

Saturday June 8th - 1st XI - EAPL (All Day) at Friars Street

Horsford 126 - 10 (4 points)

Sudbury 129 - 9 (25 points)

A nail-biting finale saw Sudbury win by just one wicket on Saturday against Horsford to solidify their third place position in the East Anglian Premier League table.

The match was delayed by persistent morning rain but eventually got underway at 2.45pm with Sudbury winning the toss, and inviting Horsford to bat first. The away side got off to a slow start as the Sudbury bowlers, Jonny Gallagher and Paddy Sadler, kept things tight. Tom Huggins grabbed the first wicket to fall when Luke Findlay was caught at mid-on for a patient 10 runs. Henry Shipley then took centre stage removing Will Woodhead LBW, before clean bowling Jason Reynolds. Huggins had Will Rogers smartly caught at mid-wicket by Ben Parker before Shipley struck again to get rid of the dangerous Stephan Marillier for just 1. Callum Metcalf then skied Huggins to cover to leave the Norfolk outfit in trouble at 66-6. A mini partnership of 33 then ensued as Horsford skipper Ryan Findlay steadied the innings with a fine knock of 36. Paddy Sadler wrapped up the innings upon his return to the attack by claiming the final 3 wickets to fall, firstly taking a caught and bowled, before two outfield catches meant Horsford were all out for 126.

With only a small total to defend, the visitors came out aggressively and the tactic paid dividends when Sudbury were reduced to 1-2 in the second over. Huggins and Ryan Vickery put on the highest partnership of the innings (31) before Vickery was caught for 11. Huggins (28) departed when he drove into the hands of Findlay to leave the hosts 52-4 and when Shipley went for just 1, Sudbury were in deep trouble at 55-5. Kenny Moulton-Day hit an enterprising 11 runs but went for one big shot too many and was caught at point. Ben Reece entered the scene at 72-6 with a further 55 runs needed for victory. He and Parker added 12 before the latter was stumped. James Poulson provided good support to Reece, the pair adding 25 before Poulson was bowled for 10. Reece now took the senior role, farming the strike where possible whilst still keeping up with the required run-rate. Sadler had been firm in defence but a rush of blood saw him chip one to point with seven balls remaining and a further eight runs needed. Gallagher, who was injured earlier in the day, limped out to the middle and survived the last ball of the over to leave Reece on strike for the final over. Reece struck the first ball for four, before a couple of dot balls meant 4 runs were required from 3 balls. A scrambled 2 left Sudbury needing 2 runs from 2 balls. Reece struck the ball hard down the ground but seemingly, straight into the hands of long-on, but the low setting sun prevented him taking the catch and the ball went over the boundary to give Sudbury the win.

The victory means Sudbury close the gap on Frinton in second place to 18 points and it's a further 10 points to first placed Swardeston. The Talbots travel to Norfolk next week to play Swardeston in what looks to be a mouth-watering clash between the winners of the last 7 EAPL titles.