

Old Buckenham CC V Diss CC

NACO Cup Final

28<sup>th</sup> August 2011

For the second time this season Diss reached a major cup final. This time they faced Old Buckenham, who will join Diss in the premier league next season. The match was held at Great Witchingham's picturesque ground where the staff did a fine job preparing the ground in adverse conditions. In the event the start was delayed and the overs reduced to 45 per side, allowing the pitch to dry out. Whoever won the toss was always going to field first. Old Buckenham did and duly inserted Diss on a damp wicket. Conditions were tricky. Spinks was well caught with the score at 7, Simon Cooper was bowled for 2, and although Will Dawson and Dave Tooke dug in with admirable resistance, both were eventually dismissed Dawson caught behind and Tooke bowled. Chris Cooper soon followed, after hitting three sumptuous boundaries in one over before losing his wicket from the final ball. At 56 for five with almost half the overs gone all hopes rested on Rob Tooke who was joined at the wicket by his father, Mick. They didn't disappoint. Rob in his most circumspect innings of the season and Mick, the old warrior who had seen it all before, dragged Diss from a position of despair with a miraculous stand of 123. Rob Tooke was finally out for a superb 80, including twelve 4's and two 6's which considering the conditions was his finest hour. Mick carried on despite damaging a knee and having a runner, and with the tail guided Diss to a respectable 193, before succumbing himself for 47. No man deserved a half century more. For Old Buckenham Lawrence and Goldsmith were virtually unplayable early on but T Alexander took the honours with four wickets.

In reply conditions had certainly eased for the Old Buckenham batsmen, the pitch and the outfield considerably drier. Shepherd and Simon Cooper bowled well and it was Shepherd who made the breakthrough having Perry superbly caught at slip by Rob Tooke. Andy Tebble, subbing for Mike Tooke, held a great catch in the deep to dismiss Banham off Cooper and Diss were up and running. Buckenham were not giving up without a fight as five of their first six batsmen made double figures without going on to a big score with the exception of B. Mann who made 41. Robbie West took over from Shepherd and had Heiney caught behind by the ever dependable Tom Weal, but then blotted his copy book with his fifth over going for 15 runs and was from then on banished to the outfield. However, at 102 for four there was slight concern amongst the large contingent of Diss supporters that the target could be reached, but as ever skipper, Simon Cooper, turned to the spinners and they didn't let him down. Robert Tooke bowled an immaculate nine overs for the wicket of S Mann, twin brother of B Mann. Chris Cooper claimed a couple of wickets, one of them another fine catch by Rob Tooke over his head on the boundary and Austin trapped LBW. With the run-rate increasing Diss forced two excellent run outs, and when Williamson claimed his second wicket at the end the opposition were bowled out for 144 with five overs to spare. Tom Weal gave another immaculate performance behind the stumps once again not conceding a bye on a spiteful pitch. The overall win masterminded by Simon Cooper was a perfect example of the teamwork and strength in depth of this Diss team. Diss man of the match once again went to Rob Tooke who deservedly won a cricket bat from the match sponsors.

Diss CC 193 all out (Rob Tooke 80, Mike Tooke 47), beat Old Buckenham CC 144 all out (Mark Williamson 2 -12, Chris Cooper 2 - 27) by 49 runs.