

Potters Bar 3rds 164 ao (50.5 overs) beat Abbots Langley 2nds 145 ao (47.3 overs) by 19 runs.

Potters Bars 3rds travelled to Manor House Park on Saturday to take on fellow mid-table team Abbots Langley 2nds.

Skipper John Lewis lost the toss on a humid day and Potters Bar were invited to bat first. Lewis (31) and veteran Rob Daley (33) encountered few problems with the Abbots Langley opening attack and the pair put on 66 for the first wicket. The departure of Lewis heralded a collapse with the next five wickets falling for only 36 runs. When Ajith Walallowita fell to a full toss for 22 Potters Bar were in danger of being bowled out for another low score, but Will Daley (22) and Hayden Rogers (17) set about repairing the damage. Potters Bar eventually posted a competitive total of 164, with Brown (5-32) being the pick of the Abbots Langley bowlers.

Abbots Langley struggled to get the ball off the square early on against some accurate bowling from Rupert Pyrah and Neil Raisborough. With half their allotted 49 overs gone Abbots Langley had crawled to 48-3. Bishop (33) and Cantelow (43) then accelerated the scoring rate, putting on 54 for the 4th wicket and at 93-3 Potters Bar were in danger of losing their grip on the game.

Veteran slow left-armer Paul McGee then lured opener Bishop down the pitch with a flighted delivery and Lewis took a smart stumping. Wickets continued to fall at regular intervals as Abbots Langley attempted to keep up with the required run rate. The Potters Bar fielders took some good catches and Abbots Langley were finally dismissed 19 runs short of the Potters Bar score when Rob Daley took an ankle-high catch at slip. McGee was the most successful bowler with 5-57, good support coming from Raisborough (3-36) and Pyrah (2-42).

Next Saturday Potters Bar 3rds host 5th placed Berkhamstead 2nds in a game which should indicate whether they can realistically mount a promotion challenge this season.

Rupert Pyrah