

Potters Bar 3rds 220-8 (45 overs) drew with Kings Langley 2nds 198-8 (55 overs)

Potters Bar 3rds put behind their batting woes of last week to make their highest score of the season. On a warm day at Vicarage Lane, the Kings Langley skipper won the toss and invited John Lewis's men to bat. Opener Rob Daley fell early, but Lewis and youngster Tom Pett then set about compiling Potters Bar's highest stand of the season, adding 84 runs for the 2nd wicket. When Lewis fell to a faint nick behind for 58, Pett was joined by the big-hitting Sri Lankan Ajith Walallawita (37) who between them added another 53 for the third wicket. When Pett fell for a League best score of 66 with the score on 158, Potters Bar's fragile batting succumbed to another collapse with 6 wickets falling for just 26 runs. Maximum batting points were secured however by Michael John with a hard-hit 30*, allowing Lewis to declare with 8 overs to spare on 220-8.

The Kings Langley reply started slowly as Potters Bar openers Pyrah and John conceded only 2 runs per over for the first 20 overs. But aided by dropped catches and a pitch which got better for batting as the match progressed, Kings Langley gradually increased their scoring rate. A 4th wicket stand of 89 between Sambrook (57) and ex 1st team captain Cook (50) threatened to take the game away from Potters Bar, as they took the Kings Langley score to 183-3. The return of Michael John who bowled fast and accurately in his second spell heralded a collapse by Kings Langley as they lost 5 wickets for 15 runs, and the game ended with the 9th wicket pair hanging on for a draw. John took a well-deserved 4-35 from 13 overs, with support from Hayden Rogers who bowled his longest spell of the season to take 3-47.

Potters Bar were left to rue 7 dropped catches, and although they secured 18 bonus points, they should have secured a win against a team which is firmly anchored to the bottom of the table.

Rupert Pyrah