

SEPCL Division 2 Rowledge v Hook & Newnham Basics

Rowledge opened up their title defence with a thumping win over a much fancied Hook & Newnham Basics team last Saturday.

It was an excellent team performance by Rowledge, especially given what turned out to be a rather limited pre-season for David Lloyd's squad.

Upon winning the toss Lloyd had no hesitation in batting first on a track more reminiscent of late summer than early May, but with Chris Yates jnr's work commitments causing him to be late, Lloyd took the responsibility of partnering Gary Clapham at the top of the order.

Clapham got things going with some thumping cover drives off Glen Williams, but at the other end Jordan Hobday was initially impressing with the new ball and he pinned Lloyd leg before and had Pete Dickinson caught behind first ball, to leave Rowledge 21 for 2.

However with Ricky Yates and Clapham at the crease, Rowledge were never likely to go into their shell. Clapham powerfully drove Williams once more, this time straight back at the bowler, who unable to complete the catch suffered a badly broken finger and had to leave for Frimley Park.

Ricky Yates looked in great touch timing the ball from the offset and he hit ten fours in a run a ball 45. Chris Yates jnr was able to come in at five and the leading run scorer in the Southern Premier League over the last decade immediately looked comfortable, as did Clapham who upon passing fifty became even more adventurous. Their 89 run partnership came to an end as Clapham attempted to hit the returning Hobday for successive sixes and was caught in the deep for a well compiled 87.

Seventeen year-old debutant Casper Hughes came in at six but despite the promising youngster's stay being shortlived Rowledge were well set for a final assault with the score 205 for 5 with ten overs to go.

Ian Metcalfe announced himself by striking his second ball for six, before proceeding to plunder an SPL best unbeaten 66 off 39 balls, as he and Yates jnr upped the tempo in an unbroken 99 run stand, taking advantage of some rather loose bowling to catapult the homes side total to a formidable 304 for 5 from their fifty overs.

With a shoulder injury Dickinson is unable to bowl for Rowledge for the time being so Simon Bonser and Richard Forbes took the new ball for Rowledge and they were presented with the challenge of bowling to Ben Thane and Hobday, Hook's two key batsmen. After a breezy start, Bonser was then able to apply a bit of pressure and he snared Thane with an inswinger which the left hander could only edge behind where Metcalfe having to change direction took a sharp diving catch to his left.

Hobday was looking in fine touch and with some clean hitting he kept his team in contention with some clean hitting and Hook were able to reach 100 for 1 from the first nineteen overs. By this time Tim Wheatley had come on and had started to quell the storm somewhat and he got the important wicket of Hobday (67) caught excellently low down at long-on by the athletic Forbes.

From here Hook nosedived to 158 all out. Rob Smith sent Neil Marsh packing with a ball that turned back to hit the top of off stump as the Hook number three attempted a desperate swipe. Wheatley took his second wicket of a fine spell, bowling Ben Allnut with a wobbly good length ball. Smith accounted for the next three wickets to finish with 4 for 30 from eight overs, whilst Lloyd cleaned up the last two wickets in what is becoming trademark style, bowling both the plucky young Hook wicketkeeper Josh Buckingham and then Anik Divecha next ball.

Rowledge

D.Lloyd	lbw	b Hobday	5
G.Clapham	c Allnutt	b Hobday	87
P.Dickinson	c Buckingham	b Hobday	0
R.Yates	lbw	b Poulter	45
C.Yates jnr	not out		75
C.Hughes		b Wilcock	2
I.Metcalf	not out		66
		Extras	24
		Total	304 for 5

Bowling; Hobday 10-1-67-3, Williams 5.3-0-29-0, Thane 3.3-0-26-0, Parma 6-0-51-0, Poulter 10-2-46-1, Divecha 10-0-43-0, Wilcock 5-0-32-1

Hook & Newnham Basics

B.Thane	c Metcalfe	b Bonser	15
J.Hobday	c Forbes	b Wheatley	67
N.Marsh		b Smith	25
R.Wilcock	c Dickinson	b Smith	4
B.Allnutt		b Wheatley	1
C.Anderson	c Hughes	b Smith	9
J.Buckingham		b Lloyd	26
K.Parma	lbw	b Smith	1
K.Poulter	not out		0
A.Divecha		b Lloyd	0
G.Williams	Absent Injured		
		Extras	10
		Total	158 all out

Bowling; Bonser 10-2-48-1, Forbes 6-0-43-0, Wheatley 10-3-29-2, Smith 8-1-30-4, Lloyd 1.4-0-7-2