

Saturday 2nd X1

Potters Bar 281-6 in 44 overs

Chorleywood 228-3 in 56 overs

Potters Bar 2nd X1 were left very frustrated by visitors Chorleywood's negative approach to a run chase, in a game that petered out into a sterile draw on Saturday at The Walk, in Saracens Herts League Division 2.

Skipper Dave Pett won the toss and had no hesitation to opting to bat first on a wicket that looked full of runs in the fabulous hot sunshine.

Pett opened the innings with the in form Adjytka Mehta and was lbw to the 2nd ball of his innings shouldering arms after badly misjudging an in-swinging ball. Evergreen Rob Daley, making a rare appearance in the 2nd X1, was soon following Pett back to the pavilion when he was bowled for 5 leaving the home side 15-2.

Mehta was joined by Mark Taylor and the pair began to repair the early damage as they scored freely as they began to dominate the visitors bowling attack. Both players eased passed the 50 mark until Taylor was out for a well made 58, bringing Dave Breeze to the wicket having finished his term at University in Leeds.

Breeze showed good form cruising to 25 until he played on but Mehta continued to dominate the lacklustre bowling attack with ease playing shots to all areas. The stifling heat made the 17 year feel like he was back home in India and he brought up his 2nd century of the summer with yet another boundary in the 37th over of the innings.

A brief flurry from Charlie Hodge also helped accelerate the run rate but once Mehta had brought up his century he then played a shot a ball as he appeared to smash every ball he faced to the boundary. The declaration came in just the 44th over of the innings as the home side score had reached 281-6, with **Mehta unbeaten on 168**, a truly wonderful innings. This left the visitors 56 overs to chase the runs at just 5 an over on a wicket full of runs.

The home side opened the bowling with the off spin of Paul Kennedy, the clubs 4th X1 vice captain and the opening batsman showed good intention in attacking Kennedy by hitting his first 3 overs for 39 runs. Mark Taylor then took the first wicket in the 8th over of the innings bringing Chorleywood's overseas player Matt Cullen to the wicket.

Cullen showed his class and he looked to be in no trouble as he joined youngster Rose in ensuring the visitors had a decent foundation to their reply. The pair put on 80 until Rose, having batted well, was caught behind off the bowling of Michael John.

Pett continued to rotate his bowlers but the wickets became hard to come by even with the use of the new ball and the visitors looked set to make a real attempt at the target when just 116 were required from the last 20 overs at less than 6 an over with 8 wickets in hand.

At this point 14 year old Tom Pett came on to bowl his leg breaks in a bid to ensure the visitors carried on the run chase with Cullen now well settled at the crease, unbeaten on 75.

It appeared to be 'game on' at this stage until Cullen attempted to hit a 6 off young Pett, only to be dropped on the boundary by vice captain Greg Hodge and a 2nd chance soon followed when Cullen survived a missed stumping off Pett's bowling by stand in keeper Dave Breeze.

This bizarrely signalled a complete change of attitude from Cullen as he then decided, along with his batting partner, that the run chase was over. This was a remarkably negative attitude from a side that were 2nd from bottom at the start of play and surely desperate for points to avoid relegation for the 2nd season running?

The game then petered out into a bore draw with the only highlight being a well earned wicket for Charlie Hodge. The negative attitude of the visiting side left everyone at The Walk totally bemused, as they closed on 228-3 from their massive allocation of 56 overs.