

Letchworth 3rds 204-7 (53 overs) drew with Potters Bar 3rds 172-8 (47 overs)

It was a day of missed opportunities for Potters Bar 3rds as they took on Letchworth 3rds in a Division 6 fixture at Dame Alice Owens School.

In light drizzle the Letchworth skipper won the toss and elected to bat on a wicket which offered slow bounce throughout. Potters Bar got off to a good start as Tom Rowlands reduced the visitors to 14-2 in the 4<sup>th</sup> over. The Letchworth 3<sup>rd</sup> wicket pair added 43 before another two wickets fell in quick succession as Usman Chaudhary and Adam Titmuss took catches off the persevering Michael John. Potters Bar were then held up as the Letchworth 5<sup>th</sup> wicket pairing of Bridge and Herts Over 60's player Dovey ground out a stand of 48 in 17 overs. Potters Bar gained the initiative again when Rupert Pyrah clean bowled Bridge and the number seven in rapid succession to leave Letchworth tottering at 115-6. However, Potters Bar allowed the game to slip from their grasp as slack fielding allowed Letchworth to take a succession of quick singles. 66 runs were added in the last ten overs with Dovey eventually succumbing to John for 77. John ended with figures of 3-58, and Rowlands and Pyrah took 2-43 and 2-56 respectively.

As the wicket improved throughout the day Potters Bar felt the target of 205 was well within their reach, but the departures of Daley, Titmuss, Scarisbrick and Lewis to careless shots with only 43 on the board left the home team with a mountain to climb. Chaudhary and Hayden Rogers demonstrated how easy it was to stay in by adding a season's best 5<sup>th</sup> wicket partnership of 53, when Chaudhary advanced down the wicket and was comfortably stumped for 21. Rogers and John upped the scoring rate to resurrect Potters Bar's hopes but when Rogers departed for 55 and John was eighth man out for 21, it was left to Roy Metselaar (15\*) and skipper Neil Raisborough to block out the last two overs for a draw. Against what was easily the weakest bowling attack encountered in Division 6 this year, Potters Bar were left to rue a missed chance to secure one of the two wins which will probably be needed to secure their Division 6 survival.

The Bar travel to Balls Park next Saturday to take on fellow strugglers Hertford 3rds.