

Another disappointing performance saw fourth placed Rowledge slip to a fourth league defeat of the season at the hands of third placed Hook and Newnham Basics last Saturday.

Ben Thane opted to bat and opening the batting with himself and Jordan Hobday, Hook got off to an excellent start putting on 110 for the first wicket as the pair played some delightful attacking shots to take advantage of some rather ill disciplined bowling.

Simon Bonser then struck twice in his penultimate over as Thane edged behind for 87 and Richard Wilcock fended off to second slip two balls later.

The wickets had a good effect on slowing the rate somewhat as although Hobday continued at good pace, Matt Love was rather more watchful. Ricky Yates eventually accounted for Hobday for an excellent 85 and after Rowledge chipped away through the middle order with the returning Richard Forbes bowling a much better second spell to claim two wickets and Pete Dickinson was aided by a excellent low catch by Carl Bloomfield to account for Matt McNally.

Love had guided Hook well but when he and the hard hitting Keth Lovelock fell in quick succession to leave Hook 232 for 8, Rowledge with six overs to go, Rowledge were hopeful of completing a good comeback and restricting Hook to under 250.

A mixture of bad bowling, some good clean strikes and a number of luck inside edges saw Shane Brewer and Kevin Poulter put on 53 for the ninth wicket as Hook closed on 292 for 9 off their fifty overs.

Rowledge got off to a slower than normal start as the Hook opening bowlers bowled tightly and with Chris Yates jnr going in the tenth over Rowledge were 41 for 1. Nick Morant followed quickly after as McNally held a stunning slip catch off Anil Divecha's spin.

Gary Clapham chopped onto his stumps for 60 as Kevin Poulter claimed his and then Dickinson's wickets in a fine spell of 2 for 33. By this time the required rate for the final twenty overs had climbed to eight an over. The return of opening bowler Hobday, accounted for Ricky Yates and David Lloyd whilst Ben Thane came on and quickly picked up three wickets in his first two overs, to leave Rowledge 160 for 9 with ten overs left.

Then suddenly all of the control the Hook bowlers had so excellently maintained deserted them and last pair Forbes and Robert Smith combined in an unbroken century stand, to give the game perhaps a closer look than it actually was. Smith batting at eleven due to a dislocated finger sustained in the field was particularly effective on the sweep, whilst Forbes struck powerfully down the ground and was unfortunate to be stranded on 49.

- Gary Clapham was awarded the SEPCL Division 2 player of the month award for June

## Hook

B.Thane	c Metcalfe	b Bonser	47
J.Hobaday	c Clapham	b R.Yates	85
R.Wilcock	c Dickinson	b Bonser	0
M.Love	c Bloomfield	b Smith	44
M.McNally	c Bloomfield	b Dickinson	8
B.Allnutt	c Morant	b Forbes	9
J.Buckingham	c Metcalfe	b Forbes	8
K.Lovelock	c Bonser	b Lloyd	26
S.Brewer	st Metcalfe	b Lloyd	18
K.Poulter	not out		37
A.Divecha	not out		4
		Extras	6
		Total	292 for 9

**Bowling;** Bonser 10-0-50-2, Forbes 10-0-67-2, Smith 9-0-67-1, R.Yates 6-1-28-1, Dickinson 5-0-23-1, Lloyd 10-0-53-2

## Rowledge

C.Yates jnr		b Lovelock	8
G.Clapham		b Poulter	60
N.Morant	c McNally	b Divecha	1
P.Dickinson	st Buckingham	b Poulter	29
R.Yates	c Divecha	b Hobday	11
D.Lloyd	c Poulter	b Hobday	11
I.Metcalfe	lbw	b Thane	17
R.Forbes	not out		49
C.Bloomfield	c Love	b Thane	0
S.Bonser		b Thane	0
R.Smith	not out		37
		Extras	37
		Total	260 for 9

**Bowling;** Hobday 10-0-49-2, Lovelock 8-1-24-1, Divecha 10-1-30-1, Poulter 10-2-33-2, Brewer 2-0-22-0, Thane 5-0-42-3, Wilcock 4-0-30-0, Love 1-0-11-0