

Potters Bar 3rds 130 all out (40.3 overs) lost to Hatch End 1sts 134-3 (26.5 overs) by 7 wickets

A disastrous mid innings batting collapse condemned Potters Bar 3rds to their fifth Division 6 league defeat of the season, and they have now slipped back into the relegation zone.

On arrival at Hatch End on a sultry afternoon, Potters Bar were greeted by the sight of the burnt out shell of the home team's pavilion, destroyed in an arson attack a month earlier. Stand-in skipper Rob Daley won the toss and elected to bat. It soon became clear that the wicket was in no better state than the pavilion, as some balls leapt head-high off a length, while others shot through at ankle height. The Bar's openers, Daley and Titmuss, rode their luck early on to compile 35 for the first wicket before Titmuss fended off another steeply lifting ball to gully. Daley fell five runs later for 26 and Scarisbrick was bowled for a duck to leave Potters Bar in trouble at 40-3. Aditya Sheth (19) and Dan Brown added 22 for the 4th wicket, but their departure in consecutive overs was followed soon after by most of the remaining Potters Bar batting line-up. In the space of just 12 overs Potters Bar collapsed from 35-0 to 76-9. With Bar's lowest score of the season on the cards, veteran Roy Metselaar was joined by last man Rupert Pyrah, and together they dug in to compile the highest stand of the innings. As the score crept up Hatch End's frustration boiled over, culminating in a prolonged verbal confrontation between Sidiqi and Metselaar, which was only ended by the intervention of the umpire. Metselaar and Pyrah resisted for 20 overs and had added 54 for the 10th wicket, before Pyrah was adjudged caught behind for a top score of 32. Metselaar was unbeaten on 20*, while Asif Hussein and Rameez Darvesh finished with figures of 6-47 and 4-30 respectively. Knowing that an unplayable ball was always round the corner, the Hatch End openers flung the bat at everything from the start. A combination of good luck, mediocre fielding and bowling that allowed the batsmen too much width, enabled Hatch End to get off to a flyer. The score had reached 64 in the 12th over when Daley at mid-off clung on to a hard hit chance from Sidiqi. The 2nd wicket pair added 44 and by then the game was effectively lost. Pyrah bowled Blennerhassett for 51 with the scores level, but Khan hit the winning runs off the next ball, as Hatch End ran out comfortable winners in the 27th over of their reply. The only wicket takers were Pyrah with 2-48 and Dan Brown with 1-21.

Potters Bar 3rds host Letchworth 3rds next Saturday at Dame Alice Owen's School, hoping that improved availability will enable them to put out a more competitive team.