career. County all rounder Hunkin, was sixth in the Premier League batting averages and fourth in the bowling last season. Young batsmen Tom Hughes, Adam Cocking and Matt South will be looking to get into the runs again with Ben Rowse, Lewis Sanders and young Sri Lankan leg spinner Jeffrey Vandersay contributing with the ball.

WERRINGTON's slump to seventh was one of the surprises of last season, having finished runners-up in the previous campaign. The North Cornwall club are likely to have a very similar side to last year with the exception of Darren Johns who will only be available occasionally, probably for the second team. Visa problems put paid to getting an overseas player at the last minute. Skipper Ben Smeeth is aiming to finish in the top four after an inconsistent 2010 season. He said "We need to make sure we beat the sides in the bottom half which we didn't do last year. I believe this season could be the closest for years with any of four or five teams capable of winning the league." He added "The club have had a new three lane nets installed and have been training hard during the winter." Adam Hodgson is the vice captain and county players Alex Smeeth and Sam Hockin will again be expected to provide telling contributions.

FALMOUTH have been boosted with the return of some old faces and will be looking to improve on last year's eighth place finish. Skipper Duncan Ayres will have batsmen Richard Kellow and Stefan Churcher available, on their returns from St Austell and Constantine respectively. Prolific young Leedstown batsman Simon Hosking hopes to make a successful step up to a higher level and another newcomer, Will Legge, is a 22 year old serviceman based at RNAS Culdrose. He is a hard hitting batsman and right arm quick bowler who has played for United Services Portsmouth. With wily spin bowler Dave Neville also returning from St Austell the prospects are promising at Trescobeas. Adrian Noott, who topped the batting last year, is vice captain. Not available are Australian spin bowler Will Mewburn, who suffered a nasty knee injury last year, and Tom Retallack who has moved to Helston.

NEWQUAY are aiming for a higher finish having been looking over their shoulders in recent years. Joe Crane is the skipper again with Martin Pearce the vice captain. Looking forward Crane said "The club is full of ambition for the new season and with news of a £5,000 grant being awarded to be put towards three major projects which include new covers, an electronic score box and development of the nets the club is certainly moving onwards and upwards. With one or two additions to the side from last year we will certainly be looking for a mid table finish". Godfrey Furse returns to the side after a season out with a fractured finger. Young Josh Hancock is looking to build on an impressive season in the 2nd XI and make the step up to premier cricket. 24 year old Zimbabwean Trevor Garwe, a left handed batsman and fast medium bowler is also set to join. A loss however will be last year's leading batsmen Corey Harris who is unavailable.

TROON are the newly promoted club after narrowly beating Camborne to the County Division One title by just six points last year. Premier League cricket makes a welcome return to Treslothan Road after six seasons in the second tier. Bowler Steve Eddy continues as skipper with Mark Jenkin the vice-captain. Matthew Rowe returns to the club after three years playing Premier League Cricket at St Austell and will fill a top order spot plus provide

some off spin bowling. Wicket keeper batsman Daniel Mitchell, who hardly played last year, is also available. Paul Mankee has joined from Crofty/Holman. On the debit side however young Tom Rowe, who hit 791 league runs in 2010, has been signed up by the Notts Academy. Tom Williams has returned to Perranarworthal, wicket keeper Grant Rowe has moved to Praze and last year's Cornwall under 17 captain Dan Jenkin has transferred to Helston.

COUNTY ONE PREVIEW

PENZANCE return to County Division One after a disappointing one year adventure in the Premier League. Josh Fletcher is the new skipper as the club looks to rebuild with a new squad. Former skipper Tony Riggall has move to Paul along with wicketkeeper Charlie Goldsworthy. Mark Slade has joined Gulval. On the plus side Cas James, who featured regularly in Paul's title winning team last year, makes the move to St Clare.

CAMBORNE start their fifth successive season outside of the top flight hoping to go one better than last year. Martin Jenkin resumes the captaincy for 2011 in a role reversal with vice captain, Kevin Roberts. Rudi Second is the new overseas player, replacing fellow South African Sean Adair. Second is a top order batsman around whom Camborne will continue building their first XI, with the introduction to regular County One cricket of 17 year old Ben Rule (left handed batsman and spinner) and 16 year old Liam Weeks (right handed batsman and wicket keeper). Gary Stephens has moved to Mount Ambrose and Luke Johnson and Darren Shorland have joined Redruth. Camborne commence the season at Gorran.

