

Northwood - 167 all out in 50.1 overs  
Potters Bar 2<sup>nd</sup> X1 - 171-5 in 32 overs

Potters Bar 2<sup>nd</sup> X1 put in an excellent all round team performance on Saturday which resulted in a highly impressive 5 wicket victory over Northwood 1<sup>st</sup> X1.

On a hot sunny day skipper Greg Hodge won the toss and asked the visitors to bat first on a drying wicket that played well throughout the afternoon. Hodge opened the bowling, along with younger brother Charlie and the pair put in a decent opening burst in tough bowling conditions, before the Hodge turned to the experienced pair of Michael John and Chris Boyce.

They used all their experience in tying down the well set opening batsman and the vital breakthrough was made when Dave Breeze took a quite amazing one handed diving catch at gully when the score had reached 50 for no loss. This was the start of the pressure building on the visitors batting line up and when Boyce followed up to remove the number 3 batsman LBW the game began to swing into the home sides favour.

Hodge reacted by introducing the twin spin attack of Adjytka Mehta and Luke Owers who both bowled beautifully, backed up by some more excellent catching in the outfield most notably by Matt Evans who took a couple of beauties. The pressure was now right on the batters who struggled to gain any sort of momentum against some good quality bowling.

Owers bowled his 14 overs of off breaks taking 3 wickets in the process for 35 runs and when Mehta clean bowled the number 11, he had notched his first 5 wicket haul of the season to see the visitors tumble to 167 all out in the 50<sup>th</sup> over of the innings.

168 to win was a total that Bar's strong batting line up fancied their chances of chasing however the key to the run chase was a good start. This was duly made as Mehta and wicket keeper Dave Rock opened the innings both playing some fine shots from the very start.

Rock was the first to go when we was caught in the covers but the momentum of the innings was kept up by Mehta and number 3 batsman Dave Pett. The pair put on 68 for the 2<sup>nd</sup> wicket before Mehta was caught at mid off immediately after the drinks break for a well made 35. Pett was joined by Dean Dass who straight away took up the mantel of chasing victory, hitting a four and a six off of the first 5 balls he faced.

Pett was next to go for 45 in an innings that included 8 x 4's and one 6 when he slightly unlucky to play on, however there were vital contributions to follow from Dave Breeze and Charlie Hodge that ensured there were to be no major scares as the winning line got closer.

Dass played very nicely in finishing 35 not out in an innings that included 3 towering sixes and victory was sealed when Hodge hit the winning boundary with no less than 17 overs to spare.

Skipper Hodge was a pleased man as he headed to the beaches of Costa Del Sol for 5 days in the sun “It was a great all round performance by the team, two wins from two games is a great start to the season. We have a tough fixture next week away to Leverstock Green but I am confident we can put up a strong show once again in the hope of maintaining the excellent early season form we have shown so far”.