

Berkhamstead 2nds 256-5 dec (47.0 overs) bt Potters Bar 3rds 191 ao (43.2 overs) by 65 runs.

On a very humid afternoon at Dame Alice Owens School, Potters Bar skipper John Lewis gambled on his bowlers dismissing high-flying Berkhamstead 2nds for a low score. However, the two Berkhamstead openers, James and Chripson, got off to a flying start on a good batting wicket, aided by some ragged Potters Bar fielding. It wasn't until the 32nd over when the score had reached 168 before the pair were separated with Chripson dismissed for 83, Neil Oak taking a caught and bowled from a full toss. Berkhamstead 2nds continued to pile on the runs with James, who benefited from a dropped catch before he had scored 20, eventually reaching 107 not out. Berkhamstead declared at the end of the 47th over on 256-5, leaving Potters Bar 53 overs to reach the target. Only youngster Neil Oak emerged with any real credit, taking 3-46. Left armer Paul McGee toiled manfully for 16 overs to take 2-92.

Potters Bar reply was led by veteran opener Bob Daley who notched 31, but 3 wickets fell in rapid succession to leave Potters Bar on 48-3. It was only then that Potters Bar started taking the game to Berkhamstead when their two Sri Lankans Ajith Walallawita and Nuwindra Nath showed just how good the pitch was by adding 76 for the 4th wicket at a run-a-ball. The score had reached 124-3 when the drinks break arrived, but in the first over after the break Walallawita nicked one to the keeper to depart for 36. Nath was caught on the boundary soon afterwards for a season's best 45, and it was then left to skipper John Lewis to marshal the tail. Wickets continued to fall regularly, with Lewis last man out for 46 as Potters Bar subsided to 191 all out.

Potters Bar entertain fellow mid table team Radlett 4ths next Saturday at Dame Alice Owens.

*Rupert Pyrah*