

## Stow V Diss

Diss 115 all out (33.4 overs)

Stow 116-8 (44 overs)

Diss visited lowly Stow full of confidence having won their previous four league games, but slipped to a two wicket defeat, despite an inspired spell of bowling from Mark Williamson. Having lost yet another toss, Diss found themselves batting. Opening pair Ben Spinks and the badly out of sorts Captain Simon Cooper looked to get proceedings off to a steady start, but in just the second over Spinks was bowled for 9 by a seaming delivery from Ward. Will Dawson was next in, and immediately felt the hostility from Stow's second overseas professional of the season Fitz-John, and was soon cleaned up for 0 by a corker of a ball which uprooted the off stump. David Tooke came to the wicket to join the skipper, but after a painful blow to the toe, he missed a straight one from Ward and was gone for 1, and when Cooper went for a painstaking 9 in 61 balls, having taken him 55 minutes to get off the mark, Diss were staring down the barrel at 50-4. Things were to get worse however, as star man Rob Tooke was forced to retire hurt without scoring, having been sick on the outfield.

This meant Chris Cooper and debutant Barnaby Chenery had to dig in, but the latter let nerves get the better of him and he went second ball for 1. Tooke then decided he was well enough to plow on, as he and Cooper counter attacked, before Cooper lost his head, seemingly charging down the track before leaving it to the spin of Ring, and was stumped for what was a well made 23. James Shepherd strolled out at 8, being given a deserved promotion up the order on the back of some impressive form, and he was quickly into his stride, arrogantly dismissing the gentle medium pace of Moulton to the cover boundary, before deftly guiding another to the fence at third man. Tooke was in similar mood, as he took a liking to the same bowler, hitting him for three successive fours, and Diss all of a sudden were 108-6. However when he played on for 41 to the persistent Ring, who finished with 5-32, the tail quickly folded, as Shepherd (14), Andy Tebble and Williamson failed to get to the first batting point of 125, with Robbie West left unbeaten on 1 and Diss all out for a very disappointing 115. In reply early wickets were a necessity, and Shepherd, who was hooping the ball alarmingly, duly delivered by bowling both openers within his first 5 overs. With Simon Cooper not delivering the goods with the new rock, he turned to spin king Williamson, who with only his second ball dismissed the dangerous Coe for 10, superbly held by the burly Chris Cooper. With Williamson then bowling the shabby Tomson for 0, his first 4 overs had picked up 2 wickets for no runs. Shepherd's spell ended with 2-23 off his 7 overs, and Rob Tooke replaced him from the pavilion end. With both bowlers barely conceding a run, Williamson deceived Fitz-John with a pearler, which turned to hit the top of leg stump. Quickly following him back to the hutch in the next over was Denny, as his torturous innings ended when Tooke held an excellent return catch whilst diving forward. With Stow 59-6 Diss were now in with a genuine chance of saving the game, this belief was furthered when the athletic David Tooke ran round from backward point to run out Smith at the non strikers end for 2, with an amazing direct hit of pure class. Williamson then picked up his fourth victim when Moulton drove one back at him and he held a sharp chance to leave Stow 60-8 and Diss dreaming. This however was to be the last success for Diss, despite some excellent ring fielding from both Tebble and West, not forgetting some sharp keeping from Dawson who didn't concede a bye, as Landymore and Ward both dug deep against some excellent bowling, with Landymore in particular in stellar mood. He then decided attack was the best form of defence, and having hit Williamson for twin sixes which ended his terrific spell of 16-7-45-4, Stow found themselves past the 100 mark. With opening bowlers Shepherd and Simon Cooper back Diss knew this was the last throw of the dice. Shepherd was convinced he had Landymore struck plumb in front, but when this was turned down everyone knew this wasn't to be Diss' day, with Landymore hitting the winnings runs through square leg to end on a superb unbeaten 49 and lead Stow to a two wicket victory. Man of the match was given to Mark Williamson for his delightful spell of bowling.