

Saturday 2nd X1

Potters Bar 191 all out
Watford 1st X1 196 – 8

Potters Bar 2nd X1 lost against Watford 1st X 1 by 2 wickets in an excellent game of cricket on Saturday in Saracens Herts League Division 2.

For the third week running skipper Dave Pett won the toss and elected to bat first on a good looking wicket in the scorching heat of Watford.

Pett opened the innings with Adjitya Mehta and it was Mehta who was first to fall, caught well in the slips for just 8 runs, bringing Ian Henderson to the wicket. The pair started to play well together until Henderson was unfortunately run out in strange circumstances having looked in good form in compiling 26 runs without any trouble.

Pett batted patiently and passed his 50 in the 29th over with the total on 102, as the visitors looked set for a 200 plus score. Mark Taylor joined Pett and was fortunate to be dropped twice early on from easy chances as he attempted to hit boundaries from the word go.

Pett was then dismissed when he was stumped in the 36th over for 60 shortly followed by Taylor for 35 as a mid innings collapse saw 5 wickets fall for 25 runs just when the acceleration to the innings was required. At 154-8 a poor total appeared likely but thanks to some excellent late order batting from Chris Boyce the visitors managed to get to 191 all out in the 53rd over with Boyce adding a valuable contribution of 28 runs.

Taylor opened the bowling with the old ball with the intention of keeping things tight from the word go whilst Mehta probed for wickets with his leg breaks at the other end. Taylor did the job well taking 3-12 from his first 8 overs and when Greg Hodge took a wicket in his first over after replacing the slightly expensive Mehta, the home side had slipped to 51-4.

A dogged 5th wicket partnership then swung the game back in favour of the home side until Boyce made a crucial breakthrough when the new ball was taken in the 27th over of the innings. New ball partner Michael John shortly followed up the good work when he took the 6th wicket to fall and at 134-6 the game was right in the balance.

However the home side lower order then took a chance or two as they played some big shots in order to swing the game back in their favour and a match winning 7th wicket partnership of 49 from just 7 overs duly did the business.

Taylor returned to break the partnership with a pair of quick wickets to finish with a 5 wicket haul, but with only 7 needed by the home side for victory his wickets had come too late as the home side scraped home by 2 wickets in a thoroughly entertaining game of cricket.