The main objective of the C Team is to give old codgers like me a game, provide talented young cricketers like Lohit Kannan, James Bridges, Josh Wright and Caitlin Ellis a stepping stone into senior cricket and cater for the full range of ages and abilities in between. Winning is not so important but it’s still nice when we do and six victories – most during the second half of the season when the team was more settled – enabled the Cs to finish a very creditable 5th in Norfolk League Division 4 South East.

A big thank you is due to Duncan Greenslade who again achieved miracles to getting 11 players on the pitch every weak – even when availability through the club was poor. It was a struggle at times, especially early season, but we always managed to complete our fixtures and managed to beat all the teams in the division apart from champions Vauxhall Mallards, Topcroft and Colney.

The C’s even coped with the loss of skipper, Clive Rennie, who became somewhat frustrated at the constantly changing nature of his side and the subsequent lack of competitiveness and stood down in mid-season. Duncan, however, carried on and, with me having finally recovered from my finger problems and able to play…and captain and Clive enjoying the freedom of just being able to bowl, results markedly improved. This was due in no small way to the performances of some of the girls. Rachael Hustler and, especially, Caitlin Ellis opened the bowling and began to take wickets while Michael Wormstone, Kev Ellis, Duncan, James Bridges and me contributed some valuable runs.

Five girls played in the win at Blundeston and the C’s followed by beating, Great Yarmouth, Winterton and promoted Bungay to finish the season on a high with 4 successive victories.

Clive, relieved of the burden of captaincy, was able to enjoy his cricket more but, in truth he performed very well with the ball throughout the summer and his 21 wickets at a miserly average of 7.62 made him a deserved winner of the Player-of-the-Year Trophy. Caitlin took 10 wickets and Rachael 6 and, with the likes of Josh, Lohit, James and Kyle Weston soon whisked up into the Bs (or higher!) the rest of the wickets were shared around. Kev Ellis was top run-scorer, his lower-order big hitting bringing him 231 runs but Duncan’s hard work was rewarded as he enjoyed a good season with the bat scoring 217. There were only 4 fifties with Matt Rushton’s 79 and James B’s 71 the top scores – James’ innings being one of the batting highlights of the season.

Altogether the C Team used 49 players and what is pleasing to see is the number of dads able to play with either sons or daughters. In the last 2 seasons we’ve seen Clive & Matt Rennie, Duncan, Rebecca (& Alice) Greenslade, Dale & Kyle Weston, Kev & Caitlin Ellis, Chris & Josh Wight, Chris & Ben Fletcher, Matt & Ethan Rushton – even Ashley & Aimee Palmer on one occasion.

It all depends, though, on having someone like Clive Gristwood or Duncan who are prepared to do the hard work of sorting the teams for which we all should be very grateful. Hopefully Duncan will be happy to keep-up-the-good-work in 2018.