

## Rhys Controls the Clockwork Orange

Wednesday, 21 June 2017

Upon arriving at Towncroft for the T20 on Friday night the first sight to greet you was that of the Edgeworth team resplendent in bright orange kit. High vis colours that you would have no trouble picking out if the light faded

Edgeworth a Bolton club, from the higher echelons of the Greater Manchester Cricket League looked well organised as they went through their pre-match training, good fielders, strapping lads who looked like they would be a fair match at this level. Indeed it proved to be the case as a couple of six footers opened the bowling and soon had the Moonrakers in trouble. With both openers back in the pavilion it was left to skipper Rhys to steady the ship with a hard crafted 12 including a good four before he was unfortunately caught. Brother James was caught and bowled to leave Hussain Shahid and Addison Holland to steady the ship.

This they did with both battling for hard fought runs off some tight bowling and fielding. They scored 10 and 17 respectively with the total edging over 50. Following both their dismissals it was left to Zain Ul Ahedin and Jack Aikenhead to add vital runs to take the score to 78. I feared this would not be enough if the Edgeworth batting matched their fine work in the field.

However skipper Tierney had other ideas and used his full complement of bowlers to great effect. Rhys is an old head on young shoulders with valuable experience gained in the first team where he has come up against some top ex international players. Opening the bowling was James Tierney and the ever reliable Tom Rutter and they soon had Edgeworth in big trouble at 12 for 3. Tom got the first three Edgeworth batters and James with his quick pace removed their top scorer Will Lord. Thomas is proving Mr Reliable and week after week he puts it bang on the spot every time, thus giving batters no room for manoeuvre whatsoever. He just bowls wicket to wicket and he gets his just reward , time after time, as proved 24 hours later when he appeared for the first team.

Rhys then brought Addison Holland and Aaron Eaves into the attack and they both impressed. Addison was building up a fair head of steam with some lively deliveries that ripped out the middle order with 3-13, a well deserved performance. First time I've closely watched Addison and I was impressed. Aaron too got in on the act and the true blue cleaned bowled a couple of the men in orange to leave Edgeworth 43 all out.

A great win for the Moonrakers Under 19's who are the lifeblood of the club, a good set of lads who have already supplied the first team with four quality players. If you have no youth, you have no future and Middleton are lucky in this regard. The next couple of years will be interesting as to how these players develop when they start to reach their peak and it looks very promising.