

Denplan Mansbridge v Steep 1st XI

A disciplined fielding display coupled with sensible batting was the recipe for Steep's second win of the season against promoted Mansbridge.

Naturally, the toss was lost but Steep were prepared to field on a beautiful summers day. Openers Tom Callingham and John Smith kept tight lines and were rewarded early on with a sharp caught and bowled to the skipper. Brewster looked to take the attack to the bowlers and was briefly successful before a Smith classic clean bowled him. This bought the dangerous Hall brothers together and between them they looked to fashion a partnership from which to launch a big target.

They put on 99 when Smith looked to ring the changes and replace Tom Mercer, who was having a rare off-day, with young gun Dale Collins. Collins struck with the vital wicket of opener Hall, well caught in the deep by Graham Hughes, quickly followed by the younger Hall clean bowled and then Gillespie second ball.

The complexion of the innings was now completely changed as Steep picked up wickets on a regular basis without letting any runs be scored. It was down to some lusty blows from Buss to see the target reach a very gettable 175.

After tea, Collins and Dean Knight looked to carry on their blossoming opening partnership. This they did with panache, despatching a very ordinary attack to all parts of the huge outfield. Scoring at 5 an over these two brought up their second consecutive century stand. Knight once again the main aggressor to reach his fifty with some handsome looking shots with Collins looking equally stylish in support.

Both men fell in quick succession but the damage had been done. The more circumspect pair of Sean Noble and Joe Hughes-Stanton saw the Harrowmen home with little drama; Noble not out for a dashing 40 and Hughes-Stanton a cautious 16.

23 points gained and good momentum makes for the promise of more to come against Highfield this Saturday.

Innings of Denplan Mansbridge

C Hall	caught Hughes	bowled Collins	51
M Chance	caught and bowled	Smith	3
K Brewster		bowled Smith	25
K Hall		Bowled Collins	31
J Gillespie		LBW Collins	0
D Grey		run out	8
A Buttler		run out	2
S Gliman	caught Smith	bowled Callingham	8
J Buss		not out	24
S Williams		not out	2
Extras			12
Total			174 for 8

Bowling

T Callingham	10 overs	3 maidens	35 runs	1 wicket
J Smith	10	1	40	2
S Curtis	10	1	34	0
T Mercer	8	0	43	0
D Collins	7	2	16	3

Innings of Steep

D Knight	caught Gillespie	Bowled C Hall	63
D Collins		Bowled c Hall	37
S Noble		not out	40
J Hughes-Stanton		not out	16
Extras			20
Total			174 for 2

Bowling

K Hall	10 overs	1 maiden	31 runs	0 wickets
J Buss	4	0	23	0
D Grey	3	0	18	0
K Brewster	6	1	16	0
C Hall	6	0	32	2
A Butler	5	0	27	0
S Gilman	3	0	9	0