

East Anglian Premier League - Match No 7 - Saturday June 2nd 2018 - All Day

Sudbury	162 - 10**	(26 pts)
Vauxhall Mallards	99 - 10	(5 pts)

Sudbury emerged victorious on a day where ball dominated bat at Friars Street. The EAPL champions overcame some major scares to record their fifth win of the season.

Given the recent thunderstorms, it was no surprise that Vauxhall Mallards chose to bowl first upon winning the toss on a very green and wet surface. That decision paid dividends almost immediately for the Norfolk based side, as Ben France tore through the Sudbury top order. First Tom Huggins was trapped LBW, before one nipped back to bowl Adam Mansfield and Darren Batch edged behind. Paul Bradshaw then joined in the wicket taking frenzy by clean bowling Kenny Moulton-Day and Ben Parker in quick succession. The Talbots had slumped to 21-5. So far this season, the middle to lower order have had to wait patiently for their turn to shine, but when they got the opportunity this week they certainly demonstrated the strength in depth this Sudbury side has. Tim Johnston and Keelan Waldock started the fightback with a partnership of 43. Johnston (36) attacked at every opportunity, keen to not let the bowlers dictate proceedings he smashed three 4's and three 6's in his 45-ball stay. Waldock (22) has been on the fringes of the First XI for a while now and this innings showed he is developing into a fine player. Confidently striking boundaries off both front and back foot, and given the tough conditions and experienced bowling attack this was an innings of real substance for the 17 year old. Dan Poole played a useful cameo striking 16 in as many balls, but it was the 10th wicket partnership of 58, between James Poulson and Jonny Gallagher that really hurt the visitors. With the game still very much in the balance at 104-9, Poulson took centre stage. He struck six 4's and one 6 on his way to an excellent 55. Gallagher was an able ally, soaking up the pressure at one end enabling Poulson to do the damage at the other. Sudbury had fought their way to a very creditable 162 all out by the end of their innings.

Fresh from their batting heroics Gallagher and Poulson then set about their work with the ball. Where it was Poulson who did the damage with the bat, it was Gallagher who had the Midas touch with the ball. The Welshman struck the initial blow when he removed Hudson de Lucchi via an LBW and then had Matt Austin caught at slip. Tom Huggins then removed the dangerous France caught at point. Gallagher returned to dismiss South African Nicholas Smit, leaving Mallards 47-4. Huggins shuffled his bowlers as the run rate dried up and Mallards looked to just survive. Tim Johnston picked up one wicket in his six overs when Bradshaw was caught smartly at short-leg by Moulton-Day. But, it was Gallagher who took centre stage in the final proceedings grabbing a further three wickets on his way to his best EAPL figures of 6-32. Mallards had limped to 99 all out, handing the Talbots a very hard fought victory.

Sudbury picked up 26 points from this win but have slipped into second place due to Swardeston claiming a full 30 points in their win over Frinton. Sudbury travel to Swardeston this Saturday but face an uphill task given both Tom Huggins and Adam Mansfield miss out due to work commitments.