

Potters Bar 3rds began their second season in Division 6 at Chorleywood where they took on the home team's 2nd XI who had been relegated at the end of the 2006 season.

New captain John Lewis lost the toss and Potters Bar were invited to bat first. On a slow wicket with variable bounce runs were hard to come by, but veteran opener Bob Daley compiled a patient 36 to take Potters Bar to a 67-2. Thereafter wickets fell regularly and only a patient 26 by youngster Neil Oak and some late hitting by Neil Raisborough enabled Potters Bar to reach a total of 148 all out in the 52nd over. Hodgkinson took 4-16 in nine overs for Chorleywood.

In reply Chorleywood struggled against the opening attack of Rupert Pyrah and ex 1st team slow left-armed Paul McGee, and after 20 overs had crawled to 30-2 which left the later batsmen with too much to do. Attempts to up the run rate led to a steady fall of wickets until Chorleywood's ninth wicket pair shut up shop for the last eight overs. McGee bowled throughout the innings to earn a creditable 5-39 and was well supported by Neil Raisborough who returned from a serious injury sustained last season to take 2-38. The bowlers were backed up by some excellent fielding, not least from debutant John Lyne and Hayden Rogers, who executed a superb run out.

Potters Bar finished with 10 points to Chorleywood's 5, and will entertain 2006 strugglers Hitchin 2nds at Dame Alice Owens on Saturday.

*Rupert Pyrah*