REDRUTH looked favourites to take the title last year after winning their first 13 games but a slump saw them end up third. It coincided with the loss of Liam Norwell to Gloucestershire. Injury prevented his first class debut until this season when he sensationally took six wickets in an innings against Derbyshire. Newcomers at Trewirgie are batsman /off spinner Darren Shorland and medium pacer Luke Johnson from Camborne and batsman/leg spinner Steve Kevern returns after a season at Perran-ar-Worthal. Last year's skipper Martin Strick joins his family at Stithians so the experienced Nigel Hambly takes over the reins.

HAYLE were fourth last year and are again led by Nigel Smitheram with the equally experienced Paul Lello offering support. The ranks are boosted by 19 year old Australian Ashley McLean, a right handed batsman and left arm quick bowler. Sam Andrewartha is unavailable from last year. Paul Lello was the leading runscore with Wayne Jenkin, David Pascoe and Smitheram also contributing well. Hayle commence at home to Penzance.

It's very much as you were at LAUNCESTON who report no movement of players. Andy Birkett is the captain with Dan Tilley his deputy. Birkett and all rounder Graeme Garrett were last year's key performers as the side finished a respectable fifth. One addition at Lawhitton this season however is a new scoreboard as the club continue to upgrade facilities on the new ground.

BEACON were sixth last year and are looking to further cement their place in County Division One with Matt Floyd remaining as skipper and Craig Thomas in support. They haven't lost any of last year's team but welcome 18 year old all rounder Dominic Batchelor, up the hill from Camborne. Batsman Chris Fine makes a return after spending four years in Thailand. Launceston are the visitors to Treslothan Road on Saturday.

WADEBRIDGE will be led by Charlie Ellis who took over during 2010 with wicket keeper batsman Nick Lawson the vice captain. Much will depend on the availability of big hitting batsman Nick Yelland, seamers Stuart Parkyn and Dave Dunnett, and all rounder Neil Warren who had a fine debut season. Spinner Jake Rowe spent the winter in Australia, bowling to both the England and Australian teams ahead of the Sydney test, and returning with him is Tim Marlin an all rounder who captains Southern Districts in Sydney. Many of the Club's younger players will be given further opportunities, with Jack Butler (who has been with Gloucestershire over the winter), the McLachlan brothers, Rob Centini and James Maycock likely to be given important roles. No senior players have left the Club. Off the pitch planning has been submitted for an extensive Clubhouse redevelopment, with the Club in the final stages of gaining funding for the project. This will see new changing rooms, umpires and scorer facilities, toilets and an extended Clubhouse area.

At **GORRAN**, James Tomlinson remains as captain with Matthew House the new vice-captain. Robin Kendall will concentrate on his batting and keeping but is away in New Zealand until 28th May. Rob Hurrell has moved to St Austell and Simon Cole has returned to captain St Erme. The overseas player is a 22 year old batsman, New Zealander Matt Mealings. He plays for the same Celtic Club in Timaru and South Canterbury sides as former prolific Gorran players Craig Davies and Dan Laming. His batting in particular should be a huge asset with a reputation for accumulating big innings. Chris Kendall, who improved last year, has apparently made great strides following a battle hardened winter playing for a club in Adelaide, South Australia. Gorran are especially looking forward to Friday 13th May when former England & Middlesex captain Mike Gatting will perform the grand opening of the club's new nets and pavilion extension. BBC Spotlight TV will be covering the event.

ROCHE are again under the captaincy of Neil Trudgeon with much of last year's squad in place. Additionally they have acquired an 18 year old Australian bowling all rounder, Brad Weston, and Grampond Road all rounder Lee Tarbuck. They will miss the experienced Clive Libby however who has retired. Roche host Redruth on the opening day.

LUCKETT survived by just a point last year and are again led by Andrew Brenton with John Schuttackker the vice-captain. Adrian Warne is unavailable from last year and Michael bolt has moved to South Petherwin. A Sri Lankan addition to the border club's ranks is subject to a visa being granted however. Stalwart club secretary Len Roberts reaches a significant milestone this year having completed the remarkable achievement of fifty years in the post.

It's a big day for **LUDGVAN** on Saturday as they make their County League debut at Wadebridge. They do have Premier League experience at the helm with former Paul opening bowler Anthony Hosking leading the side with Damon Nicholls the vice-captain. His 59 wickets last year was a major factor in the club's success whilst Ed Lockyer and Jordan Marsden led the batting. All rounder Giles Lawrence has moved from neighbouring Rosudgeon. He hit 600 league runs and took 50 wickets last year in Division Two.

