

Saturday 2nd X1

Hemel Hempstead 2nd X1 184 all out

Potters Bar 2nd X1 187-2

Potters Bar 2nd X1 eased to a comfortable 8 wicket victory over Hemel Hempstead 2nd X1 in their match played at Dame Alice Owens School on Saturday.

With the league fixture computer throwing up home game for the clubs 1st and 2nd X1, the team were able to enjoy a rare trip down the school to make use of the superb set, up at the ground used each week by the clubs lower elevens.

The visitors won the toss and selected to bat first on a wicket that had decent pace and good bounce as shown by the lively new ball spell from Charlie Hodge. Hodge took an early wicket and then the 2nd wicket partnership had reached 60 until brother Greg made a crucial breakthrough when wicket keeper Paul Martin held on to a regulation catch behind the wicket.

Mark Taylor by then began to exert pressure on the batting line up as he kept the run scoring in check whilst also taking wickets at regular intervals with figures of 4-70 from his 20 over spell.

Tom Pett bowled a tidy 9 over spell, taking 1-28 with his leg spin, until he was replaced by Charlie Hodge towards the end of the innings. Hodge then took another couple of wickets and could be pleased with figures of 3-35 from 10 overs, as the innings closed on 184 all out in the 53rd over.

In reply Bar lost an early wicket when in form Adjytka Mehta was bowled for just 9 bringing Ian Henderson to the wicket to join skipper Dave Pett. Henderson looked to be in excellent touch following his fine 60 the previous week against Welwyn Garden City as he hit the ball cleanly to all parts of the ground.

The partnership had reached 81, before Henderson was trapped plumb in front of his stumps as he was dismissed lbw for 43, bringing Mark Taylor to the wicket batting at number 4. Taylor was also following on from an excellent knock the week before and he immediately settled in with some trademark lusty blows.

Pett continued to play the anchor role of the innings as the pair began to put the team well on course for victory. Taylor was first to reach his 50 with a succession of big hits, including 3 mighty blows for 6 over long on and Pett brought up his own 50 shortly after.

Victory was completed by a comfortable 8 wicket margin when Taylor hit another boundary, to finish unbeaten on 75 from just 58 balls, whilst Pett ended 56 not out from 113 balls.

The side now sit in 10th place with the next three matches promising to be a huge test to the side as they look forward to playing the top three teams in the table, Dunstable 1st X1, Bishops Stortford 1st X1 and Preston 1st X1 in successive weeks.

