

Saturday 2nd X1

Potters Bar 233-7

Northwood Town 175 all out

Potters Bar 2nd X1 were thankful for an excellent all round performance by 18 year old Adjitya Mehta as they beat Northwood Town 1st X1 by 58 runs on Saturday at The Walk in Saracens Herts League Division 2.

Skipper Dave Pett won the toss and had no hesitation to opting to bat first on a wicket that looked full of runs in the fabulous hot sunshine.

Pett opened the innings with Mehta and looked to be in decent touch racing to 21 from 20 balls until he was dismissed lbw in the 7th over of the innings. Ian Henderson then came in at number 3 and looked much more like his old self also making 21 before becoming the first of 6 wickets that were to fall to the off spin of Ravi Singh.

Mehta brought up his 50 as the total passed the hundred mark for the loss of 2 wickets in the 30th over but Singh continued his fine fell of bowling as he suddenly took a pair of wickets to leave the Bar 104-4 putting the game right back in the balance. A partnership off 44 between Mehta and Charlie Hodge then put the home side back on track until Hodge was lbw to Singh, soon followed by wicket keeper Paul Martin for a duck, as Bar stuttered to 155-6 in the 42nd over.

Mehta needed a partner to join him to make sure the innings didn't fall away and vice captain Greg Hodge didn't disappoint as he batted well to ensure the 200 mark was reached. This became the cue for Mehta to launch his own late innings attack as he brought up a very well deserved hundred in the 50th over of the innings.

Hodge became Singh's 6th victim when he was caught in the 52nd over but not before he had scored 25 runs in an excellent 7th wicket partnership of 62 with Mehta. Amazingly Mehta scored runs from 36 of his final 37 balls faced in timing his knock to perfection as the innings closed on 233-7, with Mehta unbeaten on 117 from 152 balls – a fantastic effort in such hot conditions.

The home side knew it wasn't going to be easy to bowl the visitors out on such a good batting strip and the early indications only went to prove the game could go right to the wire, as the visitors raced to 38 in the 7th over, before Boyce struck the vital breakthrough dismissing Piper lbw.

Visiting skipper Raj Ahluwalia had settled in well and was targeting victory as he punished any loose bowling, hitting 5 fours before falling victim to Charlie Hodge lbw for 28. Bar appeared to be on top at this stage but a rapid 3rd wicket partnership of 59 in just 11 overs put the game very much back in the balance, until Pett turned to Mehta to bowl his leg breaks and importantly take the pace off the ball.

Mehta didn't disappoint as he vitally broke the partnership in bowling Bharj for 37 just as he appeared to be set to swing the game in the visitors favour. Mehta then struck two more vital blows and when Mark Taylor took his first wicket Bar had again regained control of the match as the score had reached 117-6 in the 26th over.

Mehta continued to twirl away dismissing numbers 7 and 10 in the batting line to bring up a five wicket haul to go with his unbeaten century, an effort to end up with figures of 5-40 from 13 overs.

A dogged final wicket partnership then held up and began to frustrate the home side until Charlie Hodge finally took the vital 10th wicket in dismissing number 9 Dudley for a well compiled 27, fittingly caught in the covers by that man Mehta as the home side celebrated a vital victory.

The team have now moved up to 8th place in the league and eagerly look forward to the trip next week to play Watford 1st X1 with the side keen to continue the good form of the past few weeks.