

Welwyn Garden City 3rds 176 (49.4 overs) lost to Potters Bar 3rds 177-5 (39.4 overs) by 5 wickets.

After last week's defeat to lowly Abbots Langley 2nds, Potters Bar 3rds looked to get back on track against struggling local rivals Welwyn Garden City 3rds at Dame Alice Owen's School.

Returning skipper Neil Raisborough won the toss and inserted Welwyn Garden City on a rain-affected wicket. His decision reaped immediate dividends when Michael John bowled Oliver with the first ball of the match. Terry Edwards and City skipper Yates set about repairing the damage with a second wicket stand of 53 before John struck again to remove Edwards. City's run rate slowed to a snail's pace as John and Rupert Pyrah exploited the dampness in the wicket and when City's 5th wicket fell in the 35th over with the score on 91, a total below 150 looked likely. The complexion of the game was transformed when Sunil Joshi joined Yates, and the two of them added 69 in 11 overs. But then John struck to remove Yates for a patient 70 and in the next over Aditya Sheth bowled Joshi for a hard-hit 47. City's innings subsided to 176 all out, as the last 5 wickets fell for just 16 runs. Michael John starred with the ball ending up with 5-60 from 21 overs. He was well supported by Pyrah who took 2-48 from 19 overs, and Sheth who mopped up the tail, taking 3-14.

The Potters Bar innings got off to a good start as Matt Evans and veteran Rob Daley put on 41 for the first wicket. But both fell in consecutive overs, the latter to a spectacular catch by Tanner. Sheth came in at number 3 and carried on his good form from his 84* the previous week, but at the other end Erroll, Moore and Hughes all departed for single figure scores. The game appeared to have swung City's way, when Dan Brown joined Sheth at 109-5. The two of them proceeded to play shots all round the wicket, compiling an unbeaten sixth wicket stand of 69 in just 10 overs to bring home the bacon with plenty of overs to spare. Sheth finished on 72* and Brown 44*. Joshi was the pick of the City bowlers taking 3-43.

The result lifts Potters Bar to eighth and they will hope to improve their position still further when they take on Hitchin 3rds next Saturday in their only fixture at The Walk.

Rupert Pyrah