

Abbots Langley 2nd XI 197-8 (52 overs) drew with Potters Bar 3rd XI 177-8 (46 overs) at Dame Alice Owens School.

Potters Bar 3rd XI's bid for promotion from Herts League Div 6 was derailed on Saturday, as they drew with mid-table Abbots Langley.

With a strong batting line-up at his disposal, Bar skipper Dave Rock decided to insert the opposition when he won the toss, hoping to chase down any target set by Abbots Langley. The plan started to back-fire almost immediately when last year's leading wicket taker, Neil Raisborough collapsed in agony during the eighth over. He eventually limped off and took no further part in the game, leaving the Bar to field and bat with only ten men. The depleted bowling attack failed to make early inroads into the Abbots Langley top order, with opener Parkin accumulating a careful 60. At 88-1 the Bar were looking down the barrel at a 200+ score, but seamer Rupert Pyrah continued to plug away, and when Abbots Langley slumped to 136-5, Potters Bar were in with a chance. But Battams (31) and Brown (21) took advantage of some lacklustre Bar fielding to put together a crucial 47 for the 6th wicket. Abbots Langley finally achieved a respectable 197-8 from their allotted overs.

Rupert Pyrah bowled unchanged from the Pavilion End to take 5-92, while Rick Martin bowled tightly at the end of the innings to take 2-22.

The Bar innings started disastrously when Jesse Tailor was called for a sharp single by veteran opener Bob Daley and was run out without a run on the board. Daley (35) and Ravi Vigh (28) set about reconstructing the innings and put on 55 for the 2nd wicket, before Daley was given out LBW slogging to leg. Potters Bar slumped to 93-4, but Ajith Walallawita and 16 year-old Luke Owers put on 47 for the 5th wicket to revive hopes of a Bar victory. Wickets then continued to fall and with eight balls left John Erroll inexplicably swung across a straight ball to bring last man Pyrah to the wicket. The final over was faced by Ajith Walallawita, who by this time had progressed to 56*. The evergreen Sri Lankan managed to negotiate the last over, but not without alarm. He survived a big shout for a pad-bat catch off the third ball, and a game which had hitherto been played in a good spirit, ended on a slightly rancorous note.

Potters Bar secured only six points from the draw and fell six places to 11th in a very tight Division 6. With serious doubts over the long-term fitness of Raisborough, skipper Rock missing the last six games, and a tough fixture list up to the end of August, the Bar will have to raise their performances if their promotion challenge is not to turn into a relegation battle.

Rupert Pyrah