

Gt. Melton A 149 (45.1 overs)  
Diss A 151-7 (40.3 overs) 1st may 2010

A solid Diss outfit continued the winning form seen towards the end of last season, prevailing over an inferior Great Melton side by 3 wickets at Rectory Meadow on Saturday. Despite retaining most of the side that ended the previous season, Diss were empowered by debutant Gareth Kilian and the unerring influence of Craig Barker in the field, with club stalwart Colin Atkinson plugging a vital gap behind the stumps. Winning the toss, Diss looked to Robbie West and Jack Bell to put the visiting top order under some pressure early on. Ten overs of strangulation passed, and Whiddett was the first to crack, falling victim to a pinpoint Tim Courridge run out, closely followed by Harris. Mark Williamson (4-20) again proved to be Diss' outstanding performer with the ball, and two wickets in only his second over left Great Melton staring down the barrel at 47-4. The home side could've really turned the screw but a succession of dropped catches and missed opportunities allowed Dorling to reach 50 and propel his team towards a competitive total. After a late burst from West (3-23), it took until the last over for the last wicket to fall, and with 149 on the board, Great Melton had fallen short of a par score for the wicket. In reply, the Diss pair of Barker and Dave Williman made a steady start, the former unfortunate to fall early on. A key partnership between Williman and captain Courridge followed, however, to firmly put Diss in the driving seat. Though Williman delighted the crowd with a classic stroke or two, Courridge's match-winning innings of 88 contained a mix of booming drives and steely defence; taking any chance to put loose bowling to the sword. Though there were no other innings of note, a win always looked likely with Courridge at the crease. But, Courridge's dismissal along with the departure of West and Andy Tebble meant that nerves started to jangle in the Diss dressing room. Any faint hopes of a win for Great Melton were duly dashed however, as Kilian smashed a four through the covers to bring home the points. As always, a few key areas are to be worked on but the season ahead looks very promising.