

14th May 2011

Fakenham CC V Diss CC

Norfolk Alliance Premier Division

Diss' league campaign took another setback on Saturday as they were comprehensively beaten by their strong rivals, Fakenham, by 115 runs.

Diss returned from a relatively fruitless trip to Fakenham with few positives, but the two biggest plus points were the inspired bowling spell from Robbie West; making his first appearance of the year, and the gritty batting performance of captain, Simon Cooper (MoM), who managed to salvage some respectability to the Diss total.

Winning the toss, and taking the field first Diss' opening bowlers got off to contrasting starts, as Chris Germon struggled to find his length, Robbie West was bowling with vigor and enjoying some extra bounce the wicket was offering. The controlled aggression paid off in the eighth over as West bowled the prolific run-maker, Harvey, for 17. Fakenham's number three, S. Gray (9), fell to West a few overs later with James Wilby taking a smart catch at square leg. Despite Diss doing well to take regular wickets, with West taking another two in his inspired thirteen over spell, and one for Simon Cooper, runs continued to flow for Fakenham. With the score 109 for five after 25 overs, the game was very much in the balance.

Diss were dealt some bad luck when Tom Weal took a nasty blow behind the stumps which dislocated his finger, meaning Will Dawson had to deputize as wicketkeeper. As the seamers finished their spells, and the spinners replaced them runs started to come at a more alarming rate, with Fakenham's number five, J. Brown, playing with particular freedom in his accomplished 56. Despite more wickets falling there was no let off for Diss' bowlers as Fakenham showed their incredible depth in batting, as Hillerman, in a nine, smashed 47 in 29 balls to push the final total to a commanding 247 for nine.

Diss' reply got off to a characteristically poor start with Ben Spinks (3) falling to Burton in only the second over. A promising thirty minute stand, either side of a rain break between Simon Cooper and James Wilby (17) was undone when the latter was caught behind off the very impressive Hillerman. A procession of wickets then followed with Dawson, Rob Tooke, Chris Cooper, and Mike Tooke all falling very cheaply to leave Diss wobbling on 49 for 6. Chris Germon, promoted up the order, joined Simon Cooper (59) and together put on 73 for the seventh wicket. Germon (26) played a gem of an innings with some new found confidence, with his foot work to the spinners a particular highlight. Unfortunately the fun had to end, as both batsmen followed each other back to the pavilion in close succession leaving Diss all out for 132; although it could have been a lot worse.

Diss will look to get back to winning ways on Saturday as they play hosts to Vauxhall Mallards.

Fakenham CC 247 for 9 (Robbie West 4 for 61, Chris Cooper 2 for 48) beat Diss CC 132 all out (Simon Cooper 59, Chris Germon 26) by 115 runs.