

25th June 2011

Diss CC V Spowston CC

Norfolk Alliance Premier Division

On what was to be a very successful weekend for Diss Cricket Club, it started with a fantastic, battling winning draw against 3rd placed Spowston at the Rectory Meadow on Saturday.

It didn't start well for Diss as they lost the toss and found themselves batting in very testing conditions after some heavy overnight rain. Wilby (6) was in a hurry but after trying one too many big shots was trapped in front by Pearce with the score on just seven. Simon Cooper then joined the visibly shaken Ben Spinks and together they nudged Diss' score up to 23 at an excruciatingly slow pace. Spinks (6) then fell to Hanby, caught in the slips, which brought the out-of-sorts David Tooke to the crease. Tooke and Cooper battled through the testing conditions and started to find some fluency only for the latter to perish for 30 in the 29th over with the score on just 54. Robert Tooke joined his brother at the crease, and to everybody's amazement made batting look easy as he trotted down the wicket and dispatched Hampson for a huge six in just his second ball faced. In an astonishing eight overs the Tooke brother put on over 60 runs, and although most came from the bat of Robert, David still played with maturity as he rotated the strike. Diss then faced a mini collapse as R. Tooke (39), D. Tooke (30), and C. Cooper (4) all perished within eight runs of each over. Will Dawson (11) and Mike Tooke ran well to push the score up to a respectable total, and when the latter was caught for seven, this brought a very buoyant Mark Williamson (14) to the crease, who was clearly keen to impress the hoards of spectators. After another useful partnership, and a late flourish from James Shepherd Diss were bowled out in the last over of their innings for 176.

With the pitch drying out and the outfield getting faster Diss knew they would have to bowl and field exceptionally well to defend such a total, much responsibility would lie with their trio of spinners. Simon Cooper got Diss off to the perfect start as he had Palmer (1) caught and bowled with the score on just seven. However this was to be Diss' last success for quite some time as Leverett (57), playing with freedom, and Purton moved the score on. Robbie West's bowling was a real disappointment, after being granted a mid-season break due to fatigue. The young man should be expecting an extended run in the third team as he tries to recapture some form. With the score on 76 it was down to man-of-the-match Robert Tooke to change the game again as he had Purton (17) caught by Spinks. With Tooke and Chris Cooper causing all sorts of problems the score plunged from 95 for two to 106 for five. With Diss firmly in the driving seat, Chipperfield made his way to the crease and immediately tried to blast Spowston to the win as he crashed a total of five sixes. The introduction of Mark Williamson changed to game once more as he instigated another batting collapse as Spowston lost four wickets in the space of 14 runs, Williamson picked up three, and a fantastic run out by Robert Tooke and Will Dawson saw Spowston toppling on 161 for nine. Diss couldn't get the final wicket they needed for the outright win in last over as Spowston finished on 170 for nine.

Diss CC 176 all out (Rob Tooke 39, Simon Cooper 30) drew against Spowston CC 170 for nine (Mark Williamson 3 for 21, Rob Tooke 3 for 33).