

TCC MATCH REPORTS 2007

Sunday April 22nd v. Westborough (home)

For Sale: 1980s vehicle – good runner!

According to poet and playwright T S Eliot 'April is the cruellest month, breeding lilacs out of the dead land'. Spring is a time of renewal with growth and energy readily visible after the dead landscapes of winter. This has been welcome throughout time but it is also when new realities have to be faced and dealt with after the quieter period of hibernation. The skills honed in the enclaves of the winter nets now have to be exposed to the demanding realities of real competition. After three weeks without rain it was almost inevitable that the drought would break on the first match day of the new Central League season but fortunately the two sharp showers after tea did not interrupt play but it was a close run thing as, indeed, was the game which featured newcomers to the Premier Section, Westborough. A new opening attack of Ashley Hayward, joining us from Birchencliffe, and Joe Law restricted scoring opportunities in the early overs and Ashley soon claimed his first victim, bowling R Clarke for 2. Joe generated good pace and used his height to good effect although both Chris Day and Martin Griffiths were quick to punish anything short. After the loss of the early wicket the total began to mount and first Dan Peace and then David Rishton took over at the pavilion end.

The score reached 97 before the much needed breakthrough came when the latter bowled Day for 52. As so often seems to happen after a good partnership, both batsmen were dismissed in quick succession when Greg Holmes, who had replaced Ashley Haywood, induced a lofted drive to deep mid off where Ashley himself took the catch. With both bowlers achieving a high level of accuracy the scoring rate slowed considerably and further wickets to both David and Greg put Thurstonland in the driving seat. Nick Finnigan (18*) played a determined anchor role for the visitors and, with good support from David Richmond (14) and veteran Chris Leathley (9) the total reached 158 for 7 at the end of the allocated 45 overs. A short second spell for Dan Peace saw him bowl Richmond, his 300th victim in the first team.

In the absence of Jack Oldham, in the final stages of recovering from a serious knee injury sustained in the close season, John Eastwood opened with Eddie Haigh. These two had been the highest individual

run scorers in 2006. Eddie took two fours from Andrew Clarke's opening over and both batsmen settled to their task with few apparent alarms until with the score on 35, and his own total on 11, John edged Nick Finnigan low to slip where Chris Leathley took the catch well. Ian Short soon got off the mark with a beautifully timed shot to the cover boundary but then in the next over having played confidently to fine leg he was run out going for a second as a fine throw arrowed in straight into the gloves of the wicket keeper. Eddie Haigh had got 19 untroubled runs and was batting with confidence when he was bowled by Eddie Portman. Three down for 43 almost immediately became 43/4 as Lee Booth misheard a call from Ashley Haywood and, in spite of his best efforts, was run out at the bowler's end. Observant readers at this point are invited to ponder the irony in the heading to this report.

Sam Robson then set about an innings repair job with Ashley and the score advanced to 80. Sam was eventually bowled for 19. Joe Law got 9 before he lost his middle stump and Ashley Hayward was caught at extra cover for 28. With David Rishton departing for nought the mini revival had now vanished at 111/8. Dan Peace was caught at deep cover for 5 after a brief juggling act by the fielder but Tom Sykes was mixing watchful defence with good off side drives. Greg Holmes, a more than competent No11, hit three successive leg side boundaries off the returning Nick Finnigan. The tension mounted as the score rose to 153 with four overs to go when Greg, a little unfortunately, was bowled off his boot for 15 leaving Tom not out on 28. It had been a brave but unavailing effort after a last wicket stand of 32.

Team: Eddie Haigh; John Eastwood; Ian Short; Ashley Haywood; Lee Booth; Sam Robson; Joe Law; David Rishton; Tom Sykes (w/k); Dan Peace; Greg Holmes.

**Saturday April 28th
v. Holmbridge (away)**

In spite of Ian's 30, there's nowt for short for the bowlers.

For once the insect lovers were disappointed as a visit in late April was probably too early for the midges to say nothing of the persistent flying ants which featured in early August 2006 on our last visit to Holmbridge's picturesque ground.

