

Totteridge & Millhillians III 185-9 (53 overs) drew with Potters Bar III 143-9 (47 overs)

Potters Bar 3rds travelled to Headstone Lane on Saturday to take on high-flying Totteridge & Millhillians 3rds. Potters Bar skipper Neil Raisborough won the toss and elected to bowl first, hoping that his strong bowling attack would dismiss TMCC for a low score, despite a flat batting track.

Promising colt Tom Rowlands made the first breakthrough with the wickets of both the TMCC openers in the 10th over. There followed a tense attritional period of cricket for the next 30 overs, as the TMCC batsmen struggled to get the ball off the square against accurate Potters Bar bowling. Wickets fell regularly, and when the 6th wicket fell in the 40th over with the TMCC score on just 114, Potters Bar had high hopes of restricting TMCC to a score of less than 150. But a couple of dropped catches and missed run out chances let the TMCC 7th wicket pair off the hook, and they proceeded to add 39 crucial runs. The lower order all chipped in and the TMCC innings eventually closed on 185-9 at the end of the 53rd over. The most successful bowlers were Neil Raisborough with 3-35 and Rupert Pyrah with 3-52.

Potters Bar got off to a poor start with the top three being dismissed for 5, 3 and 0 respectively. Debutant Usman Chaudry attempted to hit his way out of trouble, but departed for 11 to a skied catch. When top batsman John Lewis was caught on the long-off boundary for a classy 41 and Ben Scarisbrick was bowled off his pads for 3, Potters Bar's hopes of winning seemed to have disappeared. But the limited TMCC attack was visibly tiring, and the Bar's 7th wicket pair of Nawindra Nath and Andy Hughes took advantage to add 48 quick runs. At 126-6 with 60 required at a run a ball Potters Bar had renewed hopes of an unlikely victory, but then Hughes was adjudged lbw for 32, and Raisborough departed in the same manner two overs later. In the meantime Michael John had sliced to cover, and it was left to the last wicket pair of Nath and Pyrah to negotiate the last 7 overs, which they did successfully with Nath, in his first game of the season, finishing unbeaten on 38*.

Next Saturday Potters Bar travel to lowly Boxmoor, knowing that anything less than 30 points for a win will leave them in a relegation dogfight.

Rupert Pyrah