

Pett and Palmer slay Northchurch

A second eleven record partnership between youngster Tom Pett and veteran Mike Palmer saw Potters Bar 2nd XI to a magnificent ten wicket victory over Northchurch on Saturday.

Skipper Greg Hodge lost the toss and Northchurch opted to bat first on a typically flat Walk wicket. Early runs were hard to find as Mark Taylor and Chris Boyce bowled with great control. Taylor took the first wicket caught, just about, by skipper Hodge at mid on. Northchurch's Pearce and opener Cox were then to put on an excellent second wicket partnership of 80 runs. Despite keeping the scoring rate low, Bar didn't ever really look like taking a wicket. Finally Pearce chipped a ball from Dass to Hodge at mid on, who took his second catch of the game with slightly more ease.

Cox fell to Dass for a well made 63, leaving Northchurch's skipper Hobley and overseas player Alam to take the score to 210. Alam fell with two balls to go, meaning the league's most popular man Ally Fantham had a very short innings, he did manage a single off the only ball he faced and took Northchurch's score to a competitive 212.

In reply Northchurch were unlucky to lose their opening bowler Pearce after one over to injury, but nothing could take away the excellence of the partnership between Pett and Palmer. Pett played shots all round the wicket to the seamers and was particularly strong off his legs.

Having dispatched Northchurch's seamers and seen their partnership rise to 65 runs, Bar's openers started to take apart the spin attack of Dight and Alam. Pett was able to launch Dight for three maximums into the legside, whilst Palmer used his feet and hit down the ground beautifully.

Northchurch turned back to their seamers, but this only spurred Pett on who pulled a six down towards the pavilion. He finally got to his maiden league 100, with a push to mid on. Pett had played beautifully. With 30 needed and Palmer requiring 20 for his hundred it seemed that both openers would reach three figures. Palmer however let Pett power on, with the youngster finishing 119 not out off 109 balls and Palmer 89 not out of 89 balls, as Bar won by ten wickets for the first time in division 2. Both batsman played excellently, Palmer's guidance no doubt helped young Pett, but the flair the youngster played with, particularly to the spinners meant that he fully deserved all the plaudits.

Commenting on the victory, skipper Hodge was understandably pleased: "I am very proud of young Tom, he just missed out on three figures on this weekend last year and has been waiting for this moment for quite a while. Mike has played a crucial innings and helped Tom through, however it is great to see the youngster getting the attention. Hopefully over the next two weeks the two of them can add a few more runs."