

Potters Bar 3rds 220-9 (53.0) bt Kings Langley 2nds 143 (40.2) by 77 runs.

Potters Bar 3rds turned in one of their best performances of the season to beat a hitherto unbeaten Kings Langley side by 77 runs at Vicarage Lane.

Kings Langley won the toss and inserted Potters Bar on a flat wicket at Vicarage Road. Potters Bar struggled at first against tight bowling from Sills and Khan. Opener Scarisbrick departed for 0, but Rob Daley and Matt Evans saw the shine off the ball to build a crucial partnership of 93 for the second wicket. When Daley departed for 40, Evans was joined by skipper Dave Rock (22), and they took the score to 137 before Rock skied a catch to mid-off. Walallawita and John Pett departed cheaply, but youngster Luke Owers joined Evans and advanced the score to 183. Matt Evans looked certain to make a maiden ton, but was tragically run out for 89 by a pinpoint throw from the boundary. Owers (19), Jesse Tailor (14), and Dan Brown (10) all chipped in, enabling the Bar to post 220-9.

The Kings Langley reply began with a flurry of boundaries as Waters (19) and Smith (44) punished anything pitched short. The crucial breakthrough came in the 15th over when Owers bowled Waters. Rupert Pyrah then removed Kings Langley's top batsman Houghton for 1, thanks to a spectacular one-handed catch by Jesse Tailor at slip. Unfortunately Houghton won few friends by contesting a bona fide dismissal, introducing an isolated sour note to a game, which was otherwise played in a good spirit.

Smith and Pishedda (31) set about repairing the innings and took the score to 99-2 before Pyrah ripped one through Pishedda's defences. Wickets then started to fall regularly, and Kings Langley eventually succumbed for 143 when Khan nicked a ball from Dan Brown to keeper Rock.

Rupert Pyrah bowled with pace and aggression throughout the Kings Langley innings to finish with 7-70 from 20 overs. He was ably supported by the off-spin of Luke Owers who took 2-41 from 13 overs.

Potters Bar rose two places to 9th, but in a very tight division both promotion and relegation are still possibilities. Bar host 3rd placed Southgate Compton 1sts next Saturday in a key game for both sides.

Rupert Pyrah