Once again in Jack Oldham's continuing absence John Eastwood opened with Eddie Haigh. Sixteen year old Oliver Moorhouse bowled from the St David's Church end in partnership with R Bruce. Runs came reasonably steadily on the narrow ground but John was the dominant partner in the opening stand of 36. Eddie never looked in trouble but gave the impression early on that he was nibbling at the hors d'oeuvres so leaving room for a sumptuous banquet to follow.

John looked to be set for a big score when on 25 he latched on to a short delivery from Bruce but pulled it unerringly straight to backward square leg. Ian Short joined Eddie and also made a slightly circumspect start before unleashing some good cover drives which drilled into the boundary netting on the river side of the ground. By this time Eddie Haigh (34) was getting into his stride and the total mounted quite quickly to 97 before both batsmen fell in rapid succession, both caught off mistimed drives when looking set. Ian had made a good 30 but more appeared there for the taking.

Ashley Haywood and Lee Booth had a short period of circumspection to rebuild the momentum with the latter taking well judged singles to keep the score moving. He made 33 before being bowled leaving the total on 158 for 4. A mini collapse then followed. Joe Law went first ball to a rather lazy lofted drive to cover. Sam Robson had time for a powerfully struck boundary through the covers before he went for just 5, dragging on a ball from outside off stump. Just in case any spectator missed this, Tom Sykes gave an action replay a few balls later, if anything edging the ball on to his stumps, from an even wider position than Sam had managed, when attempting a square cut.

Ashley observed all this from the non-strikers end and 166/7 suddenly threatened total collapse and a not very challenging score to defend. David Rishton (12), however, proved a worthy ally in an eighth wicket stand of 44 and 21 taken by Ashley from the returning Oliver Moorhouse's last over brought him to his first fifty for Thurstonland. Greg Holmes hit the last ball of the innings for four and tea arrived with the target for our hosts 217/8.

Four overs in which deliveries were rather short of a length from both Ashley Haywood and Greg Holmes got Holmbridge off to a flying start. David Thorpe was like the glutton at the feast as he raced to 25 with six boundaries and a single. David Rishton was quickly into action and he had 18 unchanged overs from the church end, eventually taking 2/32. After a long delay Ashley's appeal for lbw against David Thorpe

(42) was upheld by the umpire and from that point the Holmbridge innings lost momentum.

Joe Law produced six useful overs and it was encouraging to see him pick up two wickets at a cost of 24 with a particularly good ball to bowl Andy Haigh for 23 just when he was looking to get into his stride. It was Damien Pawson, back in the team after playing no cricket at the club in 2006, who really bowled the decisive spell in partnership with David Rishton. He bowled twelve overs unchanged and took 4/33 with his high action and good pace providing a good foil for the spin from the other end. The last Holmbridge pair came together with six overs left but David Holroyd and Oliver Moorhouse stuck doggedly to their task and saved a point for their side as the home team closed on 150/9.

Team: John Eastwood; Eddie Haigh; Ian Short; Ashley Haywood; Lee Booth; Joe Law; Sam Robson; Tom Sykes (w/k); David Rishton; Greg Holmes; Damien Pawson.

**Saturday May 5th
v. Woolley (home)**

'Runs for your money'

If late spring sunshine and runs in abundance were the choices of the discerning cricket fan then Thurstonland was the place to be on this first Saturday in May. Although I am not enough of a botanist to know if may blossom, alongside other varieties, was out then the bolder spectators had certainly begun to cast a clout in defiance of the folkloric saying.

The Woolley team in going out to field were clear that it was a toss they would have preferred to win and it was a considerable time before they were able to part Thurstonland openers John Eastwood and Eddie Haigh. Tom Atkinson and Richard Baranowski stuck to their task for the visitors but few chances were offered. Several pleasing cover drives from John reached the boundary whilst Eddie accumulated purposefully with his square drive much in evidence. One of these hastened up the slope to the top boundary almost before the fielders had reacted. Just when it seemed that a century partnership was inevitable the first wicket fell at 98. Sixteen year old James Taylor had

John caught for 47 by Paul Baranowski at square cover and Eddie soon followed caught at cover by the same fielder off Ian Norton for 35.

