

Finchingfield star Copper shows his mettle



● Heroic display – Finchingfield's Nick Copper (batting) hit 74 runs from just 46 balls.

FINCHINGFIELD enjoyed an impressive win in their friendly against Wethersfield on Sunday.

Wethersfield batted first and excellent early bowling from George Morgan and Nick Copper kept things tight.

Wethersfield lost their opening three wickets for 30 runs – Copper opened with five overs and one wicket for four runs and Morgan bowled his full eight overs, picking up two wickets for 18 runs.

There then followed a strong middle order recovery, with A Stevens (41) and M Forte (39) punishing the change bowlers with some powerful hitting.

However, Wethersfield

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then suffered another collapse as Damon Knight, the pick of the Finchingfield bowlers, took three wickets for just ten runs in four overs.

The innings finished in the 32nd over with the score on 133.

A steady opening partnership between Lee Rider (3) and captain Tim Burbidge (22) saw Finchingfield through to the 13th over, before the first wicket fell.

Wethersfield's opening bowlers, H Wright (nought for ten in his opening five overs) and C McCloud (one for 18 in eight overs) gave little away.

But it was the first

change bowling from Joseph that made the impact.

Joseph struck twice in his second over and bowled a wicket maiden in his fourth to reduce Finchingfield to 36 for four, in the 17th over.

An exceptional fifth-wicket partnership then took the game away from Wethersfield.

Top-scorer Copper hit 74 runs in just 46 balls (including three sixes and ten fours) and was well supported by Paul Garrett (21).

The 93-run partnership was broken in the 33rd over but the damage had been done as Finchingfield won by four wickets in the 34th over.