

## **Nortonthorpe A v Cartworth Moor A (30/08/08)**

Following last weeks game forfeited by Hoylandswaine, and following the summer holiday season, Nortonthorpe CC 1<sup>st</sup> XI were looking forward to fielding a full strength side for the first time for a long time when they entertained Cartworth Moor in Section B of the Arrow Central Cricket League. Nortonthorpe Industrial Park Ltd. kindly sponsored the match ball.

Cartworth Moor lost the toss and were asked to bat first, even with their line up boosted by a couple part time players not yet back at University. Opener J.Wilson was the first to go after playing one of the worst shots you could ever hope to see an opener play, bowled by Cosgrove slogging in the fifth over, and he was closely followed by the league's top scoring batsman S.Bissett who played on to a ball from Cosgrove for just 9. The score was 18-2 but the students were in, and were looking to score quickly.

Tom Chadwick batted well and sensibly, but B.Busfield rode his luck with several aerial shots into gaps and was thankful to a dropped catch by the usually reliable Steve Swap. The score was racing along at 5 an over when Pete Spark and then Simon Parton entered the attack and got things back down to a bit less than 4 an over, and Busfield's luck finally ran out when he was caught for 46. Chadwick followed 13 runs later, bowled by Parton for 43.

At 112-4 off 30 the game was evenly poised, but A.Bissett hit things into the visitors favour with a quick 35 before he was also bowled by Parton, with just 4 overs left, which Cartworth played out for just the addition of two more runs to secure at least a point with their score of 176-9. Parton's figures of 3-30 off 10 were the best of the 5 bowlers used.

Nortonthorpe had chased down a higher score than this in the return fixture earlier in the season and were hoping to do the same again, but after about 35 minutes and 11 overs it was clear they were not going to do that as they found themselves on the perilous score of 9 for 6. Pete Spark (29) and Paul England (16) ensured a degree of respectability, but as soon as the first of them was out, the end wasn't going to be too far away as they were dismissed for a paltry 64.

The pick of the Cartworth bowlers was B.Edinburgh, but he only took 1-17, with Busfield bagging 6-17 thanks almost entirely to a combination of bad luck and poor play by the batsmen. Greenman also chipped in with 2-13 with some of the slowest bowling ever seen, so much so that at one point the Cartworth captain was instructing his fielder in between the ball leaving the bowler's hand and reaching the batsmen.

All in all it was an extremely disappointing performance, but Nortonthorpe remain well ensconced in the 2<sup>nd</sup> promotion place after 3<sup>rd</sup> place Crossbank lost to Almondbury Wesleyans, and a victory at Upper Hopton next week would secure promotion with 2 games still to play.