

SEPL Division 2

Andover v Rowledge

Andover look favourites for the SPL Division Two title after their six wicket win over out of sorts Rowledge coincided with a 70 run defeat for closest challengers New Milton who were hosting Paultons.

Rowledge lost their form batsman, Gary Clapham in the second over as he edged a drive to second slip off Richard Taylor. Taylor and first change Luke Graham made it really hard work for Rowledge's batsmen early on as they were offered few chances to score with the ball moving around through the air and off the pitch.

Graham pinned both Chris Yates jnr and David Lloyd in front while James O'Gorman who bowled an exceptionally tight line and length conceding just ten runs from his ten overs had Ricky Yates caught and bowled. A returning Taylor who was generally swinging the ball away from the right handed cut one back down the slope to wrap Nick Morant offering no shot on the pads.

At halfway Rowledge had slumped to 75 for 5. Rob Smith (20) and Richard Forbes (22) both shared watchful partnerships with Ian Metcalfe (33*) to ensure Rowledge batted out their fifty overs and bring some respectability with a total of 162 for 9.

The total was unlikely to really test Rowledge with seam trio Pete Dickinson, Tim Wheatley and Simon Bonser all absentees. Rowledge opened the bowling with Richard Forbes and David Lloyd's spin but Ali Hooper(36) and Will Prozesky (57) blazed away to get Andovers response off to a flier, notching up 66 runs in the first eight overs. A quicker ball from spinner Rob Smith accounted for Hooper but O'Gorman took over.

Forbes held two good catches in the deep as Lloyd picked up the wickets of Prozesky and O'Gorman but at 138 for 3 the game was as good as won. Determined to not make things easy Rowledge bowled well and Mark Copleston rarely looked comfortable in his innings that saw Andover over the line.

Chris Yates jnr, the former spearhead of Rowledge's attack some five or so years ago but who in recent years as barely bowled at all as he lost his way was given a chance and he and cousin Ricky Yates both each bowled a testing three overs apiece. Yates jnr was rewarded with the wicket of Jonty Hadfield as Ian Metcalfe dived to grab a good catch behind the wicket, but Andover reached their target in the 32nd over with six wickets in hand.

Rowledge

C.Yates jnr	lbw	b Graham	6
G.Clapham	c O’Gorman	b Taylor	1
D.Lloyd	lbw	b Graham	1
R.Yates	c and	b O’Gorman	18
N.Morant	lbw	b Taylor	17
R.Smith	c J.Hadfield	b C.Hadfield	20
I.Metcalf	not out		33
R.Forbes	c C.Hadfield	b Graham	22
C.Bloomfield		b Graham	0
G.Smith	c O’Gorman	b J.Hadfield	5
W.Marchant	not out		7
		Extras	32
		Total	162 for 9

Bowling; Adams 5-0-24-0, Taylor 10-3-31-2, Graham 10-0-36-4, O’Gorman 10-5-10-1, C.Hadfield 10-1-29-1, Prozesky 2-1-9-0, J.Hadfield 3-0-10-1

Andover

A.Hooper		b R.Smith	36
W.Prozesky	c Forbes	b Lloyd	57
J.O’Gorman	c Forbes	b Lloyd	30
M.Copleston	not out		29
J.Hadfield	c Metcalfe	b C.Yates jnr	1
C.Hadfield	not out		4
		Extras	8
		Total	165 for 4

Bowling; Forbes 5-0-39-0, Lloyd 10-1-51-2, R.Smith 10-3-50-1, R.Yates 3.4-1-13-0, C.Yates jnr 3-1-9-1