

Potters Bar 2nd X1 - 177-10 in 50.3 overs
Radlett 2nd X1 - 178-3 in 41 overs

Potters Bar 2nd X1 lost by 7 wickets on Saturday to a strong Radlett 2nd X1, in a decent game of cricket played on an excellent surface at Cobden Hill.

Potters Bar won the toss and elected to bat first with a side severely depleted by poor availability and injuries. However things looked to be going very well as openers Mike Palmer and Tom Pett appeared in no trouble until Palmer was adjudged LBW in the 11th over.

Sixteen year old Pett continued to flourish as he maintained his good work until he misjudged the length of a delivery and was plumb LBW, leaving the visitors in need of a period of consolidation with the score on 55-2.

Dave Pett, skippering in the absence of Greg Hodge, then joined Charles Hodge at the crease but both were to fall cheaply, to another LBW decision and poor shot selection respectively, which then brought Mark Ilott to the wicket. When Ilott was the third man to be adjudged LBW after just 7 balls, Bar had slumped from a promising position into one of peril at 68-5.

John Pett then came to the wicket to join Adjitja Sheth in a partnership that looked to bring some respectability to the innings. Both played well in lifting the total up to the 130 mark before Sheth fell for a well made 20. Pett was joined by 15 year old Tommy Rowlands and the pair continued the momentum of the innings until Rowlands was caught having played extremely well for one so young.

Pett was the second last wicket to fall but not before he had scored 49 valuable runs in a good attacking innings, however once Pett was dismissed Dan Brown was out to the very next ball leaving the visitors all out for 177, which was a good effort considering what had gone on in the early part of the innings.

Early wickets were required if Bar were to trouble the strong looking home side batting line up, unfortunately two straight forward slip catches were spilt inside the first five overs which allowed any hopes of an unlikely victory to disappear.

There was a wicket apiece for Charles Hodge, Mark Ilott and Luke Owers, which left the home side slightly vulnerable at 68-3. However any hopes of a surprise victory by the visitors, soon faded as two more catches were spilt thus meaning the unbeaten 110 run 4th wicket partnership saw the home side cruise to a well deserved 7 wicket victory.

Next week Hodge will return to skipper the side in the knowledge that availability is much stronger as he takes his team to play away at third placed Chorleywood 1st X1.

