

Hertford 3rds 143-8 (53 overs) bt Potters Bar 3rds 59 all out (29.1 overs) by 84 runs

Skipper John Lewis lost the toss against lowly-placed Hertford 3rds who elected to bat.

Hertford struggled against an accurate Potters Bar attack in conditions which offered movement both in the air and off the pitch. Neil Raisborough secured lbw decisions against Hertford's leading batsmen Patel and Benfold to reduce Hertford to 47-3 in the 22nd over. But the Hertford middle over applied themselves, took few risks, and ran well between the wickets to grind out 143-8 in their allotted 53 overs. Rupert Pyrah bowled 27 accurate overs and finished with 4-57. Michael John on his first appearance this year for the 3rds beat the bat repeatedly and took 2-45 from 14 overs.

Potters Bar were confident about reaching the total against a very moderate Hertford attack, even though their batting line-up on paper was not particularly strong. But a combination of rash shots by Rogers, Walallawita and John, and a controversial leg before decision awarded by the Hertford umpire against in-form opener Bob Daley plunged them deep into trouble. Only Nuwindra Nath with a hard hit 30 managed to build an innings as wickets fell rapidly at the other end. The innings closed on an abysmal 59 when Toby Seaman was bowled swinging across the line. Nath scored over half the runs and no other batsmen made more than 5. The results leave Potters Bar 3rds only 11 points above the relegation zone, and with their last four fixtures being against top sides, they must win their next fixture at bottom club Kings Langley if they are going to preserve their Division 6 status.

*Rupert Pyrah*