

2024 Division One Team of the Season

Carlos Nunes XII		Salman Ali XII	
Carlos and Salman were asked to pick their top 12 man team to play across both league formats. Selection would be on the day of the game. Not more than two players were allowed from any one club, just one overseas player.			
Opener: Mubasher Hassan (Hampstead) – Destructive over the years, but has matured into not only a fantastic leader, but one of the most respected players in the league. Showed control of his team, lead them through a dominating campaign and a no brainer to Captain this side.		Opener: Hamzah Khan (Wycombe House) - captain masterminded an excellent season for his side. Few would have thought going into Week 18 that his side would have a chance of promotion to the Premier Division, which was the case, albeit a small one. Highest score of 102, along with being an excellent leader who has the full respect of his players but also leads from the front.	
Opener: William Burrige (North London) – In a league where it is generally not that easy to open the batting due to the inconsistencies and varieties of different wickets, William did well to hold his own at North London and regularly scored well. I would have like to have push on more, but add the keeping gloves and that becomes even more challenging. Deserves his pick.		Opener: Will Burrige (North London) - A teenager who continues to produces the goods and this season was another good one. 485 runs at an average of 32 helped his side finish third. Opening the bat he didn’t shirk away from any responsibilities and caught the eye of many observers.	
#3: Hamzah Khan (Wycombe House) - Solid performer year in and year out, and to lead a team to back to back promotions, and finish 4th in division 1 is a seriously mean feat, that doesn’t happen with average players, it happens with players like Hamzah leading from the front.		#3: Damien Burrage (Hampstead) – Helped Hampstead make a swift return to the Premier Division, allowing them to did so in style as champions. Burrage was instrumental in this, having a fine all round season. Scoring 626 runs with a highest of 106, along with 24 wickets made him the scourge of many sides. Along with this probably one of the safest hands in the competition as his 15 catches highlighted.	
#4: Preet Himanshukumar (Harrow Town) – Preet has shown that he has class written all over him. Knows his game really well and tends to stand up on big occasions. He is one that you need to get out early or you are in for a very long day.		#4: Preet Himanshukumar (Harrow Town) – Elegant, stylish and destructive best described Harrow Town’s run machine. Patel notched up 673 runs leading the run scoring charts. Two centuries and four fifties showed what a class act he was.	
#5: Joe Kendall (Hampstead) - For me, Joe is the best bat in this league. Incredible temperament at the crease, irrespective of the wicket or the situation, he sticks to his own game, plays nothing rash and you know you have to bowl a really decent ball to get him out. Will do very well in the Premier next year.		#5: Joe Kendall (Hampstead) - With his pedigree, Hampstead’s keeper was always going to be key for Mubasher Hassan’s side and this was certainly the case. 565 runs with highest score of 104 and to go with his top class keeping skills, Kendall takes the spot of being the man with the gloves, being more than capable to stand up to the most trickiest of seamers and excellent with spin.	
#6: Jaahid Ali – (North London) – I have known Jaahid for many years and he is still one of the most technically correct players on the circuit. Often overlooked as he seems to get on with things under the radar, but a class above many in this league and he showed that again with a consistent season.		#6: Bavan Gunaseelan (Harrow St Marys) - May not be the most flamboyant or free scoring, but more than makes up for that with his grittiness and desire. A breakthrough season saw him top 400 runs and a century against North London being the highlight. Certainly a player to watch next season.	
#7: Ravikumar Raghavendra (Acton) - Gets my pick as the overseas player of the season ahead of some strong competition (Fatchen / Burrage). Bowled superbly this season, loads of control, knew his fields well and played with batters which I found very impressive. Decent with the bat and slots in well at 6 in this line up. Well deserved.		#7: Imran Qayyum (Kenton) – A disappointing season for Qayyum and Kenton, but still showed his all round qualities. Best figures of 6-71 saw him end with 34 wickets, not a bad effort considering the size of Kenton’s ground ,and he also played some eye catching innings scoring 420 runs.	
#8: Nikhil Nomula (Twickenham) – Had a phenomenal season with the ball, often at times unplayable. Consistently bowled well every week, and even when he did rack up a 5fer, he went for less than 3s. Known for being a batting all-rounder which makes it all the more impressive.		#8: Khawar Kazmi (Harrow St Marys) - The dilemma was always which spinner of the two left armers from Harrow St Marys to pick and the wily, skilful and evergreen Kazmi just pipped his team mate Ravi Patel. Bowled the most overs of any individual in the division, thus producing the most maidens. 39 wickets with a best of 5-26. Probably not the force with the bat that he was in the past, but a more than capable batter still.	
#9: Ravi Patel (HSM) – We all know what Ravi is capable of, but he keeps turning up and delivering. Found him incredibly difficult to get on top of, even in the limited overs format. Has outstanding variations and still considered one of the best spin bowlers in Middlesex in my view. Easy pick.		#9: Akshay Pillalamarri (Southgate) - Would be the first to admit it was a tough season, but the young all rounder was certainly a shining light. No nonsense approach and never seemed fazed by any player or occasion, he took 24 wickets and averaged 20 more with the bat. A bright future is certainly on the horizon for him and the potential to play at a higher level.	
#10: Gurjit Sandhu (Twickenham) - Class all round with the new ball. Could land it on a sixpence every day of the week. Known for his hard “county” lengths, one of the easiest to set fields too and just knows his game so well. Loves the game, always up for it and just a star to have in any team.		#10: Nikhil Nomula (Twickenham) - A breakthrough season for the Twickenham seamer resulted in 40 wickets. The go to man for Carlos Nunes, certainly meant Nomula got his match fees worth bowling nearly 149 overs. Not only did he posses high levels of stamina but was miserly with this, producing a bowling average of just 14.68.	
#11: Khawar Kazmi - HSM – Pair this guy with Ravi and you have a duo there that not many teams will dominate. Brings so much experience to the game, does it with a big smile and I would love to have a season with this gem, must be so good to have this type of pairing available week in, week out. Brilliant player.		11: Abidine Sakande (Harrow Town) - The ex First Class seamer was a real handful for many Division One batter. Leading the Harrow Town attack his haul of 27 wickets doesn’t look that exciting, but in a side which contained a plethora of quality seam and spin, it’s a figure which should not be discounted. Much preferred in the overs format his two spells where he took 5 or more wickets were telling in securing important wins.	
#12: Abidine Sakande (Harrow Town) - Never played against Abidine until he rocked up to the Green and ran through us like it was a normal Saturday. I knew he was a good player when I managed to hit one boundary off him, and he then had me on a string for the rest of my innings. Absolute control, great pace and bounce. Deadly in this league. Loved the battle with this guy, have missed this over the years.		12: James Gray (Barnes) – With his side needing a batting boost as the season ticked over, the arrival of Gray certainly provided that. Playing 12 games he scored two 50’s against champions Hampstead and a century against Kenton, scoring 114. His influence was there to see and vital runs were vital in helping Barnes escape relegation by a single point.	