

Rowledge ended a four match losing streak in SPL2 by defeating second placed New Milton by two wickets at the recreation ground last Saturday. The defeat for New Milton turned out to be a relief for table topping Andover who fell to a shock defeat to bottom side Havant II.

It is not often that David Lloyd would opt to insert the opposition at home but the pitch and overhead conditions favoured that option and Rowledge quickly had the title contenders in trouble.

Simon Bonser, making a welcome return knocked back Ben Neal's off stump with the final ball of the first over. Four balls later, Pete Dickinson found James Whitehurst's outside edge and new Milton were two down with just a single run on the board.

Bonser and Dickinson continued to test, with the latter picking up a further two wickets to see New Milton struggling at 35 for 4 after twelve overs. Eric Linge and Dan Loader led a good recovery, but seventeen year-old Bradfield College student Greg Smith showed real promise in a six over spell for Rowledge that saw him claim 3 for 33.

The spin of Rob Smith and David Lloyd ensured a fairly sedate scoring rate but Rowledge who bowled New Milton out for 211 in the 49<sup>th</sup> over would have liked to have restricted them further. It was veteran Steve Taylor and 'keeper Tom Prodomo who added useful runs late on for New Milton.

Rowledge's run chase was a real team effort with a number of telling contributions and the fact that nobody made a large score was indicative of batsmen never really feeling in on a difficult track.

Gary Clapham, Lloyd, Ricky Yates and Dickinson all ensured Rowledge got ahead of the rate but with wickets falling regularly the game was set for an interesting finish. The spin of Ryan Beck and slow medium pace of Nick Gargaro did the bulk of the damage for New Milton. A number of debateable decisions in each innings were making the game even more intriguing and when Ricky Yates was given out caught at deep midwicket, with the umpire having initially given six and nobody entirely certain that Dan Adlem's excellent catch had been completed without him crossing the line, Rowledge were 148 for 6 after 35 overs. Given Rowledge's recent collapses in similar situations the game was far from over.

Ian Metcalfe and Rob Smith shared a 32 run partnership to edge Rowledge closer and then Smith continued to knock off the runs with namesake Greg. Rob Smith went for glory with five runs needed only to sky a catch but Greg Smith smashed Lee Beck for a flat straight six to end the game.

B.Neal		b Bonser	0
D.Adlem	c G.Smith	b Dickinson	19
J.Whitehurst	c Metcalfe	b Dickinson	0
L.Beck	lbw	b Dickinson	4
E.Linge	c Morant	b G.Smith	37
D.Loader	lbw	b G.Smith	36
R.Beck	lbw	b R.Smith	17
N.Gargaro	lbw	b G.Smith	6
S.Taylor	c Morant	b R.Smith	25
T.Prodomo	c Bonser	b R.Yates	28
J.Neal	not out		2
		Extras	37
		Total	211 all out

**Bowling;** Bonser 10-5-32-1, Dickinson 10-1-37-3, C.Yates jnr 2-0-17-0, G.Smith 6-0-33-3, R.Smith 10-0-39-2, Lloyd 8-0-28-0, R.Yates 2.1-0-6-1

### Rowledge

C.Yates jnr	lbw	b Linge	2
G.Clapham	c Prodomo	b Loader	39
D.Lloyd	lbw	b R.Beck	28
R.Yates	c Adlem	b Gargaro	35
P.Dickinson	c Loader	b R.Beck	22
N.Morant	lbw	b R.Beck	2
I.Metcalfe	lbw	b Gargaro	20
R.Smith	c R.Beck	b L.Beck	30
G.Smith	not out		14
S.Bonser	not out		0
		Extras	21
		Total	213 for 8

**Bowling;** L.Beck 8-1-31-1, Linge 8-0-35-1, B.Neal 2-0-13-0, Loader 7-0-46-1, R.Beck 10-1-39-3, Gargaro 10-2-38-2, Taylor 2-0-8-0