

Potters Bar 3rds 190-9 (53 overs) drew with Preston 2nds 190-7 (47 overs)

Potters Bar 3rds hosted mid-table Preston 2nds on Saturday at Dame Alice Owens School in a game which was crucial to the Bar's Division 6 survival hopes.

Potters Bar skipper Neil Raisborough won the toss and elected to bat on an easy-paced wicket. John Lewis and Adam Titmuss got Potters Bar off to a good start, putting on 41 for the 1st wicket before Lewis was bowled for 25. Titmuss was joined by Ben Scarisbrick and they put on a further 20 before Titmuss was caught for 20. Aditya Sheth and Scarisbrick then compiled the best stand of the innings to put Potters Bar in the box seat. Unfortunately both were dismissed in the space of three overs, Scarisbrick top scoring with 39 and Sheth for 27. The fifth wicket pair of Navindra Nath and Hayden Rogers ensured that Potters Bar didn't collapse by adding 33 runs to take the score to 150 when Nath was bowled by the Preston slow left armer for 11. Wickets fell at regular intervals thereafter but the Potters Bar tail took the final total to 190-9 to set Preston a challenging target.

Potters Bar got off to a great start when Preston replied as a fired-up Michael John took three early wickets to leave Preston tottering on 30-3. But further wickets proved elusive as Preston ground out 51 for the 4th wicket and 54 for the 5th wicket. However, the required run rate was steadily mounting and the Preston batsmen were forced to take more and more chances. Tom Rowlands dismissed the top scorer Harrington-Smith for 50, Raisborough took a tumbling catch off John, and Nath secured a run out with an accurate throw to keeper Steve Moore. When the last over, bowled by Michael John, commenced, Preston required ten runs with three wickets remaining. Garnham hit a boundary of the 4th ball and with one ball remaining Preston required two to win. Bizarrely the Preston number nine had failed to realise that it was the last ball and after striking the ball wide of cover he turned down a second run. So the game finished with the scores level and the match was drawn. Michael John was the most successful bowler with 5-61 from 19 overs.

Potters Bar secured 15 bonus points from the game, but results elsewhere meant that they will go into the game at Ware next Saturday needing at least a good haul of bonus points if they are to avoid relegation.