

Amesbury v Steep 1st XI – 18 May 2013

Steep 1st XI got their league season underway this Saturday with the long trip to Amesbury.

Steep had started the season well with a victory over old rivals Petersfield in a pre-season friendly played at Penns Place and were looking to use that to kick start the promotion push back to County Division 3.

On a track that had been under water on the previous Wednesday, credit has to go the Amesbury groundsman for getting it to the condition it was on Saturday.

Steep skipper John Smith won the toss (a rare thing in itself) and was happy to insert the opposition.

Tight opening spells from Murray and Callingham made it slow going for the Amesbury batsmen with Murray making the break through. Change bowlers of Smith and Mercer came on with the Amesbury batsmen looking to move the scoring on. Good lines from this pair meant wickets started to fall at regular intervals with no real partnerships forming. Credit has to go to Underwood for his patient knock of 30 as the other batsman lost their heads around him.

Callingham's second spell proved pivotal as he mopped up the Amesbury tail finishing with 3 wickets, Smith claimed his 4th with the final wicket to fall. Amesbury were all out for 147 in the 39th over.

Steep went out to bat knowing that waiting for the bad ball was the key. Old hand Sean Noble anchored the innings with a masterful 49 only falling trying to finish the game in style. Ed Ellis hit a quick fire 26 taking a liking to the left arm spin of Long.

A 6th wicket partnership of 35 from Smith and Bone in fading light saw Steep home with nine overs to spare, Bone hitting the winning runs, two fours, one that came down with snow on over long on and a perfect cover drive to finish the game.