

Pett stars as Bar chase down 229

Potters Bar 2<sup>nd</sup> XI chased 229 to beat Watford Town 1<sup>ST</sup> XI on Saturday thanks to a majestic innings of 97 by youngster Tom Pett. Following the wet weather during the week, Greg Hodge won the toss and asked the hosts to bat first on a wet looking wicket. Greg and his brother Charlie were unable to make early inroads and Greg quickly turned to the spin of Luke Owers.

Owers took a wicket in his first over as Watford's opener charged down the wicket and was stumped by a couple of feet. In the next few overs a couple of controversial umpiring decisions denied Bar any further wickets, and Charlie Hodge was replaced by Dean Dass. Dass was quickly into his stride, and picked up the wicket of Watford's captain LBW who offered no shot to a turning ball.

Owers and Dass kept things tight, but were let down by some poor fielding. The pair bowled throughout Watford's innings and picked up five wickets a piece, as Town were dismissed in the final over for 229. Owers collected figures of 5 for 104 and Dass 5 for 91.

Following an unbeaten innings of 42 last week, Tom Pett opened the batting again for Potters Bar and it was clear early on he was determined to score heavily. His uncle, Dave Pett hit some early boundaries, but was dismissed for 21 when he swept a full toss to square leg. Potters Bar's number 3 Nath lasted only two balls as he was LBW to another full ball, this brought overseas player Ajith Walallawitta to the crease.

Walallawitta and Pett rebuilt Bar's innings well, with Walallawitta hitting some lusty blows and Pett playing nicely on both sides of the wicket. However Walallawitta fell trying one shot to many and left Bar at 70 for 3. Pett carried on playing well and brought up his maiden 2<sup>nd</sup> team league fifty with a trade mark flick off his legs. Bar's number 5 Dass started to play some big shots and the required rate fell to less than 5 an over.

However the removal of Dass led to the loss of three quick wickets as Charlie Hodge and Luke Owers both fell in quick succession. Pett carried on batting well and Dan Brown hit a couple driven fours to leave Bar needing ten runs off the last three overs. Pett went to play the ball off his legs again in search of the win but was unfortunately bowled for a superb 97. With ten runs needed captain Greg Hodge drove his third ball for four and it was left to Dan Brown to secure the winning runs with three balls to spare.

The victory leaves Bar the highest placed second team in the county and within touching distance of fourth place in division 2. Captain Hodge was delighted after the game and said, "It is brilliant that Tom has come back after scoring runs last week and made another big score today, although he will be disappointed not to have made three figures, he is a team man and was searching for the win. I am sure he will not have to wait too long before he reaches the landmark anyway."