

Bradley & Colne A v Nortonthorpe A (02/08/08)

Nortonthorpe CC 1st XI travelled to Bradley & Colne last Saturday in Section B of the Arrow Central Cricket League. Mr. H.Beaumont, Club President, kindly sponsored the match ball for Nortonthorpe.

Without 4 regular 1st team players, and on a very soft wicket, the toss was important for Nortonthorpe, but stand in captain Pete Spark lost it and his side ended up batting. Ashley Cockhill opened the innings alongside George Parkes, but he was first man out as he unluckily played the ball on to his stumps in just the third over as the ball was moving all over the place, both horizontally and vertically. Others fared little better against the tight bowling of S.Graley (12-7-9-1) and the aggression of S.Hussain as Nortonthorpe struggled to 60 for 4 off 30 overs when George Parkes was caught for 24.

The final third of the innings was held together by Spark who top scored with 31, with Ray Cosgrove the only other to scrape double figures with 11, but the long tail barely wagged as Nortonthorpe were dismissed for 113.

In reply, the Bradley openers took advantage of some loose bowling early on from R.Cosgrove who conceded 25 in his first 4 overs as the score raced to 41-1 off the first 8 overs, and they seemed to be cruising to an easy win, but the Nortonthorpe bowlers started to get their act together and put up a fight.

Cosgrove finally sorted his line and length and his brother Olly bowled quickly but without the assistance he would have had in the first innings, and Spark bowled tightly too. Between them they chipped away at the Bradley batsmen, and some great catches from Scott Croucher, Steve Swap & Graham Spark helped, but some disappointing umpiring did not.

Ultimately Bradley triumphed by 3 wickets, thanks mainly to opener S.Jackson who batted through the 27 overs for 45 not out. Nortonthorpe remain 2nd in Section B, but now 7 points behind Denby Grange and only 9 points ahead of CrossBank Meths.