TRURO SECONDS return to County One after their previous nine year spell came to an end a decade ago. They will continue to be captained by Mark Thomas with Mark Adams as vice captain. Julian Bose played a key all rounder role last year scoring almost 800 runs and taking 49 wickets. Alex Ridd has joined from Tregony. Truro are at Lockett on the opening day.

West Transfers (as at 29/4/11)

Stefan Churcher from St Austell to Falmouth

David Neville from St Austell to Falmouth
Matthew Rowe from St Austell to Troon
Simon Hosking from Leedstown to Falmouth
Darren Shorland from Camborne to Redruth
Damon Fillery from Botallack to St Just
Luke Johnson from Camborne to Redruth
Mark Slade from Penzance to Gulval
Paul Mankee from Crofty/Holman to Troon
Giles Lawrence from Rosudgeon to Ludgvan
Ryan Mitchell from Stithians to Wendron
Charlie Goldsworthy from Penzance to Paul
Tom Williams from Troon to Perranarworthal
Alex Ridd from Tregony to Truro
Steve Kevern from Perranarworthal to Redruth
David Stephens from Redruth to Mount Ambrose
Gary Stephens from Camborne to Mount Ambrose
Tim Richards from St Ives to Ludgvan
Richard Kellow from Constantine to Falmouth
Scott Kellow from Constantine to Falmouth
Julian Osborne from Constantine to Falmouth
Scott Stevens from Penzance to Ludgvan
Daniel Mills from Perranporth to Newquay
Jacob Dunstan from Truro to Grampound Road
Sam Dunstan from Truro to Grampound Road
Steve Dunstan from Truro to Grampound Road
Tom Retallack from Falmouth to Helston
Dominic Batchelor from Camborne to Beacon
Tony Riggall from Penzance to Paul
Andre Otto from Penzance to St Ives
Casvelyn James from Paul to Penzance
Adam Strick from Redruth to Stithians
Martin Strick from Redruth to Stithians
Barry Raiker from Falmouth to St Gluvias
Grant Rowe from Troon to Praze
Ian Laity from Helston to Constantine
Dan Jenkin from Troon to Helston
Josh Ninnis from Helston to Porthleven
Shaun Hunt from Mawnan to Troon
Adam Trehwella from Praze to Troon
Soni Chirag from Wendron to Porthleven
Oliver McGeorge from Praze to Troon.
Jake Preston from St Gluvias to Grampound Road
Richard Chynoweth from Perranarworthal to Mt Hawke & Porthtowan
Sam Fenton from Camborne to Leedstown..
Josh Symons from Mawnan to Constantine.
Nicole Richards from Paul to Hayle.

East Transfers

Michael Bolt from Lockett to South Petherwin
Martin Truscott from Roche to Lanhydrock
Simon Cole from Gorran to St Erme
Caleb Rowe from Pencarrow to Wadebridge.
Jonathan Hoskin from Gunnislake to Lockett
Stefan Churcher from St Austell to Falmouth
David Neville from St Austell to Falmouth
Matthew Rowe from St Austell to Troon
Keith Reid from St Austell to St Blazey
Tim Holland from Wadebridge to Pencarrow
James Gallagher from Wadebridge to Pencarrow
Jake Keast from Wadebridge to St Minver
Luke Osborne from Wadebridge to St Minver
Ruben Turner from Wadebridge to St Minver
Tom Trethewey from Grampound Road to Lanhydrock
Stewart May from Foxhole to Roche
Matthew Bailey from St Blazey to Fowey
Jonathan Ridd from Tregony to Ladock
Steve Ridd from Tregony to Ladock
Michael Sweet from St Austell to St Minver
James Harvey from Roche to Foxhole
Tim Hyslop from Liskeard to Menheniot Looe
Robert Hurrell from Gorran to St Austell
Daniel Mills from Perranporth to Newquay.
Alex Ridd from Tregony to Truro
Lee Tarbuck from Grampound Road to Roche
Matthew Rickard from Gunnislake to Callington
Jamie Hine from Liskeard to St Blazey
Lee Tarbuck from Grampound Road to Roche
Peter Cann from Pencarrow to St Stephen
Malcolm Hooper from Grampound Road to St Stephen
Warren Rumble from Bude to Werrington

Neil Meneer from St Minver to Wadebridge
Anton Lake from St Austell to Foxhole.
Callum Gilbert from Gerrans to Tregony.

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