

Boxmoor 219-9 (53 overs) drew with Potters Bar 3rds 203-9 (47 overs)

An entertaining game saw Boxmoor and Potters Bar 3rds draw their last Saracens League game of the 2006 season.

Boxmoor won the toss and elected to bat in bright sunshine at their home ground.

Buoyed by a quickfire 48 from opener Townsend, Boxmoor raced to 60-1 before Potters Bar seamers Rupert Pyrah and Hayden Rogers broke through to claim four wickets in rapid succession. However, with only three bowlers to call on, Potters Bar struggled to take further wickets. Hodgins (63), Hamilton and Samuels fought back to put on a total of 100 runs for the 6th and 7th wickets. The Boxmoor innings finally closed on 219-9, with Hayden Rogers the pick of the bowlers, taking 3-56 from 19 overs. Skipper Rupert Pyrah bowled throughout the innings to take 4-117 from 27 overs, taking his total haul for the League season to 48 wickets at just under 18 apiece. Timmy Fadipe, playing only his second game of the season, took 2-27.

The Potters Bar innings began soundly with a stand of 47 between Roy Metselaar (22) and evergreen opener Bob Daley, before the latter departed for a robust 35. Daley finished the season with 461 runs at an average of 42, marking a welcome return to form after a disappointing 2005 season. The challenge was taken up by Ajith Walallawita who batted in his usual cavalier manner to hit a rapid 36. At 156-4 with 11 overs remaining, Potters Bar were well-placed to pull off a victory but Walallawita and Jeyaratnam fell on the same score. Will Daley, Paul Kennedy and Hayden Rogers continued to chase the Boxmoor total but wickets fell at regular intervals, and when Kennedy fell to the last ball of the penultimate over Potters Bar 's last pair shut up shop. Fadipe batted with creditable resolution to keep out Boxmoor in the last over, and secure the draw with Potters Bar 17 runs short of victory.

After two successive promotions, Potters Bar 3rds finished in 8th position in Division 6. If it had not been for a weather-affected cancellation by lowly Letchworth 3rds two weeks earlier, a third promotion would have been on the cards. But Potters Bar 3rds can look back with some satisfaction on their first campaign in Division 6.

*Rupert Pyrah*