

Watford Town 2nds 166 all out lost to Potters Bar 3rds 167-6 by 4 wickets.

Potters Bar 3rds opened their Division 6 league campaign with a trip to last season's strugglers Watford Town 2nds. New captain and Potters Bar stalwart Neil Raisborough lost his first toss and Potters Bar were invited to field first.

The opening bowlers, Rupert Pyrah and promising colt Alex Whitehouse, bowled a tight line on a damp wicket as Watford struggled early on. However, last season's frailties in the field reappeared as Watford took advantage of dropped catches to accelerate the run rate. Watford captain, Hameed, was missed three times and as he grew in confidence he began to pepper the legside boundary. At 146-4 with 20 overs to go Potters Bar faced a target of over 200, but a smart stumping by keeper Steve Moore off the tiring Raisborough sent Hameed on his way for 98. This exposed a weak tail and the last six wickets fell for 20 runs as Watford subsided to 166 all out at the end of the 50th over. Rupert Pyrah was the pick of the bowlers with 4-39 off 14 overs, while Neil Raisborough supported with 2-25.

The Potters Bar reply got off to a fine start as veteran opener Rob Daley took advantage of a succession of slow waist-high full tosses to blast a quickfire 50. The fall of Daley with the score on 80 precipitated Potters Bar's own batting collapse. Manzoor Ali took 4 wickets as Bar's upper order contrived to get themselves out, and at 122-6 the clear favourites were Watford Town. Kiwi import Hayden Rogers was then joined by Whitehouse and the two of them batted sensibly to take the game away from Watford with an unbeaten stand of 45 as Potters Bar ran out victors by a 4 wicket margin.

Rogers finished with 27* and Whitehouse was unbeaten on 15*.

Next Saturday Potters Bar 3rds entertain last season's Div 7 champions Met Police Bushey 1sts in what promises to be a tough task for the Bar.

Rupert Pyrah