Ian Short and Ashley Haywood tried to keep the momentum going but the former, whilst looking in reasonable touch, found run scoring difficult. Ashley hit a couple of well timed drives for four through the covers but on 19 he misjudged the length of a ball which was too short to pull and he was bowled for 19. Lee Booth joined Ian and singles were taken in an effort to regain the initiative but the latter was bowled by Ian Norton for 12 which had taken the best part of an hour. Two brief but very positive innings then followed. Sam Robson's powerful off side shots soon got him 21 before he was caught at cover by D Broadhead off another stroke of great velocity. The fielder's determination to avoid being hit on the head by the ball accounted for a startling reflex catch. Joe Law kept the momentum going with a rapid 19 which featured a couple of curious one-handed pulls to the leg side boundary. Lee Booth (22) was run out for the second time this season which should make him an early leader in the 'odd statistics' column for 'who can't run' on the league website. Tom Sykes, Greg Holmes and David Rishton all had time for cameo appearances at the crease before the innings closed on 214 for 8.

Mark Nottingham and Tom Atkinson began the Woolley reply with Ashley Haywood and Joe Law opening the home attack. Immediately anything short of a length was punished decisively and any complacent thoughts of a quick win were soon put to one side. The score had reached 98, the same as Thurstonland's opening stand, before Lee Booth, in his first over, had Atkinson caught at mid wicket by Eddie Haigh. The next ball saw potential big hitter Paul Baranowski's downfall as he launched into a huge lofted on drive but the ball homed in on Ashley Haywood stationed at long on and he duly took his third catch in as many games.

A deserved fifty was reached by Mark Nottingham and James Taylor kept him company in a fourth wicket stand after the early departure of P Clegg. Taylor was stumped by yards for 17 attempting to charge Lee and he, together with David Rishton at the pavilion end, managed to keep the scoring rate just below what was required. It took an excellent stumping by Tom Sykes off David to end opener Nottingham's great effort on 86. Ashley Haywood and Damien Pawson returned for the key last seven overs. Two run outs helped the home team get on top but two sixes by Ian Norton, the second one a colossal hit over extra cover, tilted the balance again. Damien had his revenge in his next over by bowling him for 19. Eight were needed

from Ashley Haywood's last over but Richard Baranowski attempted pull from the first delivery got more height than distance and Tom Sykes ran fifteen yards to claim the catch and end Woolley's innings on 207.

Team: John Eastwood; Eddie Haigh; Ian Short; Ashley Haywood; Lee Booth; Sam Robson; Joe Law; Tom Sykes; Greg Holmes; David Rishton; Damien Pawson.

**Saturday May 12th
v. Denby Dale (away)**

Arkwright's 'Open All Hours' nightmare score

Scudding clouds and a brisk breeze gave a reminder, if one was necessary, that the charms of early spring weather in Britain are readily susceptible to a chastening dose of reality. It was all too easy to imagine that the summer like conditions for the opening three games were going to last the whole season but that illusion was broken at a distinctly damp and chilly Denby Dale.

Play did start on time and Eddie Haigh was accompanied to the wicket by Jack Oldham making a welcome return to action after his knee injury during the winter. Jack quickly looked at home mixing watchful defence with two well timed drives to the boundary, one through mid wicket and one via the covers.

The bounce was variable after the difficult weather conditions of the previous thirty-six hours with most deliveries keeping low but one or two occasionally lifting off a length, the most spectacular of which was received a little later in the innings by Ian Short. It was readily obvious why the host team had decided to field first on winning the toss.

Jack had got to ten when he played round a ball from Jim Stanley and lost his middle stump after looking untroubled to that point. Eddie Haigh survived a sharp but catchable chance to gully from the bowling of young Jordan Geldart when on five but otherwise he played watchfully on a wicket where the batsmen never felt fully in command. A couple of flicks off his legs for four kept things moving along but John Eastwood, after one trademark drive for four, was plumb lbw playing no stroke to a ball from Geldart making the total 23/2.

A second lbw soon followed when Ashley Haywood (0) was given out although there was some merit in the feeling that he was well forward and that the ball might have gone over the stumps. Ian Short guided three balls for two runs each time through the third slip/gully area off Adam Craven who had replaced Geldart at the pavilion end. It was in Craven's second over that one ball flew over his head which went against the tendency for a low bounce.

