

Weak batting display sees Bar lose to Cockfosters

Potters Bar 2XI put on a disappointing display on Saturday against local rivals Cockfosters first eleven. Shawn of three of their top five batters due to midweek injuries and illness Bar always looked a couple of batsman light. After winning the toss, Greg Hodge choose to bat first backing a bowling attack that had taken 27 out of possible 30 wickets this season to bowl Fosters out second time around. Bar were felt that a score over 170 would be competitive on a wet slow wicket.

However some good new bowling and some poor batting put Bar behind the 8 ball from the start. Dean Barker was first to go caught at first slip for 4, having already been let off twice by second slip. Youngster Tom Pett looked strong off his legs and played nicely as overseas Mehta struggled to get the ball away. However Pett perished for 9 as he lopped a catch to short extra cover as the ball got stuck in the slow wicket.

Bar's hopes of posting a competitive score were all but destroyed when ex captain Dave Pett and Ian Henderson both fell for ducks. At 19-4 Cockfosters missed the chance to really turn the screw dropping Mehta on more than one occasion before he reached double figures.

Young Luke Owers and overseas Mehta started to rebuild Bar's innings nicely and just when they were looking set, Cockfosters young off spinner Joe Stead managed to get one through Owers defence and bowl him for 9. John Pett and captain Hodge both tried to stick with Mehta in the middle order, each adding 20 run partnerships. At 130 for 7 Bar still had a chance of reaching their 170 target, however when Chris Boyce was controversially given out LBW these hopes faded and Bar collapsed to 137 all out, with Mehta the only player to reach double figures scoring 88.

Cockfosters started aggressively and Hodge quickly aborted his experimental use of two spinners with the old ball. The new ball didn't fair much better and it took veteran seamer Chris Boyce and the captain himself to slow Cockfosters down. The first wicket fell with the score on 75, as Chris Stead drove Hodge straight to point. Bar for the second week in a row showed some courage and some fine bowling from Chris Boyce who picked up 4 wickets, saw Fosters 30 runs short with five wickets in hand. Any repeat of last weeks heroics were dashed however when Ben Wood, who was struggling to read the spin of Mehta, decided to hit out. Two lusty blows over the straight boundary put Fosters in sight of victory which was completed in the following over by Danny Becker.

Next week Bar face rock bottom Eversholt, with availability looking much stronger, Bar will be hoping for a victory to propel them back up the table.