

See link to play-cricket.com website for the full scorecard: <http://rowledge.play-cricket.com/scoreboard/scorecard.asp?id=10927782>

A good flat wicket where Rowledge batted first and amassed a huge total (for a change). Skipper Brown had directed that batsmen establish themselves and then build their innings. They duly responded with Nicholls top scoring with 101 (not out) and Chris Jones at last getting in the runs with 61. Geoff Brown avoided a jug when caught straight after the drinks interval for 42. Steve Samuel, Nick Pow and Ben Jeggo also chipped in, as rather benign bowling allowed Rowledge to reach 275 runs from 45 overs. The great knock from Nicholls was his first scoring one of the season and included 2 sixes and 13 fours!

After a great tea the restart was fantastic with Austin clipping the top of Boxall's off stump with the first ball of the Elstead innings. Then frustration set in as it was evident that Elstead were only looking for a draw. The next wicket did not come for 25 more overs, when Brook had Beaumont lbw. Another lull as runs trickled and Jeggo had Lewis caught by Brook. Then the mainstay of the Elstead innings fell when the same attack combination snared Murphy for 41. Rowledge hoped this would open the floodgates but young Norcliffe batted well to frustrate the visitors as he reached 47 at the close. Blythe and Ahmed both took a wicket each as Elstead held on for their losing draw at 131 for 6 (144 runs behind).

A much better performance and one that lifts Rowledge off the bottom of the table with their first points of the season.