

Batting lets Bar down again

Potters Bar 2<sup>nd</sup> XI slumped to defeat against Northwood Town at The Walk on Saturday after another inept batting display. Skipper Greg Hodge lost the toss and was asked to bowl first on a green but hard Walk wicket.

Youngster Alex Whitehouse and veteran Mark Taylor opened the bowling and it was Taylor that made the breakthrough removing Town's skipper Raj Ahluwalia LBW in the tenth over. Skipper Hodge replaced Whitehouse and bowled four overs without taking a wicket. Dan Brown and Taylor then kept things tight in the middle of the innings, with Taylor picking up a second wicket.

With ten overs to go Northwood Town were 120 for 2, with wickets in hand the slog was on. Off spinner Luke Owers was to take the brunt of Town's late charge with his 9 overs costing over 60 runs. Taylor managed to keep things tight and recorded figures of 4 for 65 from 26 overs, however Town reached a credible 200 for 6.

In reply Bar's innings got off to a slow start with Northwood Town's impressive bowling attack beating the outside edge with regularity. Opener Coughlan's innings came to an end when he was out caught behind, he was quickly followed in the hutch by his partner Palmer and Taylor.

At 40 for 3 Bar were in serious trouble and a good partnership was needed. Matt Evans and Dean Dass rebuilt Bar's innings and when they took 28 off 2 overs Bar needed 120 from the last 20 overs for victory. However Dass ran himself out for a well made 32 and Bar never recovered. Dave Pett was out for 4 and number six Alex Robinson didn't last much longer.

Evans batted in defiance but in a bid to gain some batting points was caught at mid off. Youngster Dan Brown again showed the upper order how to find the boundary and struck an unbeaten 26 as Bar slumped to 145 all out.

Commenting on the result skipper Greg Hodge said, "We let things slip at the end of their innings and never gained the momentum back. Town's bowling attack is better than some I have seen in the Premier league, but that is no excuse for our batting performance. Hopefully we can get a win in the next few weeks so we don't have to endure a nervous end to the season."