

## Tierney Comes of Age

Tuesday, 18 July 2017

They say a week is a long time in Politics, it seems that it's even longer in the world of cricket. James Tierney seems to have come such a long way in the last seven days. From a useful prospect on the periphery of the first team he seems to have now enhanced his reputation.

Flashback to the 6th May v Micklehurst at Towncroft and Chippy was down to bat at number 9, and second change bowler. On Friday night he opened the bowling and came in at number 4 and ripped apart the Saddleworth bowling with 38 off a mere 18 balls. He must be slipping, as the previous night he smashed the same score off just 16 balls against Littleborough in an Under 19's match.

The Saddleworth ground at Well i the Hole is difficult to find at the best of times and at rush hour is worse. Grant Jones had just been dismissed for a quickfire 13 when I arrived to see skipper Walker join Pro Chris Williams in the middle. With only ten men and missing Gee, Foden, Tahir and Rutter I slightly feared for the depth of the batting, however Reece Jones, LLC and Tierney will not let anyone down. Skipper Walker and the Pro set about building a big score in this T20 fixture on a good Saddleworth track. Saddleworth only two years ago were kings of the Saddleworth League doing the treble and despite the departure of the Roberts brothers to Stayley and Shadford to Uppermill they were to be reckoned with.

Captain Walker had hit a couple of sweet 4's when the Holt brothers combined to dismiss him, This brought the in-form James Tierney to the wicket fresh from appearing for Lancashire Under 17's. He began as he meant to go on with a pulled six well over mid wicket. No bowlers were spared punishment be it Assad Ali, Sam Holt or the highly respected professional Imran Aslam. With 3 sixes and 2 fours he was not hanging around, and coming to the wicket with the score on sixty he and Williams took it to 120 before James was unfortunate to be caught and bowled by Asad Ali for 38. Co-incidentally Williams was also on 38 when the wicket fell. Williams continued keeping the score ticking over until he was out for 49 and the team were 153-7 off their allotted 20 overs.

It was key that Saddleworth didn't get off to a quick start and thankfully Tierney continued his great batting with some super bowling. Good line and length and a fair speed he had the Captain Steve Taylor caught by keeper Pete Foden for 1. This was quickly followed with the prize wicket of Imran Aslam who was clean bowled for a mere 6 runs. A key wicket was Brian Lord who was looking good when niftily run out by Chris Williams. The other wickets were taken by Rhys Tierney, Walker and McGuinness, whilst Leighton Le Carpentier was like a gazelle in the field. A good win against what was the Saddleworth Leagues finest team.

The preceding day saw James hit a superb 38 off only 16 balls against Littleborough in an Under 19 game. Adding to the runs were Leighton Le Carpentier, Hussain Shahid and Aaron Eaves. Despite some good bowling Littleborough scraped home on the final ball. Some excellent bowling from Jack Nolan and Jack Aikenhead, a great catch from Liam Jackson plus top notch fielding from Harry Aikenhead, Zain Al Uhedin, and Callum Brown augurs well for the future.