

## **Nortonthorpe A v Denby Dale B (26/07/08)**

Nortonthorpe CC 1<sup>st</sup> XI entertained Denby Dale B at their Scissett ground last Saturday in Section B of the Arrow Central Cricket League. Paul Wilkinson (Builders) kindly sponsored the match ball for Nortonthorpe.

On one of the best days of the summer so far it was a difficult decision as to whether to bat or bowl following heavy rain on Friday night, but the home skipper won the toss and asked Dale to bat. After 3 successive maidens to start the game it was clear that the wicket was not going to be a batsman's paradise and when Ray Cosgrove bowled P.Geldart with one that kept low, and then bowled Jonathan Smith with a peach of a slower ball in the same over, Denby Dale knew they faced an uphill struggle. In the next over J.Ward was caught by England off sponsor Wilkinson and the visitors were 8 for 3 off 6 overs.

Opener A.Ashworth struggled to a top scoring 21 but fell LBW to Pete Spark. There was then some middle order resistance from J.Stanley (15) and the extraordinary legside swiping of A.Dawber (14), but when they each fell to spectacular catches from England and Wilkinson the scorers were barely troubled as Spark took 3 wickets in the 28<sup>th</sup> over, to finish with 5-11, and brought the innings to a close with Dale having managed just 77.

With two batsmen away on holiday Steve Swap was pushed up the order to open with George Parkes as Nortonthorpe looked to pick up maximum points, but he succumbed to a questionable LBW decision to B.Oldroyd for just 1. Chris Sansom batted at number 3, and along with George Parkes made slow progress before Sansom was caught by J.Ward off J.Wood for 11, and when Ashley Cockhill went first ball Dale had their tails up somewhat with Nortonthorpe on around 30 for 3.

Ray Cosgrove was pushed up to number 5 and played sensibly alongside Parkes, seeing Nortonthorpe safely home with scores of 19 n.o. and 29 n.o. respectively, although it did take a rather slow 36 overs. The 6 points gained closed the gap to Denby Grange at the top to just 2 points as Grange picked up just 5 points in their weekend win. With a 15 point gap to 3<sup>rd</sup> place, promotion seems to be between these 2 sides, but with holidays coming along and players missing things could still change.