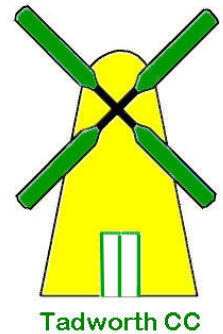


SURREY DOWNS LEAGUE

DIVISION 4

SATURDAY 2nd AUGUST 2008



TADWORTH 2nd XI v NETHERNE 2nd XI

NETHERNE 106 all out
TADWORTH 107 for 6
Tadworth won by 4 wickets

A low scoring, rain interrupted, reduced over match where Tadworth after last week's defeat to league leaders Woldingham got back on course in their strive for promotion.

Tadworth winning the toss asked Netherne to bat on what was a damp but drying wicket. There was early success for the home side's bowlers Griffiths having D.Clark caught by Dodsworth for 3 and Mason dismissing Webb for 11, Wallis holding on to firmly hit catch.

Netherne were 15 for 2 when N. Clark joined Bastable in the middle, the pair taking the score on to 52 before Clark went caught behind by Napier off the bowling of Wallis. With the skies darkening the visitors had 75 runs on the board and then the rains came. The teams took an early tea during which the rain ceased but it was the best part of another hour before the wicket dried sufficiently enough for the game to restart, the captains at that point agreeing to reduce the game from 90 overs down to 75.

At the restart, despite having been bowling well prior to the interruption, Wallis was relieved to make way for the return of Gary Mason. This move had an immediate effect and Netherne went from 75 for 3 to 80 for 6, Mason taking 3 wickets in only 3 overs.

Bastable however was still there but with the addition of only another 6 runs he ran out of patience before he ran out of partners and attempted a lofted drive off Chalkly only to be caught at long off by Dodsworth, he had been the visitor's backbone hitting 41 just under half of his teams total at that stage in the game, the visitors 86 for 7.

Three figures now seemed a long way off and when another wicket fell to Mason without a run being added it looked out of reach.

The Netherne tail did wag a bit thanks mainly to Harris and he survived to make 11 and get the score up to 106 before being tempted by one of England's slows getting himself stumped by Napier.

Gary Mason was again the top man with the ball ending with figures of 5 for 31.

In normal circumstances chasing only 107 should not have proved too difficult but the importance of a victory put pressure on the home batsmen and Mason (8), Dodsworth(6) and Davison(7) were soon all back in the pavilion all failing to reach double figures.

At 46 for 3 it was left to vice captain Peter Cullen to steady the ship and ably supported by Ahamed the two took the score on to 71 before Ahamed went for 11. Back in form Cullen eventually fell having made a vital 29 but now it was 83 for 5 and the pressure was off.

It was back on again not long afterwards though when skipper Gary Sewell went having hit an rapid 15, 6 down now for 86 with the inconsistent Tadworth lower order lined up to come in.

The result now not a foregone conclusion, to lose a couple of quick wickets could spell the end of the promotion push, but no problem, leave it to Griffiths and Wallis, the numbers 7 and 8 never had to come out of second gear and in no time gave Tadworth the win they needed. Not a lot, Griffiths 7 not out and Wallis 8 not out but how important those runs were.

Tadworth reached the 107 required, giving them a 4 wicket victory.

A tight game where only in the last few overs of the match was the result cut and dried.
Best of the Netherne bowlers N.Clark 2 for 14 and Harris 2 for 39.

by Cliff Hanger

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Available @ www.surreydowns.org/tadworth & sdl.play-cricket.com

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