

## Steep 1<sup>st</sup> XI v Bransgore

Steep's season, that started so well, is heading for disaster following Saturday's loss to bottom placed Bransgore. At the end of May, the Harrowmen found themselves in the promotion slot, but the end of August could well see them falling through the Div 3 trapdoor after another inept display of cricket.

The afternoon started as normal as Skipper John Smith lost the toss and was asked to bowl first on a wicket full of runs. Steep spirits were high when Mark Lewis took a smart catch in the gully off Tom Callingham. This was a false dawn as Robertson asserted himself on the game with some meaty blows. Thomas took a long time to get off the mark and was immediately bowled by late arrival Jon Noble. That was the end of the good news for Steep as Finch joined Robertson and the scoring accelerated at an alarming rate. Robertson was caught for a fine 53, but this just bought Jones in to continue in the same manner.

Finch was the first of 4 run outs, all involving Dale Collins. Three more followed but were intermixed with some very poor catching, a feature of the entire season, which gave Bransgore at least 50 more runs than they should have got. The innings closed in similar fashion with a catch being dropped denying full bowling points but gifting full batting points and a victory target of 225.

After tea Dean Knight started with 2 boundaries off the first over before gifting his wicket in the second. Mike Preston looked in fine touch before guiding a top edged hook straight to long leg. Dale Collins continued his good form of the past few weeks but could not find any support. The middle order all got starts before gifting their wickets and the late order collapsed against some tight bowling from Page and Jones.

6 points was a poor return but still kept a bit of daylight from the relegation spaces, but this could change next week and as they seek victory against high flying Ropley.

### Innings of Bransgore

M Thomas		bowled Noble J	1
W Wright	caught Lewis	bowled Callingham	2
J Robertson	caught Hughes	bowled Collins	53
K Finch		run out	70
G Jones	caught Preston	bowled Noble J	55
T Newton		run out	1.
D Hunter		run out	4
E Page		not out	19
E Wright	caught Lewis	bowled Callingham	5
A Syrett		run out	0
D Lay		not out	0
Extras			15
Total			225 for 9

### Bowling

T Callingham	10 overs	4 maidens	21 runs	2 wickets
J Smith	10	4	38	0
T Mercer	10	0	46	0
J Noble	10	0	72	2
D Collins	5	0	41	1

### Innings of Steep

D Knight	caught Lay	bowled Newton	9
D Collins		bowled Jones	25
M Preston	caught Page	bowled Newton	23
S Noble	caught Syrett	bowled Jones	18
G Hughes	caught Hunter	bowled Jones	10
G Dale	caught Lay	bowled Page	12
M Lewis	caught lay	bowled Page	2
J Smith		bowled Jones	0
J Noble	caught Page	bowled Jones	0
T Callingham	caught Lay	bowled Page	5
T Mercer		not out	0
Extras			15
Total			123

### Bowling

Newton	7 overs	0 maidens	53 runs	2 wickets
Finch	6	2	14	0
Page	9.1	1	19	3
Jones	7	1	25	5