



NPL CRICKET CLUB

The Lab Report

Fantasy Sign Up: <https://npl.fantasyclubcricket.co.uk>

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The Story of the Week

- 1st XI victorious over Ted Town
- Haji with liquid 50
- Rowland goes into destruction mode to make 150*
- Lucas Pearson the pick of the bowlers
- Tom Pitts takes wicket
- Mikey Lee's 2s are felled in pre-season friendly
- Jim Morton makes superb 95

A Letter From a Champion

It's my pleasure to be writing for the first 'Lab Report' ahead of the upcoming season. A fantastic inaugural season of fantasy league saw me coming out as winner, and I hope this article will shed some light into what it takes to be a champion.

The first and most important aspect of being a champion is organisation and routine. Whilst some might see fantasy as a 'bit of fun' or 'a laugh', a real champion gears his schedule around fantasy cricket. For many Thursday nights are seen as a chance to unwind - not for the fantasy winner. Thursday is prime time points time. Each week study those team sheets and make those transfers. This is crucial for a fantasy champion. Whilst god said 'on the first day let there be light' a fantasy champion says 'on the Thursday let there be points'.

In many ways a 19th century scavenger was the height of Victorian society. Rooting around in the sewers of Lon-

don might not have been deemed as a luxury career. But my god it was lucrative - loose change, Ivory smoking pipes or silver perfume cases could fetch a hefty sum at the local market. In the same way a fantasy champion must look to exploit all possible opportunities. Fundamental to this, they must get to know 2s and 3s players. This is where real fortune lies.

Find out who is off on holiday to Magaluf next week - adjust your team accordingly. Which 2s player's distant cousin once bounced out Kevin Pietersen in a charity match - adjust your team accordingly. But Perhaps most importantly, who in the 3s is not going out in the lash on a Friday - adjust your team accordingly. A focus on these little details will reap the rewards over a course of a season.

Finally - trust your gut. Whilst some might see cricket as a game of numbers, at The Lab it is a game of heart. A fantasy champion must be prepared

to trust their gut instinct in the quest for points. Avoid the status quo. Fancy Will Atkins to take a 7-fer away at Chesham, get him in. Fancy a Kellogg's hat-trick, get him in. Fancy Mike Lee to grind out a turgid 50, get him in.

Despite all the research and planning in the world, fortune favours the bold.

Hopefully these pearls of wisdom will help those budding fantasy participants out there. If not be safe in the knowledge that if it all goes tits up, at least the lab sells cheap San Miguel to help drown those sorrows.

Samuel Day

Reigning Fantasy Champion



Your 2018 Fantasy Champion posing for a photo with swooning fans

The Loser's Learnings

Club Legend and Ex-Chair Chris Churchman reflects on mistakes made in a debut fantasy season to forget:

I am a great believer in robustly testing a system before changing it - just because it doesn't work once doesn't mean it won't work in the future. With that in mind, here are my tips on how to pick your Fantasy team for 2019. I'll be sticking to the strategy that last year rewarded me with last place:

- Don't pick yourself
- Don't bother with substitutions
- Don't pick Tom Gallyer as your captain
- Feign indifference when people ask how your team is getting on to strike the fear of god into them
- Ignore any advice, especially from Josh Doble