

Potters Bar 3rds 183 ao (47.4 overs) lost to Hatfield Crusaders 187-5 (42.2 overs) by 5 wickets

Potters Bar 3rds hosted newly promoted Hatfield Crusaders on Saturday. Potters Bar skipper Neil Raisborough won the toss and elected to bat on another good batting wicket at Dame Alice Owens school. His decision appeared to have back-fired as John Lewis and Hayden Rogers were dismissed for ducks. But in-form veteran opener Rob Daley and Mark Taylor took the fight to the Crusaders attack, putting on 96 for the 3rd wicket, before Daley fell for 44. Taylor was joined by Mumbai import Aditya Sheth and the two of them continued to play some handsome strokes to take the score to 134, when a tiring Taylor skied a catch with his score on 60. Andy Hughes playing his first match of the season looked in good form until he was run out in a terrible mix-up with Sheth, who soon followed for a well-struck 42. The Potters Bar tail didn't wag, and the innings subsided to 183 all out, with only Steve Brown of the lower order batsmen reaching double figures. The final score looked about 30-40 runs short of a challenging total, particularly as Crusaders had 52 overs to reach the target.

Singh opened for Crusaders and batted as though he was aiming to finish the match in 20 overs, but he fell to a sensational catch in the deep by Hughes for 22. The second wicket fell on 42 as keeper Lewis held on to a snick to dismiss the Crusaders skipper. Potters Bar would have taken a 3rd wicket soon afterwards if they hadn't dropped Horden when his score was 7 and if the umpire had upheld a loud Bar appeal for a catch behind off colt Tom Rowlands. This was to cost Potters Bar dearly as Hordern went on to bat through the Crusaders innings compiling 72*. Neil Raisborough took a couple of wickets to reduce Crusaders to 114-4, and at that stage Potters Bar appeared to be favourites. But the Crusaders middle order would not allow the Bars's bowlers to dominate, and an unbroken 6th wicket stand of 43 between Horden and Singh took Crusaders to what ultimately was a fairly comfortable win. Neil Raisborough was the most successful Potters Bar bowler, taking 2-37.

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