

Nortonthorpe A v Almondbury Wes B (03/05/08)

Match Report

Nortonthorpe CC 1st XI were looking for a repeat of last weeks victory when they hosted Almondbury Wesleyans B in their Arrow Central Cricket League Section B game on Saturday, and they got it fairly comfortably. The match ball was kindly sponsored by the clubs main sponsor, Solarshade Window Films Ltd.

The day before, the match was in severe doubt, but by late Saturday morning, following sterling work on the ground by Adrian Whittaker, the ground and wicket were playable and the game started on time. Paul England once again lost the toss, and his Nortonthorpe side were once again asked to bat on a soft wicket. The wicket was not playing as slowly as might have been expected and George Parkes and Simon Parton compiled 27, the same opening partnership as last week but 5 overs quicker, before Parton was caught for 15. Steve Swap, Pete Spark & Ash Cockhill helped take the score along to a modest 73 by the time Parkes became the 5th man out for 24 with 29 overs gone.

A score of around 120 looked to be on the cards at this point, but a partnership of 42 in 11 overs between Paul England (37) and Chris Sansom (just 9), followed by a barnstorming 46 not out from Scott Croucher, including 5 sixes, raced the score along to 179-7 by the close, with the wickets shared between T.Saghir, C.Jones and W.Akthar.

Almondbury were never really at the races after a slow start and pretty soon had to resort to some aggressive shots to push the run rate along. This led to several catching opportunities, 2 notable ones of which were dropped by Croucher, but he did later take a belter, as did England. Paul Wilkinson (4-22) and Ray Cosgrove (3-24) bowled through the first 24 overs, after which the score was 51-7. There was then some excitement in the field as Cosgrove & England collided when going for a catch, which resulted in the ball hitting England in the face, and appeared to have broken his nose. With the captain off to hospital, but later confirmed to be OK, the home side quickly wrapped up the game with Spark taking 3 for 0 off 3 overs to help his side bowl Wesleyans out for just 68 and collect another maximum 6 points.