

Nortonthorpe A v Bradley and Colne A (17/05/08)

Nortonthorpe CC 1st XI entertained Bradley & Colne B in their Arrow Central Cricket League Section B game on Saturday, and were looking for their 4th consecutive victory in their 4th game of the season. The match ball was kindly sponsored by Ledgard Jepson Ltd.

After the weather deteriorated during the week the game was at risk on Saturday after constant rain Friday night, but a brighter morning on Saturday turned things around, until it rained at 2pm. However, at 3pm the game got underway, and after Nortonthorpe skipper Paul England lost his 4th consecutive toss he found his side batting on a wet and lively wicket in a game reduced to 35 overs per side.

Straight away they were struggling in the face of good bowling from Y.Iqbal and S.Graley and both openers found themselves back in the pavilion with just 19 on the board. Similar to the first match at Crossbank many batsmen contributed scores in the teens with Haigh (19), Swap (17), Spark (13), Croucher (13), England (17) all reaching that minor milestone. Only Ash Cockhill went further as he top scored with 26 in the home side's score of 142-9 off their 35. Iqbal was the pick of the Bradley bowlers, taking 4-38.

How defensible that score would turn out to be was very dependent upon the success of Bradley's most dangerous batsman Z.Iqbal who scored heavily in both games between the sides last season. Iqbal opened the innings with Jackson but had only managed 4, off 1 ball, before he was caught behind by Sansom off Wilkinson in just the 2nd over of the game, so straight away the game swung towards the home side, and when the dangerous Akhtar was caught by Swap off Cosgrove soon after Nortonthorpe were in the driving seat.

Wickets fell regularly as the score moved to 46-6 off the first 19, but then Y.Iqbal came in and briefly looked dangerous with 22 off 6 scoring shots before he was almost inevitably caught out. From then it was a case for Bradley of trying to secure a point which they did fairly comfortably thanks to M.Annoville and M.Carter and thanks to only having to survive to the 35th rather than 45th over. Their innings ended on 84-9, with Spark taking 3-9 and Wilkinson 3-33, which secured Nortonthorpe A another victory.