

17<sup>th</sup> September 2011

Norfolk Alliance Premier League

Diss CC V Lowestoft CC

Fittingly, Diss ended their fantastic season on Saturday with a resounding 10 wicket thrashing of Lowestoft. An excellent all-round display by the bowlers, spear-headed by the ever improving James Shepherd saw Diss' visitors skittled out for 99; a target which was knocked off by James Wilby and Ben Spinks with consummate ease.

In a season which has seen Diss collect two pieces of silverware, and finish fourth in the Premier League including wins against reigning champions Downham, and then undefeated champions elect Fakenham, it was the perfect way to sign off one of the most successful seasons the South Norfolk club has had since it was founded in 1863.

Lowestoft's skipper lost the toss and surprisingly decided to bat under overcast skies. Shepherd started in devastating fashion, pinning Simms first ball, unfortunately the umpires finger never rose, but he didn't have to wait long to get his man, with the umpire this time not forgetting his lines. Mark Williamson completed a remarkable caught and bowled to dislodge McAvoy, and with Shepherd striking twice more Diss were in full control. Will Dawson completed a fantastic run out to remove Fletcher for a duck, and with Rob Tooke well into his miserly 13 over spell which would be rewarded with two wickets at the cost of just 19 runs Lowestoft found themselves tottering on 60 for seven. After promising spells Robbie West and Chris Cooper were both rewarded with a wicket each, and when James Shepherd returned to finish proceedings, Diss found themselves taking an early tea with only one hundred to win.

Diss' run chase was a formality. James Wilby played some exciting shots in his attractive 52 not out, and while Ben Spinks was more circumspect his 25 not out was no less impressive. Lowestoft's openers of P. Simms and T. Brice toiled without success; Brice in particular bowled with impressive pace and carry but was seen off expertly by Diss' young opening pair. The match and season was finished in emphatic style with Wilby dispatching a gigantic six over wide mid-wicket which also saw him to his half century.

James Shepherd was rightfully awarded the man of the match accolade for his inspired bowling figures of four for 21 of 9.3 overs, although it was fitting that such a comprehensive team performance was displayed to seal such a rewarding season. Diss' young captain Simon Cooper, who has skippered masterfully, must also be congratulated for masterminding Diss to such a glorious season.

Diss CC 102 for 0 (J. Wilby 52 not out, Ben Spinks 25 not out) beat Lowestoft CC 99 all out (J. Shepherd 4 for 21, R. Tooke 2 for 19) by 10 wickets.