

## Match Report: 25/8/07 Potters Bar 3rds vs Ware 1sts

Ware 1sts 205-8 (53 overs) drew with Potters Bar 3rds 140-9 (47 overs)

Potters Bar entertained promotion contenders Ware at Dame Alice Owens School desperately needing a good haul of points to lift them away from the relegation zone. Skipper John Lewis, in his last game of the season, gambled that his bowlers would dismiss Ware cheaply on a wicket which retained some moisture, and elected to bowl first on winning the toss. Initially the match went Potters Bar's way when Rupert Pyrah dismissed both openers with 29 on the board. After a 3<sup>rd</sup> wicket stand of 48 veteran seamer Neil Raisborough broke through to take two wickets in quick succession to leave Ware in some trouble at 85-4, with little batting to come. Potters Bar threw away their chance when they dropped number six bat Dickinson three times as he compiled a stand of 81 with Ware's overseas star Will Jones. Jones was finally dismissed to a caught and bowled by Michael John for 118 and Ware's innings eventually closed on 205-8. Michael John was the most successful bowler, taking 3-54. Pyrah bowled well to take 2-43 from 13 overs and Raisborough finished with 2-54.

Despite the loss of out-of-form opener Rob Daley for 3, the Potters Bar innings started brightly as Hayden Rogers (32) and Ben Scarisbrick (12) added 42 for the second wicket. The departure of Scarisbrick heralded an all too familiar collapse as Rogers, Ranaweera and Lewis were dismissed in quick succession to leave Potters Bar deep in trouble at 66-5. Michael John tried to hit his way out of trouble but when he fell lbw for 24 it then became a question of whether Potters Bar could hold out for a draw. At 118-8 with almost nine overs remaining it looked as though Ware would take the spoils. But a mixture of defence and intelligent hitting by Raisborough (20) edged Potters Bar to safety. Rupert Pyrah and colt Alex Whitehouse survived the last 13 balls and managed to add the necessary 7 runs for the last wicket to glean a solitary batting bonus point. Potters Bar were left to rue a total of six dropped catches, and a haul of just 4 bonus points has left them just 9 points above the drop zone. With a tough match against new divisional leaders Parkfield & Headstone next Saturday a greatly improved performance is needed if Potters Bar are to maintain their Division 6 status.