

Rowledge eventually played their first game of the season last Saturday and in a good contest with Hambledon chased down their target of 234 with nine balls to spare and with six wickets in hand.

Rowledge lost Ricky Yates in the first over for a duck, pinned in front by Hambledon skipper Dan Hewitt. However a 142 run second wicket stand between Tristen McDonald and Chris Yates jnr set Rowledge up to go on and win the game. McDonald who made his debut for New South Wales 2<sup>nd</sup> XI in the Australian season just gone is back for a second season at the rec and was in fine form. He scored especially heavily off his legs where he struck four maximums but it was a full toss on leg stump that eventually accounted for him as he miscued high to midwicket. This was reward for spinner James Atkinson who proved to be the visitors' best bowler. McDonald made 73 whilst Yates who has so often been the one to anchor the Rowledge innings remained and accumulated steadily in typical fashion.

Several times in recent seasons Rowledge have been known to collapse badly from strong positions in run chases but they held it together well. Skipper David Lloyd didn't last too long before being adjudged leg before pushing forward to Rhidian Chapman.

Casper Hughes took a while to get in before playing a number of well timed shots to edge Rowledge within twenty runs of their target before playing on. Ian Metcalfe plundered a straight six to settle any concerns of a nervy finish and all the while Yates jnr stood firm, never offering a chance during his unbeaten 88.

Earlier Lloyd had invited Hambledon to bat first and opening bowlers Tim Wheatley and Richard Forbes bowled very well on a pitch that was offering assistance to the new ball. Aside from Forbes picking up James Scutt who drove straight to Joe Lyver at mid off trying to force the issue, Wheatley and Forbes were a little low on luck. They did however keep things very tight, just fifteen runs coming from the first ten overs.

Greg Smith and off spinner Rob Smith took over the bowling and both had good spells with Rob Smith proving especially difficult to get away. The bowlers were being well backed up by a slightly more youthful and energetic looking team than last season.

Rowledge picked up their second wicket in the 26<sup>th</sup> over with the score on 63, opener Toby de Mellow nicking off to young Greg Smith for a turgid 21. Thereafter Hambledon accelerated with Rob Atkins and Indi Chakrabarti at the crease. Atkins who made scores of 115\* and 49 against Rowledge last season was at it again with a near perfect innings, playing himself in first and then moving up through the gears to finish 109 not out. Chakrabarti reached a fifty himself whilst Rowledge took two late wickets amongst the bombardment of runs.

Rowledge had let Hambledon off the hook somewhat with two bad drop catches, Chakrabarti at midwicket in the 30's and Atkins was put down from the simplest of chances at mid off when in the 60's. These were expensive misses and although Hambledon always had wickets in hand, Rowledge would have wanted to keep them under 200.

## Hambledon CC, Hampshire - 1st XI

			R	B	4s	6s
James Scutt	ct Joe Lyver	b Richard Forbes	3	0	0	0
Toby de Mellow	ct Ian Metcalfe	b Gregory Smith	21	0	2	0
Robert Atkins	Not Out		109	0	9	4
Indy Chakrabarti	LBW	b Ricky Yates	54	0	4	3
Dan Hewitt *	LBW	b David Lloyd	10	0	0	1
James Atkinson	Not Out		2	0	0	0
Paul Vickers +	Did Not Bat					
Owain Chapman	Did Not Bat					
Rhidian Chapman	Did Not Bat					
William Mann	Did Not Bat					
Paul Brighton	Did Not Bat					
<b>Extras</b>		( 5b 12lb 16w 1nb )	<b>34</b>			
<b>Total</b>		(4 wickets, 50 overs)	<b>233</b>			

## Bowling

	O	M	R	W	Nb	Wd
Richard Forbes	10	2	27	1	1	0
Tim Wheatley	10	3	21	0	0	5
Gregory Smith	8	0	34	1	0	5
Rob Smith	10	4	24	0	0	0
David Lloyd	6	0	43	1	0	6
Ricky Yates	6	0	67	1	0	0

## 1st XI

			R	B	4s	6s
Ricky Yates	LBW	b Dan Hewitt	0	0	0	0
Tristen McDonald	ct Paul Brighton	b James Atkinson	73	0	3	4
Chris (Jnr) Yates	Not Out		88	0	3	1
David Lloyd *	LBW	b Rhidian Chapman	7	0	1	0
Casper Hughes		b Robert Atkins	23	0	1	0
Ian Metcalfe +	Not Out		13	0	1	1
Joe Lyver	Did Not Bat					
Tim Wheatley	Did Not Bat					
Rob Smith	Did Not Bat					
Gregory Smith	Did Not Bat					
Richard Forbes	Did Not Bat					
<b>Extras</b>		( 1b 5lb 20w 4nb )	<b>30</b>			
<b>Total</b>		(4 wickets, 48.3 overs)	<b>234</b>			

## Bowling

	O	M	R	W	Nb	Wd
Dan Hewitt	10	1	37	1	1	7
Robert Atkins	10	0	51	1	0	7
James Atkinson	10	2	21	1	0	2
Rhidian Chapman	10	0	47	1	0	4
James Scutt	1	0	18	0	0	0
William Mann	6	0	33	0	1	0
Toby de Mellow	1.3	0	21	0	2	0