

Steep –v- Tichborne Park – Sunday 2nd August 2009

Steep lost the toss and were asked to field on a sunny and warm afternoon that was so very different from the previous day that had caused the cancellation of both league matches. The pitch was slow with little coming on to the bat, and with tight bowling from the openers Dodd and Street, Tichborne struggled to get runs. Their cause was not helped when Dodd had B.Hole caught at mid-on off the first delivery he received. Street then had G.Hole caught by a dozing Baty, who had to be alerted to the catch. At this point it looked as if this match could be over by tea but Tichborne had other ideas and Stroud (58) and Tickner (28) dug in and seemed to like the spin bowling served up by Toby Smith and Matt Evans. The introduction of Colin Baty and John Smith resulted in wickets falling and finally skipper Evans got some reward for a long spell in the last over with the wicket of Whatley (41) who had been scoring freely. Tichborne closed on 179-7 at tea.

Steep needed a good start, and it looked promising with Giles Williams and Jonny Morris playing some nice shots. However, Morris was bowled for just 7 and when John Smith was also bowled without scoring things were looking slightly tricky. Williams however continued to play sensibly and managed to take a lot of the strike. Gareth Dale fell cheaply as did debutant David Carter, but this only brought Adrian Hill to the crease to join Williams and this turned out to be the key partnership. Williams brought up his 50 and then continued to dominate the bowling with classy shots. He reached his 100 and was subsequently bowled but this allowed him to take the well deserved applause of the pavilion as he walked in. Toby Smith hit two boundaries to win the game for Steep with 7 balls to spare with Hill remaining unbeaten on 33.