

Umpires Cup Semi Final Report

Diss V Saham Toney

Diss 327-8 (50 overs)

Saham Toney 125 all out (44 overs)

Diss entered their second cup semi final of the season as clear favourites, and duly delivered a convincing 202 run win, with Rob Tooke starring. Skipper Simon Cooper won the toss and decided to bat first. He himself opened up, along with Craig Barker. But with the score on just 2 Barker played on for 0 to Mower, bringing Will Dawson to the crease. This wasn't to last long though, as he was bowled through the gate for 5 by Norman, and with Cooper quickly following to the same bowler, struck plumb in front of all three, Diss were in a spot of bother at 20-3. This meant that Rob and David Tooke were together now, and looking to rebuild. With the latter being aggressive from the outset, seemingly timing everything, Rob was happy to take a back seat. The pair put on 92 in no time at all, before David fell needlessly, caught in the deep for 47. James Wilby came and went without trouble, and his poor form will be really worrying all concerned with the club. Diss knew however that they were still very much in the driving seat, and with one big bruiser being joined by another in Chris Cooper, everyone knew the game could be won in a matter of overs. This wasn't to be the case, as Cooper was clearly struggling with his timing throughout, and fell for 27 when he hit a long hop straight back to bowler Wood. Gareth Kilian, on debut, was now for company, but was harshly adjudged leg before for just 2. It wasn't until Mark Williamson joined Tooke that the real fireworks began, as Tooke blazed sixes for fun, passing 100 and 150 within five overs of each other. With Williamson cleverly rotating the strike Tooke seemed destined for a double hundred, but a moment of madness saw him run himself out for 171 off 127 balls, as the pair put on 90 in 46 balls. Robbie West joined in the fun for the last 2 overs, but it was Williamson who was the crowd pleaser this time, as he timed the ball into gaps beautifully, ending 39 not out, and yet again showing why many people believe he should be batting up the order. This brought Diss to a daunting 327 and gave them a great chance of yet another final. In reply opening bowlers West and Williamson bowled very tight lines, without particularly looking like getting an early breakthrough, despite the former giving both batsmen a few leather sniffers. The introduction of loose cannon Chris Cooper got the vital wickets of both Mower and Wood, with Wood seeming to be giving Barker catching practice at midwicket. With Saham staring down the barrel at 83-4 they were given a lifeline, as David Tooke couldn't get his run up correct whatsoever, and Huckle hit him anywhere he pleased. Tooke eventually got his revenge, as a slower ball went underground and bowled him after many a lusty blow. With the game all but assured, Archie Moore and Wilby looked to wrap up the tail, Moore being highly impressive considering he had been out of the game for a year with a shoulder twinge. Wilby took the role of rabbit slayer and finished with 3-8, Moore fittingly took the final wicket, bowling Goodwin for 15, which wrapped up a resounding win by 202 runs, and send Diss into their second final of the season. The final will take place on Sunday 28th August.