

Boxmoor 1sts 246-3 (53 overs) drew with Potters Bar 3rds 209-9 (47 overs)

Potters Bar 3rds travelled to the Boxmoor Oval on Saturday for a crucial bottom of the table clash with fellow relegation candidates Boxmoor 1sts. On a warm afternoon the home side won the toss and elected to bat on a good batting wicket.

The Boxmoor openers survived some early chances to put on 45 for the first wicket when Neil Raisborough trapped Hinton in front for 19. But as the new ball lost its shine and hardness, the Boxmoor batsmen settled in the crease and began to play shots around the wicket. The score had passed 100 before Potters Bar enjoyed further success, Hodgins playing on to Michael John for 22. The third wicket fell on 138, but that was the last success the Potters Bar bowlers were to enjoy, as Pimm and Young began to feast on a tiring Potters Bar attack. 90 runs were added in the last ten overs as Boxmoor took their score to 246-3 when their allotted overs ran out. The opener, Pimm eventually finished on 122* Potters Bar's hopes of reaching this daunting target took an early blow when leading run-scorer Bob Daley nicked one to the keeper for just 2. Veteran Roy Metselaar and promising colt Adam Titmus took the score to 49 when Metselaar was adjudged lbw for 26. Both John Lewis and Usman Chaudhry fell for single figure scores, but at the other end Adam Titmus was playing some sweetly-timed shots through cover and off his legs to register his maiden 3rd team fifty. Disaster struck with the score on 115 when Titmus (54) and Andy Hughes (19) holed out in consecutive overs. With 132 required and just 4 wickets left, Potters Bar's chances looked slim, but number seven Michael John had other ideas as he proceeded to launch a violent assault on a moderate Boxmoor attack. John struck 10 4's and a six as he blasted 61 in just 11 overs before succumbing to a full toss as he looked to smash another ball to the midwicket boundary. The tenth wicket pair of Neil Raisborough and John Erroll were left to negotiate the last six overs to deny Boxmoor the 30 points for a win and, in doing so, took the score beyond 200 to register maximum batting points. Raisborough survived two close calls for lbw in the final over to finish on 12*.

Potters Bar will hope for improved availability of players next Saturday when they travel to Cockfosters to take on promotion candidates Southgate Compton 1sts.

Rupert Pyrah