

Nortonthorpe A v Crossbank Meths A (12/07/08)

After the disappointment of last weeks defeat at Denby Grange, Nortonthorpe CC 1st XI were looking to consolidate their place in the 2nd promotion spot in Section B of the Arrow Central Cricket League when they entertained 3rd placed Crossbank Methodists at their Scissett ground. The match ball was kindly sponsored by Mr P.Ronan.

The visitors won the toss and chose to bat. The pace of scoring was somewhat sedate against some tight bowling from Ray Cosgrove & Paul Wilkinson as only 5 scoring shots troubled the scorers in the first 10 overs before Wilkinson had Lawford caught by Steve Swap for 11. The game trundled along without too much excitement either on the batting or bowling front, and the scoring rate was never more than slow and wickets fell regularly as Crossbank were dismissed for 98 off 41 overs. A.Firth top scored with 27 and Pete Spark picked up 4-24 with Cosgrove, Wilkinson and Simon Parton each picking up 2 wickets apiece.

Nortonthorpe started their innings confident of victory chasing a modest score, but their innings followed very much the same course as that of their opposition. The bowlers definitely had the upper hand and only George Parkes looked comfortable in the early stages as he watched wickets tumble at the other end, losing Swap (1), Sansom (0), Cockhill (8) and Haigh (7) as Nortonthorpe made the task of chasing 99 for victory look very difficult.

Only when the 7th wicket pair of Ray Cosgrove and Scott Croucher came together did the nerves stop jangling in the home dressing room, as they both made 15no and saw their side home fairly comfortably in the end with 6 overs to spare. George Parkes top scored with 23 and J.Spencer took 3-24 to return the best bowling figures.

The 6 point victory cemented 2nd place for Nortonthorpe, 13 points ahead of Cartworth Moor in 3rd, and 1 point closer to leaders Denby Grange who just picked up 5 points at Hoylandswaine.