

## A Team Effort Brings Victory at Werneth

Monday, 10 July 2017

On Sunday 2nd July Middleton 3rd XI travelled to The Coppice, home of Werneth CC, possibly the last time a senior Middleton XI will play at this once great venue. With the 1st and 2nd teams both winning the previous day it now fell to the 3rd XI to look to complete a clean sweep for the weekend.

Having won the toss Middleton elected to bat, putting out a new opening pair of Zain Ul Ahedin and skipper Mark Tierney. It was a slow but steady start by the pair and after seeing off Werneths opening bowlers, the home side turned to spin resulting in the breakthrough, a well flighted off-spinner bowling Ul Ahedin for 7. With the score at 25-1 Hussain Shahid joined Tierney at the crease with the pair steadily accrued runs until, with the scoreboard on 51, Shahid looked to start upping the run rate and chipped the ball up for a regulation catch.

Returning university student Daniel Stanley, back from Cambridge for the remainder of the season was in the 4th man slot and together with the skipper put on a 3rd wicket partnership of 55 before Tierney was bowled for 48 to leave the visitors on 106-3. Middleton lost a couple of quick wickets before Stanley fell for a creditable 38, leaving the scoreboard showing 141-6. The 7th wicket partnership of Stefan Holmes and Aaron Eaves stood until the end of Middletons innings, a fine 78 (Holmes 39 off 34 balls and Eaves 36 off 28 balls) leaving Werneth a daunting task of 220 to win from 40 overs.

Werneths innings got off to the worst possible start with the opening batter flashing at a first ball full toss outside off-stump from Addison Holland only to be superbly caught in gully by Eaves, with Holland compounding their problems only a matter of balls later removing no.3 LBW for another duck to leave Werneth 0-2. Hollands opening partner from the opposite end was Aaron Eaves and not content with having been involved in the biggest partnership of the afternoon and holding the catch from the first ball quickly found his line and length to remove the other opening batsman, leaving Werneths top order in disarray at 15-3 after 2 overs. It wasn't much longer until Werneth capitulated with Holland ripping through the middle order to finish with the excellent figures of 6 for 22 from his 7 over spell.

Jack Quinn with 2 for 15 and Callum Brown 1 for 9 brought Werneths innings to a close, it having been wrapped up in 14.5 overs for 69 runs.

An all-round excellent team effort from Middleton to bring to a close senior games between the 2 teams.

Middleton 3rd XI would like to thank umpires Nigel Tench and Albert Darlington, Scorer Linzi Hughes and a very special thanks to Middletons own steward Dave, who together with his wife Corrine were the stand-in caterers at Werneth and provided an excellent spread.

Mark Tierney