

Saturday 2nd X1

Welwyn Garden City 2nd X1 218-9 in 53 overs

Potters Bar 2nd X1 220-6 in 44.3 overs

Potters Bar 2nd X1 returned to winning ways on Saturday with a well deserved 4 wicket win, away to Welwyn Garden City 2nd X1, in a good game of cricket in Saracens Herts League Division 2.

Dave Pett won the toss and elected to field first on a reasonable looking Digswell Park wicket, giving Charlie Hodge and Michael John first use of the new ball. Hodge bowled an aggressive opening 7 over spell without reward and it was the introduction of Mark Taylor that made the vital breakthrough when he had danger man Dave English caught at midwicket for 22.

Things got even better for the visitors as Taylor followed up by immediately dismissing Phil Driver, lbw for 0 to his second ball. Michael John replaced Hodge from the pavilion end and he soon had skipper Chris Molyneux fending at an accurate delivery to be caught behind by keeper for the day, Dave Breeze and when Taylor bowled Luke Molyneux for just 6, the home side had fallen to 48-4 in the 16th over.

Tyler then came in at number 6 and played some excellent counter attacking shots in an attempt to swing the game back in the home side's favour. He had hit a number of boundaries until he played one shot too many and was caught by Mehta to give Taylor his 4th wicket of the innings and leave the home side 101-5.

Youngster Hill then came in at number 7 and showed good temperament to ensure the home side would post a competitive score. He batted patiently, bringing up a well deserved half century, until he was clean bowled by Michael John in his first over having taken over from Taylor who had bowled a good spell of 4-63 off 19 overs.

John followed up with another quick wicket to finish with 3-57 and the home side finished their 53 over allocation on 218-9 to leave the game in the balance with both sides fancying their chance of victory.

Things looked bad for the visitors when Pett played at a wide ball from the left arm spin of Bridgewater and was caught in the slips leaving the score on 2-1. In form Mehta was joined at the wicket by Ian Henderson, who himself had been out of touch in recent weeks.

However the pair initially batted with a great deal of patience to ensure there would be no further alarms in the early part of the reply, as they gradually got on top of the home side attack. Henderson played some lovely drives, visually gaining in confidence, as he started to look like his old self and he was first to pass the fifty mark as the total moved on past the hundred without any further losses.

Mehta continued his rich vein of form as he also brought up his 50 and in doing so had appeared to put the visitors firmly on course for victory. The excellent 2nd wicket partnership had reached 131 when Henderson was well caught on the long off boundary for a well made 62.

Surprisingly, Mehta then played a lazy short and was easily caught at mid wicket for 70 and when Dave Breeze decided to charge the slow spin of Bridgewater he was out stumped for 0 leaving the game firmly in the balance with the visitors looking nervous on 135-4.

However this brought the big hitting Taylor to the wicket and he played in his normal aggressive style, to ensure that the change in momentum did not last for long, as he crashed a series of boundaries to all parts of Digswell Park.

He brought up his 50 from just 29 balls with yet another boundary and had almost brought up the victory when he went for one more big shot, only to be caught at mid off, for a match winning innings of 54.

John Pett stayed calm as he knocked off the remaining 10 runs needed for a well deserved victory and the side now look forward to the visit of Hemel Hempstead next week, with a an almost full strength side available for selection, following the recent weeks of below par availability.