

## Longparish v Steep 1sts

Steep's 3 victories earlier in the season seem a distant dream after another heavy defeat, this time at the hands of bogey team Longparish. Once again it was a middle order collapse that was the root of the problem although a late rally saved them from total capitulation.

Another week and another lost toss saw Steep being asked to bat on a very green wicket and with showers going around the picturesque Longparish ground. This did not deter openers Dean Knight and Dale Collins who have formed a formidable partnership this year. Both men looked in excellent form as they picked off the bad balls to post their fourth partnership of over 50 this season. Collins was first to go, bowled by one that kept low for a dashing 35 shortly followed by Knight who skied one to cover.

The excellent foundation was not built upon as the change bowlers kept things tight and made the batsmen attempt rash shots. Not only was the score creeping along, but wickets fell as well and it wasn't until Mark Lewis joined skipper John Smith that Steep had something to cheer about. The majority of the scoring was done by Lewis who showed his colleagues how to do things with a jaunty 29 including a huge 6 straight into one of the numerous puddles outside the playing area.

The final score was 151 which appeared to be well below par, but at least a vast improvement on the previous batting effort.

The post tea session saw Steep start well, getting Blackmore early and tempting star man De Cani into gifting a chance in the covers. However this was not taken, leaving the fielding side to rue this opportunity. The bowlers all kept it tight and a close finish looked in the offing, especially when Coetsee was removed by Jon Noble. This proved to be a false dawn as De Cani passed his 50 and then accelerated rapidly to close the game out with 9 overs remaining.

Things need to improve for the Harrowmen as they move on to mid-table Purbrook next week in their search of more runs.

### Innings of Steep

D Knight	caught Lister	bowled Blackmore	31
D Collins		bowled Blacmore	35
S Noble		bowled Gardner	2
J Hughes-Stanton	caught Clarke	bowled Gardner	5
G Hughes		bowled Gardner	5
T Callingham		bowled Coetzee	3
J Smith		bowled Jackman	18
M Lewis		not out	29
T Mercer		not out	5
Extras			19
Total			151 for 7

### Bowling

A Coetzee	10 overs	1 maiden	33 runs 1 wicket
C Clarke	10	3	19 0
B Blackmore	8	1	36 2
B Gerdener	9	3	16 3
M Jackman	8	0	39 1

### Innings of Longparish

W De Cani		not out	87
B Blackmore		bowled Callingham	5
A Coetzee		Bowled Noble	22
A Lister		not out	26
Extras			12
Total			152 for 2

### Bowling

T Callingham	8 overs	4 maidens	22 runs 1 wicket
J Smith	7	3	17 0
S Curtis	4	0	33 0
J Noble	10	2	43 1
T Mercer	5	2	17 0
D Collins	2	0	17 0