

30th April 2011

North Runcton CC V Diss CC

Norfolk Alliance Premier Division

Diss maintained their fantastic start to the new season with a comprehensive 6 wicket victory away to North Runcton, and now sit pretty at the top of the Norfolk Alliance Premier League.

An excellent effort by the entire bowling unit, and a highly entertaining one-hundred run partnership between Rob Tooke and Chris Cooper were the keys to victory over last year's third placed team.

Diss found themselves taking the field first, and seeming customary for this year took an early wicket with Chris Germon having Rawlings caught at slip by Rob Tooke for four. Diss continued with their controlled approach but had to wait until the fifteenth over for the second wicket, Simon Cooper the bowler, having McInerney (20) miraculously caught by Will Dawson at mid-wicket having slipped first only to shoot a solitary hand in the air to grasp the ball. Cooper bowled his thirteen overs all the way through with metronomic accuracy, and was rewarded with his second wicket; M. Skipper bowled for three. The rest of the innings was controlled by Diss' off-spinning threesome of Rob Tooke, Chris Cooper and Mark Williamson. Together they kept the run-rate to a minimum, and even with Runcton well placed to push on in the final ten overs at 115 – 4, they could only muster thirty-one runs in that time for the loss of four wickets. The highlight of which was a fantastic run-out completed by Rob Tooke with a direct hit from over fifty yards. Williamson was the most prolific wicket-taker with three, and the other fell to Cooper as North Runcton stuttered to 146 for eight.

Diss' reply couldn't have started worse, as Ben Spinks was trapped LBW for naught in only the second ball of the innings. His partner Simon Cooper fell shortly after for an extraordinarily patient six, and when Dave Tooke (16) skied a slog-sweep straight back to McInerney Diss were in deep trouble at thirty-one for three. However, the 103 run stand which was to follow between Rob Tooke and Chris Cooper was to be a match-winner, and it was one of breathtaking quality. The pair sort about dismantling the Runcton attack, being particularly brutal on anything remotely over-pitched. In the fifteen overs they were together runs were scored at over a run-a-ball, but with only twelve runs needed for victory Tooke feathered a catch through to the keeper off K. Bunting and he was gone for forty-three. Dawson (4 not out) joined Cooper at the crease, but fittingly it was Cooper that smashed the final few runs required for victory as he finished on 66 not out, an innings that included three massive sixes in its forty-five ball duration, and sealed him the man-of-the-match accolade.

Next week Diss welcome Cromer to the Rectory Meadow where they will be looking to continue their 100% start to the season, and on Sunday Sprowston will be the visitors in the traditional Carter Cup competition.

Diss CC 148 for 4 (C. Cooper 66 not out, R. Tooke 43) beat North Runcton 146 for 8 (M. Williamson 3 for 29, S. Cooper 2 for 33) by six wickets.

