

Nortonthorpe A v Denby Grange A (05/07/08)

Nortonthorpe CC 1st XI, section leaders, visited second placed Denby Grange in the match of the day in Section B of the Arrow Central Cricket League. The match ball was kindly sponsored by Mr and Mrs S.Cosgrove.

Denby Grange were asked to bat first on a damp wicket that had been rained on quite a bit during the morning of the game. Ray Cosgrove opened the bowling and the first ball of the game had J.Drury edging to Pete Spark at first slip, giving Nortonthorpe the best start they could have hoped for. It nearly did get better however but Ash Cockhill failed to hold on to a very difficult chance at gully off J.Wood from the 2nd ball of the game.

J.Wood and S.Wood added 37 in the first 8 overs, with J.Wood particularly harsh on anything short from Cosgrove, but he eventually found a decent length and, along with Paul Wilkinson, managed to stem the flow with only 8 runs scored off the next 6 overs, before J.Wood was superbly caught behind by Chris Sansom for 34 after surviving what seemed to be an obvious caught behind appeal the ball before.

Eight runs later J.Balmforth was harshly adjudged caught behind by the same umpire and Denby Grange were 57 for 3 off 19. J.Wood soon followed after struggling to just 15 off 20 overs, also caught behind by Sansom this time off Spark, and the home side had lost 3 wickets for 16 runs and the momentum had turned in the visitors favour.

The two new bastmen, S.Drury and D.Fahy, were intent on working mainly in either boundaries or dot balls as they turned the game once more in Denby Grange's favour, adding 73 before Drury was LBW to Spark for 41 including 4 sixes. His partner in boundaries Fahy fell soon after, caught by Paul England off Simon Parton for 40, including another 4 sixes. They had pushed the score up to 143 for 6 off 37, and with 22 more added for the loss of 2 wickets in the last 8 overs, Denby Grange completed their 45 overs with a score of 165-8. Pick of the bowlers was Parton with 2-27 off 10.

Nortonthorpe had chased down more runs than this in their last two games, but this time the bowling was much better and the batting was disappointing, and as a result the 166 runs required for victory never really looked likely. Balmforth and G.Herries bowled with great accuracy early on, and when S.Wood took 2 wickets in his first two overs following the first bowling change, Nortonthorpe were struggling at 35-4 off 20 overs.

Parton and Sansom briefly threatened to repeat their heroics at Cartworth Moor as they added 31 runs for the 5th wicket before Sansom chipped a simple catch to mid off off a poor shot and two further wickets fell almost straight away to leave the visitors hanging on at 66-7. When Parton was out for a top score of just 15 that was game over really and the end was soon coming as previous Section leaders Nortonthorpe were bowled out for 103 and were replaced at the top by Denby Grange. The chief bowling tormentor was spinner S.Wood who took 6-25.