

Steep 1st XI v Highfield

Steeps batsmen put up a tentative but ultimately successful chase of a low total to secure the third win of the season against lowly Highfield.

There is little point of the toss at Steep these days as skipper John Smith lost again and was asked to field on a wicket that looked full of runs. The Highfield openers got an easy start as the Steep opening bowlers inexplicably started from the wrong ends, but Jon Noble eased the pain by picking up the dangerous Taylor during his single interim over. Smith and Tom Callingham got stuck in to their task and soon were rewarded by further wickets, all as a result of poor shot selection.

Smith bowled himself through and picked up three wickets thanks to good catching from Graham Hughes and key all-rounder Dale Collins. The change bowlers of Jon Noble and Tom Mercer were keen to get in the act and soon reduced Highfield to 61 for 6. Scott and Vpadhyah showed some resistance but Mercer saw to both in quick succession. Collins picked up two cheap wickets and Callingham returned to apply the coup de grace as the Highfield innings closed for a seemingly meagre 114 off 38 overs.

Steep openers Dean Knight and Dale Collins went out to bat expected to increase their two previous century opening partnerships, but it proved not to be as Knight skied one early on to offer an easy caught and bowled. Mike Preston and Collins moved on serenely until the dangerous Scott was introduced into the attack and promptly removed Preston for 11. Off spinner Pogorzecki removed Collins for 17 and the Steep innings was in the balance. Experienced duo Sean Noble and Graham Hughes looked to be setting up the easy victory until they both fell to poor shots for the same score.

This bought Steeps "finisher" Mark Lewis to the wicket. Despite being in a rare slump in form, he removed the shackles and saw the Harrowmen home with a jaunty 21 not out and a victory that was considerably harder than it should have been.

A much better performance will be required next weeks against unbeaten Hursley Park at their immaculate Quarters ground.

Innings of Highfield

G Neve	caught Hughes	bowled Smith	9
S Taylor	caught Mercer	bowled J Noble	5
M Khan		bowled Callingham	15
A Vpadhyah	caught Preston	bowled Mercer	27
H Singh	caught Collins	bowled Smith	3
M Ashe	caught Collins	bowled Smith	5
P Singh	caught Callingham	bowled J Noble	14
G Scott	caught Hughes	Bowled Collins	21
G Nayyar	Caught Callingham	Bowled Collins	0
G Pogorzecski		Bowled Callingham	1
N Campone		not out	6
Extras			8
Total			114 all out

Bowling

T Callingham	9.1 overs	2 maidens	25 runs`	2 wickets
J Smith	10	4	24	3
J Noble	7	3	31	2
T Mercer	7	2	15	1
D Collins	5	0	15	2

Innings of Steep

D Knight	caught Nayyar	bowled Nayar	4
D Collins	Caught Aupadyayh	bowled Pogorzceski	17
M Preston	caught Taylor	bowled Scott	11
S Noble	caught Ashe	bowled Nayyar	20
G Hughes	caught Campone	bowled Campone	20
G Dale	caught Scott	bowled Campone	2
M Lewis		not out	21
T Callingham		not out	4
Extras			16
Total			116 for 6

Bowling

M Ashe	6 overs	0 maidens	30 runs	0 wickets
G Nayyar	10	1	23	2
G Scott	6.3	0	19	1
A Pogorzseski	6	0	17	1
N Campone	5	0	14	2