

Nortonthorpe A v Badger Hill A (28/06/08)

After missing a week due to bad weather Nortonthorpe CC 1st XI were looking forward to getting back on the field in their match at Badger Hill in Section B of the Arrow Central Cricket League. The match ball was kindly sponsored by HMA Designed Solutions.

The wicket never looks great at Badger Hill and after winning the toss Paul England predictably invited the home side to bat, and the wicket played like a trampoline early on until the batting A.Wood smashed a six into the long grass behind the pavilion in the 8th over and lost the new ball. Things were slightly calmer after that, but the bowling remained tight with only 3 scoring shots in the first 8 overs before P.Shaw fell for just 2 in the 9th, caught by Scott Croucher off Ray Cosgrove with the score on 14.

Progress was sedate on a difficult wicket as Cosgrove ;picked up the wicket of Wood (23) with a cracking slower ball off from Cosgrove, and Pete Spark bowled G.Holland for (12) as Badger Hill moved to 53 for 3 off 28.

However, this proved to be the calm before the storm as J.Norman entered the fray and proceeded to clatter the bowling to all corners with some huge hits, and amassed 63 in no time, including 4 sixes. A great one handed catch on the boundary from Steve Swap brought some relief for Nortonthorpe, but then K.Wilson piled on more misery with an equally rapid 46 not out as his side added a massive 130 off the last 12 overs, including 26 off Ashley Cockhill's final over.

A final total of 191 for 5, including 140 in boundaries, from section B's bottom side against the top side was wholly unexpected and gave Nortonthorpe plenty to think about at tea, including trying to find the 4 balls that had been lost in the onslaught. Cosgrove, with 2-14 off 12, was the best of the bowlers by far.

After chasing 180 plus against Cartworth Moor in their previous game, the visitors knew that the score was not unachievable, and set off strongly with George Parkes looking in good nick as he stroked the ball through the covers and through mid on. Simon Haigh was the first to fall as he edged one behind for 18 off the bowling A.Wood in the 10th over after helping add 34 for the first wicket.

Steve Swap joined Parkes and soon got into the swing and showed that sixes were not only there for Badger Hill as he hit 2, including the biggest one of the day over the high wall, over the road and over a fence into one of the gardens. He had added 63 with Parkes as Nortonthorpe were moving nicely towards their target but then he fell to a sucker full toss, much to his chagrin as he had rattled up 40 without any alarms. However, when Parkes also went for 40 pretty much straight after, there could have been alarms ringing in the Nortonthorpe camp with two new batsmen at the crease.

However, those batsmen were Ash Cockhill and Simon Parton who had scored 77no and 67no respectively in their previous innings, and the momentum was not lost as Cockhill crashed two sixes before succumbing for 28 to a good ball from the batting A.Wood who had turned his hand to bowling. At this point Nortonthorpe required 56 off 9 overs with 6 wickets in hand, and when Croucher went for 15, the decision was taken for quick scoring England to join Parton for the final push, but it was Parton

who embarked on the quick scoring as he finally started connecting, with one 16 run over making a big difference, and with England hitting a couple of boundaries on the way, the victory target was reached with 10 balls to spare.

The win keeps Nortonthorpe top of Section B, still 2 points ahead of Denby Grange who also picked up 5 points against Cawthorne B.