A later single brought his score to seven whilst Eddie Haigh had grafted patiently for just over 70 minutes for 18. What proved to be the last ball of the match as heavy rain began to fall saw Ian's downfall. A long hop was delivered by Jim Stanley and Ian appeared to have that jackpot feeling as he seized upon his chance and pulled the ball, as he thought, for four backward of square. The ball was, however, guided rather than firmly struck and a low catch was taken by the fielder stationed thirty yards from the bat. Ian stood briefly transfixed before walking off but Lee Booth had still ten yards or so to go to the crease when the light rain suddenly turned into a downpour and everyone dashed for shelter.

An early tea was taken at four o'clock and efforts were made to dry out the playing area as the rain stopped at 4.20. Just as thoughts turned, about half an hour later, to a possible resumption of play, rain returned and the proceedings were called off at 5.00.

After 20.1 overs the Thurstonland total was forty-four for four and, whether a devotee of Arkwright and 'Open All Hours' the first time round or from repeats, Granville's delight in hearing attempts by the miserly shopkeeper to repeat that can easily be imagined.

Team: Jack Oldham; Eddie Haigh; John Eastwood; Ashley Haywood; Ian Short; Lee Booth; Sam Robson; Joe Law; Tom Sykes (w/k); David Rishton; Greg Holmes.

Saturday May 19th v. Hoylandswaine (home)

Just eleven balls were bowled in a second successive wet Saturday. A leg bye in the first over was the only score but late swing from Ian Simon saw Jack Oldham edge a low catch to slip. Two balls later a heavy shower brought the players off. An early tea was again the

order of the day but a further downpour saw proceedings called off at four o' clock.

Team: Jack Oldham; Eddie Haigh; John Eastwood; Ashley Haywood; Ian Short; Lee Booth; Sam Robson; Joe Law; Tom Sykes (w/k); David Rishton; Damien Pawson.

**Sunday May 20th
v. Penistone (home) – Allsop Cup 1st round**

'Scorers driven dotty'

A single from the fourth ball off Chris Hawley's opening over was a prelude to the first wicket two balls later when a delivery which moved sharply off the pitch bowled Eddie Haigh. One for one had been the state of play when the Hoylandswaine game had been abandoned the previous day.

Our opponents from the section below were understandably encouraged by this but Tom Sykes, promoted to the No 3 spot, soon showed what a potential wealth of batting talent there is at the club. He did enjoy occasional good fortune with lofted leg side shots which just eluded the fielders but some classy cover drives belied his usual lower batting position. Even the introduction of Chris Walmsley into the Penistone attack did not stem the flow of runs and a series of pulls and hooks for four by John Eastwood saw the total reach 87/1 at the end of nineteenth over.

Just when it seemed a score in excess of 200 was inevitable, and with the Penistone fielders wilting by the ball, the heights of 87/1 plumbed the depths of 108/7 in the space of just short of ten overs. Veteran David Hawley was largely responsible for the turn around although he was well supported by the leg spin of the not so veteran Matthew Dent. John Eastwood (39) was well taken by keeper Duncan Richards who soon afterwards stumped Tom Sykes for a best ever first team score of 43. Ashley Haywood was caught at mid wicket off a mistimed shot whilst neither Lee Booth nor Sam Robson got off the mark. It was left to Joe Law to hold the rest of the innings together as he restrained his natural attacking interests for the benefit of the team for just over 45 minutes. Mark Hill (7) and Dan Peace (14) also stuck around with him but three and a half overs were left when the last wicket fell with the target 145.

Ashley Haywood soon bowled visiting opener J Williams but he only managed 2.2 overs before spending the rest of the game hobbling around after a muscle injury. Incredibly it was the ninth over before the first run was scored. The dizzy heights of 3/2 were reached after twelve and just over an hour had been played with the innings in the nineteenth over when ten was reached. Dan Peace bowled five successive maidens and Lee Booth (3/31) and Greg Holmes (4/17) also doled out runs like giving sweets to young children placed on a Jamie Oliver controlled diet. Penistone eventually got to 116 all out in what had been an odd game of cricket.

Team: John Eastwood; Eddie Haigh; Tom Sykes (w/k); Ashley Haywood; Lee Booth; Sam Robson; Joe Law; Mark Hill; Dan Peace; David Rishton; Greg Holmes.