

Bar put Welwyn to the sword

Potters Bar 2nd XI put in an impressive display against rivals Welwyn Garden City on Saturday, winning by 110 runs. Captain Greg Hodge won the toss and elected to bat first on a roasting hot day.

With a short boundary on one side Bar got off to a quick start, but lost youngster Tom Pett for 6 when he was bowled playing across the line. Dean Dass then joined Mike Palmer at the crease, the pair put Welwyn's seamers to the sword, with Dass in particular finding the boundary at regular intervals.

Palmer fell for 28 when he was caught behind off the off spin of Bridge. Dass continued to power on and soon reached his fifty. At the other end Mark Taylor cleared the rope a couple of times. However when Dass (63) and Taylor fell in quick succession, Bar were in a precarious position at 125 – 5.

Dave Pett and Matt Evans were to put on an excellent 70 run sixth wicket stand and leverage Bar into a match winning position. Both players used their feet to the spinners, with Evans particularly keen to hit over the top. Bar again contrived to lose a cluster of wickets, with first Pett (28) and then Evans (38) falling in quick succession. When Owers and Brown were also dismissed it was left to skipper Hodge and Chris Boyce to see Bar over the 200 mark and they were eventually bowled out for 201.

Welwyn opened the batting with regular first team all rounder Ed Tucker, and from the start it was clear that he wanted to get the score board moving quickly. Tucker was particularly brutal on Dan Brown, who had the Welwyn opener dropped in his first over, but then proceeded to see his first three overs disappear for 28.

Boyce at the other end was bowling beautifully and got his reward when he had Tucker caught behind for 17, for the first of four catches by Matt Evans. Taylor replaced Brown and was his usual economic self. Pressure began to build as Welwyn's other opener fell to Taylor. Young Andy Nolan struggled to get the ball away and Boyce and Taylor picked off wickets at regular intervals.

At 60 for 4, Boyce was replaced by Luke Owers, Boyce had bowled brilliantly and should have had more to show than his two wickets. Owers was in the action straight away, having Welwyn's number six caught heaving across the line. When Owers had Nolan caught at midwicket Welwyn's innings fell apart.

Taylor finished off the innings and picked up his fifth wicket for 24 runs with an LBW decision against Welwyn's number nine, whilst Owers picked up three cheap wickets with his tidy off spin. Welwyn had scored just 37 runs off the final 18 overs of their innings and had struggled against Taylor's impressive control.

Captain Greg Hodge was pleased with the victory and commented after the match: "It is always good to beat your local rivals and to do so in such an impressive manner is even better. It was great to see Matt Evans and Dave Pett score runs, that partnership was a crucial part of the game. Taylor has bowled like that for years and is very difficult to get away. We now head into the last game looking for our eighth victory, which would be one more game than we won last season and another step forward."