

Potters Bar 3rds 231-8 dec (51 overs) St Margaretsbury 2nds 31-0 (16.2 overs). Match abandoned

Potters Bar approached their game against Division 6 leaders St Margaretsbury with some trepidation, having lost three consecutive games and with several players missing. Skipper John Lewis won the toss and elected to bat first on a damp wicket. Lewis and fellow opener Bob Daley made a cautious start, putting on 23 in 12 overs before Daley was trapped in front by Bentley for 11. Lewis was the next to go with the score on 42 – also lbw to Bentley. Runs continued to be hard to come by and when Nawindra Nath and Will Daley departed cheaply the Potters Bar score stood at 92-5 with just 20 overs remaining. At this point the complexion of the game changed completely as Nuwan Ramaweta and Michael John launched a ferocious assault on the St Margaretsbury bowling. In just 16 overs the two added 119 runs, and in the process compiled Potters Bar's highest stand of the season. Ramaweta (97) fell tragically 3 runs short of a century having clubbed 13 x 4's and 2 x 6's, and John departed soon afterwards for 46. This left time for Randika Gayantha to hit a quick 16* before Lewis declared on 236-8 with 2 of the maximum 53 overs remaining. The match then threatened to descend into farce when the St Margaretsbury umpire, much to the embarrassment of the St Margaretsbury team, decided to deduct 9 runs from the Potters Bar score for alleged deliberate running on the wicket by the Potters Bar batsmen. Sensibly, Lewis and the St Margaretsbury captain Frost agreed that only 5 runs would be deducted and the final total stood at 231-8, Potters Bar's highest score of the season.

St Margaretsbury also found runs hard to come by as Rupert Pyrah and promising colt Alex Whitehouse extracted extravagant lateral movement from the wicket. Whitehouse capped a fine spell by removing Frost with the score on 13. A persistent drizzle gradually worsened and with the St Margaretsbury score on 31-1 in the 17th over, the two captains reluctantly agreed to abandon the game, the end result suiting neither team. Potters Bar will hope this much improved performance will be carried over to the next fixture against promotion-chasing Ware next weekend.