

Bar's youngsters bounce back

Potters Bar 2nd XI bounced back with a last over victory against Preston on Saturday, thanks a classy innings from 16 year old Tom Pett and the last over coolness of 14 year old James Scott. Greg Hodge proved himself to be the best coin tosser in the county calling right for the fifth time this season and elected to bowl first in overcast conditions on a juicy looking wicket.

Despite the conditions, neither Greg nor his brother Charlie were able to trouble Preston's openers who put on a good opening stand of 60 runs. The first maiden of the innings didn't come until the 15th over when James Scott, making his 2nd team debut bowled a lovely over of away swing. In the next over came Bar's first wicket, with Mark Taylor removing Hearne for 20. For the rest of the innings Preston were not able to put a decent partnership together. Captain Ashley Catlin was to bat the entire innings for 92 not out, however none of teammates were able to stick with him.

Mark Taylor bowled unchanged for 19 overs, picking up three wickets in the process, whilst Luke Owers plugged away at the other end picking up two wickets. Two run outs and an excellent caught and bowled by Aditya Mehta, restricted Preston to 148 off their 53 overs and gave Bar an excellent chance of victory.

Tom Pett opened the batting with Mike Palmer and both were quickly into their stride, with Pett in particular looking very good off his legs. The pair put on 52 for the first wicket before Palmer was caught at cover point. Bar's innings then seemed to follow a mirror image of Preston's, with nobody capable of putting together a decent partnership. Sri Lankan Indika Samaraweera bowled unchanged from one end and was seemingly bowling Preston to an unlikely victory.

However with Bar struggling at 120 for 7, Britain's Got Talent contestant David Rock and recently knighted Charles Hodge came together to put on the third highest partnership of the match and push Bar towards victory. With victory in their grasp Hodge was dismissed and this brought to the crease young James Scott. Hitting his first ball for four through the vacant third man region, Scott proved to have old head on young shoulders. When Rock stole a single off the first ball of the last over the scores were level and it was left to Scott to strike the winning runs and complete a memorable debut.

Captain Greg Hodge was delighted with the victory, despite his team leaving it a little tight. "We always like to make it difficult for ourselves, but it is great to see young players performing well in this division against first team opposition. Our aim was to win three out of our first five games and we have achieved that, with availability looking strong next week hopefully we can build on this with another victory next week."