

## Allscott Heath light up low scoring Bank Holiday

By Jamie Dowley

In what was one of the lowest scoring round of Premier Division fixtures in the history of the league, **Allscott Heath** highlighted their growing status with their third straight win that lifts them up to third in the table, this time a 6 wicket success at home to **Sentinel**. Batting first the visitors were well set at 78-1 with Rico Fourie making 50 but when Mal Serplet was run out for 25 a middle order collapse ensued, and only a couple of lusty blows from tailender Shane Gwilt got the score up to 148. Calum Starling again enjoying the home track took 4-49 from his 15, and Kuldeep Devatwal assisted taking 3-21. By contrast to the four bowlers used by Allscott, Sentinel captain Ed Ashlin juggled his bowlers around, using eight in the run chase as the home openers Max Ferrington and Jason Summers both played solid innings and set their side up for victory. But when Ashlin switched Charlie Rogers to the old factory end he had success by dismissing Summers for 31, Ferrington for 35, and then the prize scalp of Kuldeep Devatwal for 6, and at 95-3 Sentinel sniffed a comeback. The stage was then set for Carl Starling watched on by a decent crowd of current and ex league players and officials, to use all his experience to guide his side to victory with a tidy 28no, a comfortable win in the end and one that Allscott will take great pride in with their top order all stepping up in the absence of Devatwal runs.



Storm clouds gather over the Sentinel innings

**Madeley** are up to second after a superb away win at **Ludlow** who themselves seem to be taking one step forward one step back and were today missing talisman Luke Miles. In truth the game was won in the first half hour of play as Nadeem Ahmed ripped through the Burway top order to leave them 11-4, including the scalp of captain Jason Oakes, who is really struggling to get going this season. Subsequently it got worse at 36-7 and at that stage Will Sparrow, as he often does, came out on the offensive and his 40 at least got a total of 95 on the board. Captain Martin Boyle who by all accounts is back bowling at his best, was excellent in taking 4-19 off his 15 overs with Nadeem also taking 4-35. In reply, Salim Ahmed played his usual anchor role making 40 off 109, an innings that steadied the ship from 15-2, Madeley reaching their target in patient style for the loss of 5 wickets as they return to Park Street with 24 points.

It was top v bottom at Church Rd as **Quatt** visited **St Georges**, and the result went entirely to form with Jed Edwards' men running out 8 wicket victors. Opting against their traditional bat first mentality in this format, partnerships were hard to build against the excellence of Kuldeep Diwan and Scott Randall, a player who has made the switch from Division 2 look effortless. Diwan with 3-43 and Randall 3-15 did most of the damage with Scott Furber's late treble finishing the job off at 86ao. Only captain for the day Alex Johnson, in for the injured Sam Morgan, made any notable contribution with 23. Ryan Wheldon then carried his bat for 47 seeing the league leaders' home inside 22 overs.

**Whitchurch** are up to fourth now after they raced to victory against **Shrewsbury 2nds**, the whole match lasting less than 48 overs. Captain Dan Bowen is now 3 wins from 3, and himself and Kash Hussain were on top form sharing 9 wickets. Hussain getting through 14 overs for his 6-53 while Bowan unselfishly restricting himself to 7.2, taking 3-29 as Shrewsbury totalled 96. In reply, Maz Hasnain struck a season best 37 as the home side got home losing 3 wickets.

It was a near identical match at Soulton Road albeit visitors **Shelton** at least utilised their 50 overs in reaching 106-9 against **Wem**. Vivian John batted well for a season best 44no, a fine knock against the pace of Tom Astley and control of Muhammed Irfan. Astley, taking the new ball on a regular basis now, was the star with 5-31, while Irfan bowled 10 maidens in his 15 overs taking 2-15. Harry Chandler, no doubt happy to back opening again, carried his bat with 52, supported by Josh Gough with a steady 17 and Irfan's 25no finished the game with plenty in hand to give Wem a much needed win after two bad results. For Shelton it's a first defeat of the season.

Finally, the eagerly awaited first ever league meeting between **Frankton** and **Oswestry** went the way of the visitors to Hardwick Park in another 7-wicket victory. This time though Frankton were well in the game having chosen to bat first, Ian Whitticase (43) and Tom Welti (29) giving a good platform to the middle order. Alas at 80-1 they couldn't capitalise on that good start and when Si Marshall was introduced the game turned on its head as Marshall struck 7 times in a superb 10 over spell that left Frankton 117 ao. Frankton did strike early to reduce Oswestry to 36-3 but then Marshall went on the rampage with the bat hitting an explosive 81 off 47 balls as they cruised home inside 24 overs.

So our first double header weekend of the season. Results seem very unpredictable but can anyone stop Quatt? Week 6 sees second place Madeley attempt it, while Sentinel could do with a first win of the season against Shrewsbury 2nds.