

Steep 1st XI v Purbrook 2nd XI

Another week and another dismal batting performance have left Steep's season in tatters as they start to look nervously at the relegation places in County Div 3.

The afternoon started well with an occurrence as rare as an eclipse of the sun as John Smith won the toss and elected to field on a very boggy looking Purbrook Heath.

Steep opening bowlers Smith and Tom Callingham were unable to capitalise on this as pinch hitter Musselwhite took the attack to them during a quick fire 40.

Steep wrestled back the initiative during a period of 20 overs when Jon Noble and Tom Mercer bowled with great skill and accuracy to a well set field. Wickets fell regularly, including 2 in 2 balls to Noble, but only a meagre 35 runs were conceded between this pair.

With the return of the Steep pacemen came the return to easier scoring, Lee and Marsh both hit lusty blows to leave the winning target at 180, probably 40 over par on this sticky wicket.

Steep started their reply well with Dean Knight smashing two early boundaries before being caught in the gully looking for a third. Wickets fell with alarming regularity and were it not for a cautious 6th wicket partnership between old hands Mark Lewis and Graham Hughes, the result could have been much worse.

As it was Lewis's 32 and a couple of stunning off drives from Steve Curtis saw Steep struggle to 117 and a measly 5 points. With the visit of high flying Liphook next week, some serious net practice is required in order to put up a display their talent requires.

Innings of Purbrook

W Musslewhite		bowled Mercer	40
C Pay	caught Hughes-Stanton	bowled Noble	43
A Holder		bowled Noble	10
G McCoy	caught Hughes-Stanton	bowled Callingham	33
I Limb		LBW Noble	0
M Lee	stumped Knight	bowled Curtis	21
C Marsh		not out	20
C Berry		not out	0
Extras			12
Total			179 for 6

Bowling

T Callingham	10 overs	2 maidens	45 runs	1 wicket
J Smith	7	0	35	0
S Curtis	8	0	60	1
T Mercer	10	2	17	1
J Noble	10	5	18	3

Innings of Steep

D Knight	caught Limb	bowled Berry	8
T Callingham		LBW Barber	0
M Preston		bowled Berry	15
J Hughes-Stanton	caught McCoy	bowled Berry	2
G Hughes		LBW Limb	18
E Ellis	caught and bowled Barber		8
M Lewis	caught and bowled Marsh		32
J Smith		bowled McGlinchey	2
T Mercer		bowled McGlinchey	2
J Noble		not out	9
S Curtis		bowled Marsh	8
Extras			13
Total			117 all out

Bowling

C Berry	10 overs	3 maidens	31 runs	2 wickets
J Barber	8	3	22	3
M McGlinchey	10	1	31	2
I Limb	5	0	10	1
C Marsh	3	0	11	2