

Steep 1st XI v Farley

Steeps reign at the top of the Div 4 table continues as they swept away a poor Farley side by 5 wickets on a breezy Saturday afternoon.

The Steep team showed three changes from last week's outfit with Noble, Murray and Bone all missing out but they were not missed thanks to replacements Waterfall, Ellis and Hughes-Stanton.

Skipper John Smith won a rare toss and elected to bowl on a track full of runs as is the norm at Steeps HQ these days. It was the skipper who struck first, bowling Warley with a snorting delivery, whilst Tom Callingham was his usual miserly self, bowling out for only 18 runs conceded. The fearsome Owen was dropped twice and looked dangerous but was caught by Dean Knight off Mark Turnbull's first ball.

Coveney looked a different class from the other Farley batsmen and scored with some freedom but lacked support the other end. Opener Swain held up one end but was bowled for a painstaking 26 and the Farley middle order offered little support as Hughes-Stanton worked his way through them.

Smith finally bowled Coveney for a chanceless 66 and some tail-end swinging saw a total of 183 for 8, well below par on the fine batting surface.

Steep set about chasing down this total in the form of Dale Collins and makeshift opener Graham Hughes. These two looked in little trouble against a toothless attack and raced to a 77 run opening partnership before both players gifted their wickets to Gulliver. Mike Preston took the opportunity to play himself back into form before holing out, but Dean Knight showed his class with a well judged 50. Gerald Waterfall took it upon himself to close the game down which he did in the company of the skipper to secure maximum batting points and a fifth win on the run.

Steep move on to Compton next week who will surely prove a tougher test of the Harrowmens championship credentials.