

Ilott rolls back the years for Bar

Potters Bar 2XI recorded their first win in three weeks with a comprehensive victory over Preston 1st XI at The Walk. The opposition won the toss and unsurprisingly choose to bat first on what was another belter of a wicket produced by groundsman Dave Lawrence.

Despite the fall of a wicket in the first over, Preston started quickly, with Michael John victim of some impressive early innings hitting. Having raced to 40 for the loss of one wicket, Preston looked on course to a huge total. However ex England international Mark Ilott was bowling a nagging line and length and started to chip away at one end.

Quickly to opposition found themselves 8 down with just 80 in the board. Some cameo hitting from Preston's tail enders lifted their total to 139, before Ilott took his seventh wicket to end Preston's innings one run short of a bonus point. Finishing with 7-32, Ilott showed that line and length rather than pace was the key to taking wickets on a flat track.

Bar started slowly in their reply, however an opening stand of 46 between Matt Evans and Adjitka Mehta put them well on course for victory. The departure of Evans bought Coughlan to the crease and also encouraged the opposition to take the new ball. The new ball was quickly battered to all corners of The Walk as Mehta decided that he wanted to finish the game early. He finally departed for an excellently made 77 and despite a slight middle order collapse Bar cruised home for the loss of just 5 wickets.

Next week Bar travel to relegation threatened Flitwick, in what is a must win game for the hosts. With regular skipper Pett holding hands in Tenerife for the next ten days, vice captain Greg Hodge will take over the reigns.

On Sunday, Potters Bar 2XI defeated Kenton in a one sided affair. Batting first, Bar recorded a mammoth 319 for 5, with Paul Barker scoring 101 not out, Mark Taylor 92 and Dean Barker 37. In reply Kenton made little effort to chase the total and finished 203 for 4 off their 45 overs.