

Match Report: 1<sup>st</sup> Sept 2007. Potters Bar 3rds

Potters Bar 3rds 130 a/o (45.0 overs) beat Parkfield & Headstone 1sts 117 a/o (52.0 overs) by 13 runs

Potters Bar welcomed an unbeaten Parkfield side to their temporary home ground at Bentley Heath CC, knowing that another defeat might consign them to relegation. Regular skipper John Lewis was absent on domestic duties, so veteran seamer Neil Raisborough stood in, and on winning the toss, elected to bat first.

On a slow wicket with variable bounce runs proved hard to come by against a highly competent Parkfield attack. Bob Daley's woes continued as he was dismissed for 1 and then Potters Bar's top batsmen, Ajith Walallawita and Samitha Jayakody made starts but fell for 13 and 10 respectively. Lewis's replacement as wicket-keeper, Steve Moore, battled through as wickets fell around him and took advantage of four dropped catches to compile the game's top score of 49. Moore was eighth out with the score on 114 and the Potters Bar innings eventually closed on 130. Willis was the most successful Parkfield bowler with figures of 5-22.

With no batting bonus points secured and a low total on the board, Potters Bar appeared to be in serious trouble, but Parkfield found the wicket equally difficult. Key batsman Schmid was bowled by one which kept low and a further three wickets fell before the total reached 50. Ali and Sheikh then compiled a partnership of 41 for the 5<sup>th</sup> wicket which looked as though it would take the game beyond Potters Bar, but with the score on 90 Rupert Pyrah eventually won an lbw appeal to dismiss Ali. Six wickets then fell for 19 runs as the persevering Pyrah whittled away at the Parkfield batting, supported by tigerish fielding from his team-mates. The final wicket fell when last man Asher top-edged an attempted pull to square leg where Alice Owens PE teacher, Ian Breeze, safely pouched his third catch of the innings. Potters Bar had pulled off a stunning victory by just 13 runs against the Division 6 leaders, and with Boxmoor's defeat against Southgate Compton, it guarantees another season of Division 6 cricket for Potters Bar 3rds. Pyrah completed a marathon spell of 26 overs to take 7-46 and was well supported by Raisborough (2-41) and Michael John (1-24).