

22nd May 2010

Norfolk Cricket Alliance Premier League

Diss CC V Cromer CC

On a scorching hot day Diss welcomed Cromer to the Rectory Meadow, which was always likely to be an intriguing match after the previous year's controversial away fixture. Still searching for his first league win as captain, Diss skipper Simon Cooper won the toss, and again opted to field first. His decision looked a good one after Chris Germon removed opener Ben Clarke for four, and then had Turner expertly caught behind by Weal for 0 in the same over to leave Cromer reeling on 5 for 2. A decent partnership between Charlwood and Tuck was brought to an end by a lovely piece of spin bowling by Chris Cooper, who together with spin twin, Rob Tooke, bowled beautiful through the middle overs, taking 4 wickets between them, whilst conceding less than 4 runs an over. At 94 for 6 captain Simon Cooper smelt blood and brought himself on from the pavilion end, but a great rearguard innings from Cromer's Michael Warnes was to be a thorn in his side. Warnes batted with the tail through the latter overs and dispatched the ball the all parts as Cromer sailed towards the 200 mark. Cooper eventually dismissed Warnes for 74, well caught by the sprawling Ben Spinks in the deep; his second wicket to add to the already departed Regis. Gooderham picked up the wicket of Elliott in the final few overs, but another frustrating innings of 27 not out by Cromer number 10, Barrett, saw their total to 219 for 9 after 50 overs. Although conceding no byes, wicketkeeper Tom Weal had an uncharacteristically sloppy day behind the stumps.

With a wicket so flat, and an outfield as fast as lightening Diss fancied a target of 220 was well within their reach. The opening pairing of Spinks and Wilby had the job of facing Cromer's overseas pro, Liyinage. A circumspect partnership ended when Spinks chipped one straight back to the Sri Lankan who gleefully accepted. This brought Dave Tooke to the crease, fresh from his exploits in Portugal. Himself and Wilby looked to build a base from which Diss could attack from but Wilby (24) and then Dawson fell in quick succession to leave Diss struggling on 74 for 3. The Tooke brothers then combined with a fine partnership of almost fifty, only for David Tooke to sky a short delivery, who was immediately followed back to the pavilion by Rush in the same over. This brought the out of sorts Chris Cooper to the crease, but the next 10 overs was to change the game, as Tooke and Cooper put on an exhilarating 90 run partnership to all but seal the game. Both played with a mixture of brutal boundary hitting, and sensible rotation of strike. Rob Tooke finally fell for 69, leaving only 15 runs for victory. There was still time for some jittery moments as Simon Cooper and Weal fell cheaply, but this suitable left Chris Cooper to knock off the final few runs needed leaving him not out on 45.

Man of the match was a tie between Rob Tooke and Chris Cooper, who's bowling and batting in tandem won Diss the game.

Diss 220 for 8 (R. Tooke 69, C. Cooper 45 not out) beat Cromer 219 for 9 (C. Cooper 3 for 48, C. Germon 2 for 17) by 2 wickets.