

Potters Bar 3rds 114 all out (42 overs) lost to Hemel Hempstead 3rds 115-7 (41.4 overs) by 3 wickets.

Potters Bar 3rds traveled to Hemel Hempstead's ground at Met Police Bushey, and on a grey day with a constant threat of drizzle, skipper John Lewis won the toss and elected to bat.

After the early loss of opener Rob Daley, Potters Bar batsmen John Lewis and Ajith Walallawita scored freely and after 17 overs had reached 69-1. However the introduction of Doodson (5-16) and Jones (4-16) to the Hemel attack changed the complexion of the game. The lack of depth in the Potters Bar batting line-up was cruelly exposed and the last 9 wickets fell for just 45 runs. Only Lewis (45) and Walallawita (21) reached double figures.

Hemel Hempstead also struggled on a slow pitch offering considerable seam movement. When their 5th wicket fell with the score on 47, Potters Bar appeared to be favourites. But a crucial 6th wicket stand of 34 between youngsters Hussain and Khan enabled Hemel to gain the upper hand. as rain began to fall steadily, it became increasingly difficult for the Potters Bar bowlers to grip the ball, and in the end Hemel knocked off the runs with 16 overs to spare. Neil Raisborough had bowled accurately from one end to take 3-42 off 19 overs, while Hayden Rogers took 2-16 and also executed a superb run out.

Next week Potters Bar travel to Abbots Langley, and will hope that both their batting and bowling will be strengthened by improved availability in the higher X1s.

Rupert Pyrah