

## Bar slump to defeat

Potters Bar 2<sup>nd</sup> XI suffered their third league defeat of the season to Northchurch 1<sup>st</sup> XI last weekend. Having won the toss and elected to bat first, Bar had hoped to post a score in excess of 200. However some accurate new ball bowling meant that bar got off to a poor and lost their first wicket with the score on 17, as Matt Evans was bowled by Hobley. Things went from bad to worse for Bar as Adyita Mehta and Dave Pett went in quick succession, leaving Bar at 39 for 3. Mehta has looked good for his 25, but not for the first time this season gave his wicket away too easily.

Matt Webb and Charlie Hodge rebuilt the innings and added 50 for the fourth wicket before Webb was out LBW for 37, Hodge followed soon after as bar fell to 114 for 6. The innocuous bowling of Wilkinson continued to trouble Bar's batsman, he managed to pick up five wickets of which three were bowled, in the end Bar slumped to 150 all out.

In reply Bar opened with the spin attack of Paul McGee and Luke Owers, McGee struck early bowling opener Cox for 6. Owers also chipped in picking up the next two wickets and when McGee got his second Northchurch were struggling at 42 – 4. It could have been worse for the visitors as overseas starlet Gorrie survived a string stumping shout when he was on 7.

With the score at 84 – 4, Greg Hodge decided to take the new ball, the decision was successfully initially as his brother Charlie removed Hobley LBW. However the next four overs cost 40 runs as a combination of poor bowling and no balls let Northchurch off the leash. Hodge returned to the spin of Mehta and Owers, who picked up a wicket each, despite an excellent catch by Dave Pett to remove Gorrie for a well made 62, Northchurch sealed the victory with three wickets in hand. Luke Owers finished with figures of 3 for 41 and was one of a limited number of players to come away from the game with any credit.

Bar face promotion chasing Flitwick next week and will need to put in a better batting performance if they going to get anything out of this game.