

Nortonthorpe A v Badger Hill A (14/09/08)

Nortonthorpe CC 1st XI played Badger Hill A in their penultimate game of the season last Sunday. They had an outside chance of achieving top spot in Section B of the Arrow Central Cricket League, but needed maximum points and for Denby Grange, whom they play in the final game, to get no points. Nortonthorpe Industrial Park Ltd. kindly sponsored the match ball for the game that went ahead on a very wet wicket and sodden outfield.

Badger Hill won the toss and asked Nortonthorpe to bat first. George Parkes and Simon Parton added a solid 39 runs before Parton was run out for 24 from a direct hit thrown from the boundary by Alex Wood. Steve Swap in at 3 had a quick look at the bowling before cutting loose as he added 81 with Parkes in 16 overs before he was next man out for 55, including three 6's. Parkes was the next wicket to fall as Nortonthorpe tried to push the score along in the last 5 overs, but not before he had reached 52. The innings finally closed on 152-7, with Andy Wood the pick of the bowlers with figures of 4-29.

The opening bowlers bowled tightly as usual when the visitors started their reply, and the batsmen struggled to keep the runs tally ahead of the overs, and by the time of the first bowling change after 16 overs Badger Hill were 27-3, with Paul Wilkinson picking up all the wickets. Olly Cosgrove then replaced his brother at the muddy pavilion end and after an erratic start was soon bowling an excellent line and length and in just 7 overs had bagged 5-11, and with Parton picking up 2-3 at the other end, Badger Hill were all out for just 48, and that could have been worse had Scott Croucher taken any of the 3 catches that came his way.

With 6 points in the bag the wait was on to see if Denby Grange failed to get any points against relegation threatened Cawthorne B, but as expected they won and confirmed top spot in the Section, with Nortonthorpe runners up.