

Diss Match Report

Lady Mary Cup First Round

Diss V Dereham

Diss 304-4 (40 overs)

Dereham 136 all out (29.5 overs)

Diss began their Lady Mary Cup campaign impressively with a convincing win over Dereham, with James Wilby and Mark Williamson starring. Skipper Simon Cooper won the toss and elected to bat on a pleasant afternoon at Rectory Meadow. Diss continued with the opening partnership of Wilby and Ben Spinks, and both found the boundary regularly against a very friendly bowling attack, with Wilby looking particularly assured hitting the ball with great authority. With both batsmen seeming at total ease and playing with much freedom it wasn't until the 18th over that Dereham struck, Spinks failing to kick on from a very bright start, getting a leading edge to be well caught at mid on for 44. Will Dawson then joined a very belligerent Wilby, and from the off was looking full of confidence. The pair added 128 in 13 overs before Dawson retired out having played a wonderful innings of 54, full of elegance and timing. The badly out of form Chris Cooper was now at the crease, and with the breathtaking Wilby now passed his hundred and hitting the ball mercilessly to the boundary with consummate ease, just tried to give himself some time in the middle, but unfortunately lost patience on 10 and was well caught at long off. With overs now running out David Tooke immediately looked to score runs, and hit a quickfire 26 off 13 balls, including one enormous 6. Wilby meanwhile was still there, passing a chanceless 150, in which his straight driving was impeccable, and he and Williamson managed to get Diss to a highly imposing 304, Wilby ending on a mammoth 162 not out from 102 balls, in an innings that was among the best seen for many a year. A special mention to Neil Widdows whose fielding for Dereham was highly impressive, and kept going throughout. In reply Dereham knew they had little chance of getting the runs required, but both openers dealt comfortably with James Shepherd and Simon Cooper, picking off the bad balls and putting on 87 for the first wicket. The introduction of David Tooke helped the run rate however, his 2 overs costing a unacceptable 28. With Dereham now in with a slight sniff of victory, spinners Chris Cooper and the excellent Williamson were now bowling, and it took a clever bit of fielding to get the breakthrough as Williamson threw the ball through his legs for a direct hit to get rid of S.Widdows for an impressive 40. Soon after Cooper had Lake well caught by Dawson for 48, who had a fantastic day behind the stumps. With the pitch offering a lot to the slower bowlers, both found purchase, despite Cooper struggling at times with his length. Williamson on the other hand was in his element, and picked up the next 5 wickets, ingeniously changing his pace to deceive all batsmen, and finished with astounding figures of 5-24. With the game clearly up, Andy Tebble ran out Pledger with a bit of high quality fielding, and Daniel Betts had the dangerous Neil Widdows, who was having to bat at 9 due to an unfortunate injury, caught at slip by Chris Cooper for 0 to wrap up a comprehensive win by 168 runs and breeze into round 2.