

Perfect Pritchard Pummels Ashton

Monday, 24 April 2017

The First Eleven got their 2017 campaign off to a perfect start as Mike Pritchard recorded his best figures in a Middleton shirt as he ripped through the Ashton batting line up and they were all out for 23 from 20 overs.

The opening bowler bowled with exceptional pace and accuracy, as he took 7 wickets while conceding only 7 runs. He was well supported by Chris Williams, who finished with figures of 3 for 15.

After winning the toss Moonraker captain, George Walker, chose to bat first and his batters did not let him down. Harry Gee and professional, Chris Williams, opened the batting and put on a partnership of 73, before a mix up resulted in Williams being ran out.

Walker came and went quickly as he was bowled by a delivery that jagged back at him.

Gee and Grant Jones then put on a 93 run partnership. Showing a mixture of aggression and intelligence, they ran the Ashton fielders ragged.

Both batters reached their half-centuries before Gee (77) and Jones (53) both fell to the bowling of Siraj Kadodia.

Zain Tahir, Rhys Tierney and then Mo Shahid were given a licence to attack as Middleton finished on 261 for 5.

After the tea interval, it was time for Williams and Pritchard to take the game away from Ashton.

The innings could not have started much worse for Ashton, as Williams trapped Steve Fitton leg before without scoring, and it did not get any better.

Only Ryan Shenton showed any grit and top scored with 11, as the pace of the Middleton bowlers proved too much for the visitors.

[To view the scorecard of this match please click here.](#)

Buckley and Le Carpentier leads the Seconds to Victory

The Second Eleven eased their way to victory as they travelled to Saddleworth.

But at one point it was looking like it was going to be difficult. However, a brilliant fight back from the bowlers restricted the home side to 173 for 8 off their 43 overs.

Mark Buckley took his first 'five-for' since 2015 as he made a welcome return to the Second team.

In reply, Leighton Le Carpentier and Tom Astley opened up and the latter showed his intent from the start, swatting anything even slightly over pitched down the ground.

They took the score to 48 until Astley mistimed a shot and was caught at cover by Ste Dickson, for a quickfire 23.

Le Carpentier and Hussain Shahid came together and they shared a partnership of 59 before Shahid (20) chipped a rash slog to mid wicket with the score on 107.

Gareth Hughes joined Le Carpentier (69 not out) and took the lead as he hit 43 off 22 deliveries. He punished the Saddleworth bowlers as Middleton reached the total with 14 overs and 8 wickets to spare.

To view the scorecard of this match please [click here](#).