

Frankton agony as Dragons time chase to perfection

A massive game took place at Church Rd as **St Georges** entertained **Frankton** in a game that both sides were aware coming in was something of a 40 pointer. And it was the visitors who settled early with opening batsmen George Dickin striking a fine 75 to set up a total of 233 that would have delighted his teammates before the game. Dickin was supported by in form Ryan Kruger with 61, while for St Georges Mike Myatt took 3-48. It always promised to be a tense run chase and so it proved as despite losing Austin Rowley early, Sam Morgan and Muhammed Zaheer put on 87 for the 2nd wicket before both departed for 51 and 32 respectively. Faizan Khan enjoying a good run with the bat then seized the mantle and at 196-5 looked to be taking his side to victory, but when he departed for 56 there was still plenty of work to be done as wickets kept falling and it was left to 9th wicket pairing Myatt and Rafiq to get the home side over the line with 7 balls to spare. This is a result that takes them out of the bottom two for the first time this season and from looking doomed a few weeks, they will be hopeful they can repeat their 2023 Great Escape heroics.

Not for the first time this season **Wem** were indebted to their bowlers to get them out of trouble and secure a 64 run win at **Allscott**. Batting first they were going along fairly well at 51-2 but when Ed Carver (29) and captain Matt Cohen (20) departed along with two other quick wickets it was Josh Gough in his much-rehearsed role as firefighter who was able to manoeuvre the score to 149ao. Gough with 44 was greatly assisted by Ian Gillespie with 29. Allscott's front four bowlers shared all 10 wickets to fall, Josh Allen and Calum Starling taking three apiece while Matthew Hutchings was probably the pick of the attack with 2-23. The home side would have been hopeful of chasing 150 but the reply got off to a disastrous start with both openers gone for ducks and when pro Kuldeep Devatwal also departed for a 12 ball nothing, the writing was on the wall. Ben Harrington performed admirably for his 21no against a strong Astley brothers led attack but it was that man Muhammed Irfan who entered the stage as the fifth bowler and soon went to work, his 5-8 from 6.4 overs quickly ended the contest and bag the 20 points for his side.

An outstanding new ball spell from both Oliver Wilson and Jonny Evans was the key to a comfortable **Sentinel** nine wicket win against **Oswestry** who are now in the relegation zone for the first time this season. Wilson and Evans, two bowlers who learnt their trade in the lower divisions each bowled 10 overs straight through, at which stage the visitors were 88-8 and the match was over as a contest. Former Acton Reynald star Evans with 4-48, while the ex-Forton talisman Wilson shaded the honours with 4-38. Sentinel made it back-to-back wins and lifted themselves into the top half as they raced to a target of 115 inside 19 overs as Rico Fourie cut lose for 69no while the consistent Tom Griffiths chipped in with 25.

Leaders **Quatt** showed no mercy on **Shrewsbury 2nds** as they made it 12 wins from 12 completed games. Zane Beattie for the county towners scored a useful 67 in a total of 184ao, going past the 500 run mark for the season for the Queenslander, but apart from a late cameo of 20 from Freddie Furnival no other Shrewsbury player contributed meaningfully. Jed Edwards took 3-37 for the league leaders, while Kuldeep Diwan managed just the 2 victims this week. Olly Plank was missing his usual partner Tom Whitney today but stand in Luke Daly took his chance and the two put on a splendid 115 partnership for the first wicket. Once Plank departed for 53, Ryan Wheldon joined Daly to put on another half century, Daly eventually out for 75, and Wheldon 25, as Quatt eased to a 7 wicket win in the 31st over.

Ludlow cashed in on a rare off day for the **Shelton** attack as they rattled up 315-6 from their 50 overs at the Burway, Jason Oakes doing the business again with 95 while there were decent scores from Sam Roberts (69no), Will Sparrow (53) and Luke Miles (49). West Indian Antonio

Morris impressed with 3-42, while he also chipped in with 49 in a Shelton reply that in truth was a bit of a curate's egg of an innings. Saleh Ahmed with a very becalmed 48 was the only other notable contributor as they were seen off for 160 in 39 overs. Louis Watkins with 4-42 while Miles and Kate Brazier took 2 wickets apiece. Ludlow are flying right now and will be rueing their indifferent red ball form earlier in the season that has cost them any chance of a title push.

Finally, to Park Street where **Whitchurch** once again came out on top of a close one, to keep the gap to Quatt to 21 points. A **Madeley** total of 190 with Mithun Jayawickrema and Oli Davis both contributing 49 and 45 respectively, looked very competitive, a total that could have been more without a fine 3-17 from Shabir Khan while Dan Bowen also took 3 wickets. The Whitchurch reply got off to a poor start losing stand in opener Eddie Lewis second ball, but Iftikhar Khan with 29 and a solid 40 from 90 balls from Saad Wasim meant the visitors were always within reach of their target. The home attack kept plugging away and at 137-6 looked to be on top. However Shafique Ahmed who is proving something of a master in these close run chases got his side over the line for the 3rd week running, a timely 38no assisted by captain Bowen's 19no as they closed the game out with an unbroken 50 partnership. One that got away for Madeley who no doubt will be rueing the 45 extras they conceded.

Onto next week where In the Premier the action is all taking place in North Shropshire as Wem, Oswestry, Frankton and Whitchurch all host crucial games at both ends of the table . However, the game of the day in the SCCL takes us to mid Wales as the top 2 in Division 1 go head to head as Cound travel to Newtown.