

## **Saturday June 15<sup>th</sup> - 1<sup>st</sup> XI - EAPL (All Day) at The Common**

**Sudbury 323 - 8 (16 points)**

**Swardeston 191 – 7 (9 points)**

Sudbury closed the gap to leaders Swardeston to 21 points on Saturday when they outplayed their Norfolk counterparts in a drawn game between the two sides.

Swardeston won the toss and chose to bowl first, hoping to make the most of the damp conditions on offer. James Poulson fell to the fourth ball of the day, but that was as good as it got for the home side as the Sudbury batsmen battled hard throughout the innings. Adam Mansfield and Darren Batch put on 81 for the second wicket to steady the innings before veteran Mark Thomas rekindled some of his old magic to reduce the champions to 108-4. Mansfield reached his half century but fell shortly afterwards and when Kenny Moulton-Day was bowled the score had dipped to 161-6 at the lunch break. A crucial post-lunch period was negotiated by Henry Shipley and Ben Reece as the pair crept the score past the 200-run mark. As the partnership grew, Shipley became more expansive, launching four 6's and eight 4's during his innings, Reece happy to play the supporting role in this instance. The pair added 129 runs to take the game away from the home side. Shipley fell eleven runs short of his maiden EAPL century. Shipley's demise was Reece's cue to assume the run-scoring responsibility, being particularly ruthless on Swardeston skipper Joe Gating. The innings ended on a mammoth 323-8 from 63 overs.

In truth, the Swardeston innings lacked the intent required to chase down the Sudbury total, the league leaders were content with picking up bonus points along the way. Sudbury bowlers kept their discipline with line and length and eventually made the breakthrough in the 14<sup>th</sup> over when Lewis Denmark edged a full Paddy Sadler delivery behind to Mansfield. Swardeston reached 100 in just shy of 30 overs but a brace of wickets from Batch meant that the end of the match was not the formality it looked like becoming. Shipley was reintroduced to the attack and he quickly removed danger man Gating for just 4. Reece then got into the wicket taking action by completing a smart caught and bowled to remove Peter Lambert. A calamitous run-out signalled the nervousness in the batting ranks as Jeremy Elliott was caught short of his ground for just 1. Swardeston were indebted to ex-Essex player Callum Taylor as whilst wickets fell all around him, he stood firm to record an impressive 63 not-out to thwart the Sudbury bowlers. Swardeston closed their innings on 191-7, claiming 9 bonus points compared to Sudbury's 16.

Next week, Sudbury host Bury St Edmunds at Friar Street looking to further close the gap at the top of the table.