

Bar's inconsistencies continue

Potters Bar 2nd XI lost to local rivals Cockfosters 1st XI in a one sided affair at The Walk on Saturday. Bar captain Greg Hodge won the toss and decided to bowl first on a slightly green wicket. Hodge and Chris Boyce opened the bowling but were unable to make a break through early on.

Boyce finally claimed the first wicket, that of Cockfoster's skipper Matt Fisher for 24, one wicket bought two as Boyce removed Foster's number 3 for 0. This brought Duncan Elder to the crease who along with opener Declan O'Leary put on a match winning partnership.

Last week's hero Mark Taylor replaced Hodge and bowled several tight overs, with the pressure telling O'Leary nibbled Boyce behind, only to be dropped at slip. Then on 30 O'Leary went on to make 84 and Bar were left to rue their mistakes. With 12 overs to go Foster's looked slightly below the rate at 130 for 2, but with wickets in the hutch they managed to push their score over 200. Taylor and captain Greg Hodge picked up three wickets a piece at the death, but in truth they were just a consolation. Foster's finished on 201 for 8, leaving Bar with just three bowling points.

Bar's response couldn't have got off to a worse start, with one of last weeks hero's Matt Evans dismissed first ball. Tom Pett and Tom Coughlan started to rebuild the innings and youngster Pett looked fluent. However a bowling change at the Tesco end saw Matt Stead deliver a wide long hop first ball that Coughlan hit in the air to point. Stead was then to bowl immaculately and pick up three further wickets, all of them bowled. In quick succession he removed Mark Taylor for 0 and Dave Pett for 2, before removing any chance of a Bar victory and dismissing Tom Pett for a well made 34.

At 70 for 5 Bar were really in the mire and only showed any kind of spine when youngster James Scott and the hard hitting Dan Brown came together. Both hit some sweetly timed boundaries, however it wasn't enough. When Brown was last man out for 18, Bar had been dismissed for 128 and Foster's had completed a convincing victory.

Skipper Hodge reflected, "In 12 innings this season we have failed to score 200 and that is clearly where our problems lie. We have won 5 lost 6 and drawn 1, it shows that we are inconsistent, hopefully next week we can get our 6th win of the season and propel ourselves back up to the top half of the table."