

Bessborough's title bid sunk by Osterley loss

BESSBOROUGH's slim chances of winning the Middlesex Championship suffered a near-fatal blow on Saturday as they lost by 81 runs at home to Osterley.

After being asked to bat, Osterley compiled a steady innings as four players were out in the 30s and 40s.

Amrinder Buttar top-scored on 47 as Osterley declared on 242 for nine after 50 overs.

Alexander Haniff was the pick of the Bessborough bowlers with three for 66, while Neal Patel (two for 69) and Rohan Karkhanis (two for 38) each picked up a couple of wickets.

Bessborough's reply could hardly have got off to a worse start as William Grogan gloved the ball to second slip for a duck and then in the same over Hawes was given out for four to a dubious LBW.

Calamity followed in the next over when Haniff (five) was adjudged to have left his crease, only for the keeper Bhatt to strike with a throw from ten yards away.

Two more LBWs – this time for Tharshan Kanagaraj (two) and Talha Junaid (seven) – had Bessborough reeling on 22 for five.

A spirited lower order fightback added respectability but Bessborough were eventually out in 36 overs, for 161.

This third-straight defeat sends Bessborough to eighth place in the Middlesex Championship, 25 points behind Osterley (70 points) who are the new leaders.

To have any chance of promotion Bessborough realistically need to win all six remaining league games, starting with next

week's visit to S.K.L.P.

Bessborough Seconds claimed a vital win and ten points away at fellow relegation strugglers Edmonton, thanks to a brilliant spell of bowling by Eranda Jayasinghe who bagged seven for 58.

Edmonton were looking comfortable at 93 without loss when Eranda's purple patch saw them capitulate to 169 all out.

Despite the early loss of openers Adil Parker (one) and Phil Bush (four), a calming 70 from Hemmen Jutla, ably supported by Rishi Patel (28) and Vivek Patel (20 not out), saw Bessborough home by a resounding six-wicket margin.

The Seconds remain at the bottom of the Middlesex County Cricket League Division Three but with 11 points from their last two games they are slowly reeling in Edmonton and Wycombe House.

A win next week at home to Southgate could see them lift off the bottom of the league.

The Thirds picked up a point from a losing draw in a high-scoring match at Wycombe House.

The home side plundered 285 for three from 48 overs, but resolute batting from Thanushan Mahendran (47) and Sugeevan Sriskandarajah (52) ensured Bessborough came away with a point.

The Fourths claimed an excellent winning draw against Middlesex 1987 League Division Five promotion contenders Perivale.

The Sunday team however had a day to forget, losing to Ruislip in the Chess Valley League Division Three by 153 runs.



Match winner: Eranda Jayasinghe took seven for 58 as Bessborough Seconds beat fellow relegation strugglers Edmonton on Saturday.

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Putnam worry for beaten Wealdstone

WEALDSTONE lost 3-1 at home to Hayes and Yeading United two weeks before the start of their Ryman League Premier Division campaign.

Perhaps most worrying for the Stones will be the fitness of Lewis Putnam who had to be taken to hospital with a suspected knee injury.

Putnam had earlier given his side the lead shortly after the interval but goals from Luke Medley, Frankie Merrifield and Maurice Harrison saw Hayes and Yeading finish the victors.

Wealdstone's next pre-season encounter is a stand-out fixture against Chelsea on Saturday before the season starts away at Maidstone on August 10.

The Chelsea game will see the opening of a new 'Bulla Stand', worth £5,000 in naming rights for the club.

Acorn promoted

ACORN Tennis Club's men's first team clinched the Middlesex League Division Six title last Thursday with a 20-4 win over rivals Wayfarers Thirds.

The result ensured the club's third successive promotion.

The ladies team ended the season undefeated with a 14-10 win over Wayfarers but look likely to just miss out on going up.

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