

Lady Mary Cup Final

Sunday 17th July at Horsford

Diss V Bradenham

Diss 214-7 (40 overs)

Bradenham 46-2 (14 overs)

Diss entered this huge Lady Mary Cup Final full of confidence on the back of a decent run in the league, and managed to come out with a fantastic win, albeit rather hollow, as the rain scuppered any chance of a full match. Diss did make a huge call to drop the badly out of form Will Dawson, and bring in experienced campaigner Andy Tebble. Having lost an important toss and been put into bat under dark skies and angry looking clouds, openers Ben Spinks and Simon Cooper began positively against some wayward bowling, Spinks in particular looking to bat with a new lease of life. However Cooper's recent good form came to an end on the big stage, as he cut loosely to backward point to fall for 4. However, from 27-0, Diss found themselves 48-4, as the badly out of form duo of James Wilby and David Tooke fell cheaply, as well as Spinks for 16. This meant it was imperative that key man Robert Tooke and Chris Cooper had to be patient in partnership, and they were, building together a match winning stand of 112. Cooper was especially brutal, yet again showing what a big match player he is. Tooke eventually fell for an unusually sedate 49, which brought an out of sorts Mark Williamson in. With Williamson struggling to get the ball off the square, Cooper knew he had to try the big shots, and he didn't disappoint, hitting A.Stolworthy for three huge maximums in a row. The pair put on 41, before Williamson was stumped for 7. With overs now running out, Cooper tried one biff too many trying to get to what would have been a magnificent ton, getting bounced out for 88. This meant that James Shepherd and Robbie West batted out the last 2 overs, with West showing perfect execution of the sweep slog to get Diss to a very credible 214-7. In reply Bradenham knew they needed quick runs with rain sweeping in, as a minimum of 13.2 overs had to be bowled in the reply for it to constitute a game. However, for a reason unbeknown to everyone, they were happy to play themselves in against the excellent Shepherd and a somewhat off colour West, clearly showing nerves in front of the watching public. Shepherd bowled a nagging line, nibbling the ball about from ball one, and struck in consecutive overs to dismiss Stagles and Thurley, and leave Bradenham sauntering on 27-2 with nearly 9 overs on the board. With S.Cooper now on at the other end, moving the ball both ways at will, batsmen Denmark and B.Stolworthy had no answer, and when rain arrived at 46-2 off 14 overs, they were 26 runs short of their target. This meant Diss were convincing winners on run rate, and took home the Lady Mary Cup. The man of the match gong was awarded to the unflappable Chris Cooper for his mercurial knock of 88 in trying circumstances.