

Radlett 4ths 181-6 (53.0 overs) lost to Potters Bar 3rds 182-5 (39.0 overs) by 5 wickets

Potters Bar travelled to Cobden Hill on Saturday for the third match of their 2008 Division 6 league campaign. Potters Bar skipper Neil Raisborough lost the toss and was invited to field in persistent drizzle.

Potters Bar opening bowlers Alex Whitehouse and Aditya Sheth were unable to make inroads with a greasy ball as Radlett's openers Bell and Johnson added 89 for the 1st wicket.

It was not until the introduction of experienced medium-pacers Raisborough and Rupert Pyrah that Potters Bar started applying pressure on the Radlett batsmen. Pyrah made the initial breakthrough, bowling Bell for 55, and Raisborough followed with the wickets of Johnson and Daily Telegraph cricket correspondent Charles Randall. Meepagama and Hardy then put on 36 for the 4th wicket, but just as they upped the scoring rate, Pyrah struck again to remove Hardy. Neither side could establish a dominant position and the Radlett innings eventually closed at 181-6 after 53 overs. Pyrah finished with 3-44 and Raisborough took 2-56 off 18 overs.

At the tea interval the drizzle worsened and threatened to bring the game to a premature close, but at 6.00pm the weather relented sufficiently to allow Potters Bar to start their innings with a reduced allocation of 41 overs.

Metselaar fell almost immediately, bowled behind his legs, but veteran Bob Daley continued his rich vein of form, scoring 38 of the runs in a 2nd wicket stand of 43 with ex-skipper John Erroll. Daley was caught for 54 with the score at 71, and last season's top run-scorer John Lewis was joined by Indian import Aditya Sheth. Together they put on 37 for the 4th wicket. When Lewis fell for 31 the match was in the balance with Potters Bar still 74 runs adrift with 6 wickets in hand. Sheth and Hayden Rogers then compiled the crucial stand of the innings in gloomy conditions which made the ball hard to pick up. Sheth fell for a classy 37 but Rogers and Randika Gayantha knocked off the last 26 runs to win the game for Bar with just 12 balls to spare.

A much improved batting display will give Potters Bar a welcome boost before next Saturday's game against newly promoted Hatfield Crusaders.

Rupert Pyrah