

24th July 2010

Norfolk Cricket Alliance Premier League

Cromer CC Vs Diss CC

On Saturday Diss returned from the north Norfolk coast with an invaluable winning draw against Cromer. Diss were grateful to a wonderful batting performance as they racked up almost 300 runs, and a splendid five wicket haul by Chris Germon to secure the win.

After losing the toss and being asked to bat Diss were mindful of how they performed in the previous week when attempting to set a total, but this didn't perturb James Wilby from smashing eight from the first over including a cover-drive so good it sent the spectators delirious. Unfortunately his joy was short lived as he feathered a catch down the leg-side to hand overseas pro, Liyanage, his first wicket. The Sri-Lankan picked up his second wicket after a patient partnership between Henry Rush and David Tooke (6) was broken with the latter chipping tamely to mid-wicket; Liyanage again the tormentor. This brought Simon Cooper to the crease and together with Rush the pair played with a brash confidence as they sought about dismantling the Cromer attack. Cooper in particular was in belligerent mood as he sailed past fifty with an array of hooks, pulls and deft square-cuts. With the partnership on 124 Cooper was eventually dismissed, caught in the deep for an exhilarating 73. Rob Tooke (33) came to the crease with no intention of playing himself in as he smashed his second and sixth balls for six in an entertaining cameo. Next to fall was Rush, as his marathon innings was ended on 73 after batting for almost three hours. With caution being thrown to the wind, two further fine cameo innings stood out as Chris Cooper (27) and Benji Spinks (24) sought about pushing Diss towards 300. Both were caught in the deep by Regis, which left Mike Tooke and Tom Weal to bat the final few overs as Diss finished on a daunting 298 – 8.

With a lightning fast outfield, and tiny boundaries, this contest was by no means a foregone conclusion. Diss' opening pairing of Chris Germon and Simon Cooper bowled with control but had to wait until the ninth over for the breakthrough, it came courtesy of Germon, as he had Tuck (13) caught by Rush. The weight for the second was not so long, as Germon sent Charlwood packing for nought, with Weal snaffling a simple chance behind the stumps. Germon took a further two wickets in his opening eleven over spell, as Liyanage (0) and Turner (28) all succumbed to his exemplary line and length bowling. Standing on 56 – 4, needing almost a further 250 runs for victory Cromer looked dead and buried, but a partnership of brutal hitting between Davies and Warnes threatened to turn the tables on Diss. The pair were together for 19 overs, and bludgeoned 124 runs before the game swung right back into Diss' favour as Rush dismissed Warnes (66) and L. Davies (0) in his first over. With Rush exploiting the swinging ball with devastating effect Cromer settled for a losing draw as they batted out the final ten overs with little urgency. Cromer's captain T. Davies eventually limped to three figures to secure a fine hundred, only for the returning Germon to dismiss him the very next ball caught and bowled, and in doing so handing Germon a well deserved five-wickets.

Diss had to settle for a losing draw, but collected a useful 17 points, which keeps them well in contention for second place. Diss will look to make it five wins out of six, as they welcome Brooke to the Rectory Meadow on Saturday.

Despite a fantastic bowling performance by Chris Germon, the man-of-the-match award controversially went to Henry Rush for his 73 with the bat, and match changing first over.

Diss 298 for 8 (S. Cooper 73, H. Rush 73) beat Cromer 240 for 7 (C. Germon 5 – 45, H. Rush 2 - 35)