

League leaders Sarisbury Athletic claimed the SPL2 Division title by the skin of their teeth on a dramatic final day of the season last Saturday.

Sarisbury playing against bottom side Old Tauntonians and Romsey were bowled out for 114. Rowledge, aware a slip up by Sarisbury would hand them the title were lifted on hearing the news at tea despite their own disappointing batting performance of 155 all out batting first against Hartley Wintney.

Rowledge were bowling and fielding brilliantly but score updates from the Sarisbury game didn't sound promising with OT's reduced to 51 for 7 and then 79 for 9. However a brave tenth wicket stand got OT's fighting for their own survival up to within two runs before losing that final wicket.

Hartley Wintney were taking a keen interest in other games as well knowing that defeat for them could spell trouble if other results went against them and this gave the match with Rowledge added intensity. Rowledge went on to win by ten runs meaning they finished as runners up, and Hartley Wintney survived nonetheless.

Rowledge had started the game badly, Tristen McDonald caught at slip off Scot Baldwin in the first over. A disappointing end for him personally but a fantastic season for the young New South Welshman who comfortably was the league's top runs scorer and he now heads back to Australia where he will move to the Sydney Cricket Club with whom he has just accepted a contract with.

Ricky Yates struck three sweet boundaries but was undone by a Baldwin slower ball and Chris Yates jnr was bowled by Roy Cockram to leave Rowledge in trouble at 35 for 3. Chris Board and Nick Morant who has had a fine season with the 2nd XI staged a recovery before both falling in quick succession. Morant turned out to be the games top scorer with 38, but the game really started to heat up when David Lloyd was at the crease. Baldwin bowling with hostility in his second spell had two huge shouts against Lloyd for lbw and reacted rather angrily to both being turned down and thereafter the whole game had a rather niggly theme to it.

Ian Metcalfe was adjudged to have been run out and Lloyd was bowled by a good ball from Jamie Teale and with the Rowledge tail offering little resistance Rowledge were all out for 155 in the 47th over.

With some tight bowling up front by Richard Forbes and Tim Wheatley they opened the door on Hartley Wintney at 24 for 2, with Will Phillips plum in front from a Forbes delivery that kept low whilst a struggling Dave Arnold pulled a Wheatley long hop to Ben Wish who took a sharp catch at square leg.

Baldwin and Danny Flanders had Hartley ticking over nicely in a 50 run partnership before Flanders edged Lloyd behind to Metcalfe and then Rowledge really started to get excited when they ran out Baldwin. Lloyd had bought Ben Wish up from long on to mid-on for the last ball of his over in attempt to get new batsman Roy Cockram on strike, but Baldwin to his error attempted to take Wish on who with a superb bit of fielding ripped out the middle stump with a direct hit.

Board in a very tidy spell bowled Cockram with a sharp turner and then Jamie Teale with a perfect off spinner and Hartley had been reduced to 97 for 6. Julian Ford was only ever going to play one way and with a number of swipes made 36 and got his side within 25 runs of victory with four wickets in hand and Lloyd having bowled out all of his frontline bowlers.

McDonald was bought on and Ford topped edged a short delivery to be safely pouched by Yates jnr. Simon Carter attempting to come back for a second run was short of his ground when a direct hit came in from Forbes doing the fielding from long off. Steve Martin then bowled the last two men to give Rowledge the victory.

Rowledge captain David Lloyd said he would have taken second place at the start of the season especially given the loss of Gary Clapham and Pete Dickinson. Rowledge were however boosted with the arrivals of first Will Arnold and then Chris Board throughout the season and in what was a very tight league they found themselves top with three games to go and to lose the league by such a narrow margin does leave them looking back with some regret that they could have done better in a couple of games. That said the Sarisbury side that includes a number of former Totton & Eling players are a strong side and deserving of the title.

Rowledge 1st XI

| | | | R | B | 4s | 6s |
|-------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|------------|---|----|----|
| Chris (Jnr) Yates | | b Roy Cockram | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Tristen McDonald | ct William Phillips | b Scott Baldwin | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Ricky Yates | ct Jamie Teale | b Scott Baldwin | 13 | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| Nick Morant | LBW | b Mark Teale | 38 | 0 | 6 | 0 |
| Chris Board | ct William Phillips | b Chris Jolley | 24 | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| David Lloyd * | | b Jamie Teale | 17 | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| Ian Metcalfe + | ro Roy Cockram | | 10 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Steven Martin | LBW | b Chris Jolley | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Ben Wish | Not Out | | 8 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Tim Wheatley | ct Simon Carter | b Phil Horwood | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Richard Forbes | | b Scott Baldwin | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Extras | | (10lb 21w 2nb) | 33 | | | |
| Total | | (all out , 46.2 overs) | 155 | | | |

Bowling

| | O | M | R | W | Nb | Wd |
|---------------|-----|---|----|---|----|----|
| Scott Baldwin | 8.2 | 0 | 35 | 3 | 1 | 5 |
| Phil Horwood | 9 | 1 | 32 | 1 | 0 | 5 |
| Roy Cockram | 4 | 1 | 21 | 1 | 0 | 8 |
| Mark Teale | 8 | 1 | 29 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Chris Jolley | 10 | 2 | 19 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Jamie Teale | 7 | 2 | 9 | 1 | 0 | 1 |

Hartley Wintney CC - 1st XI

| | | | R | B | 4s | 6s |
|------------------|----------------------|------------------------|------------|---|----|----|
| William Phillips | LBW | b Richard Forbes | 11 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| David Arnold + | ct Ben Wish | b Tim Wheatley | 10 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Scott Baldwin * | ro Ben Wish | | 33 | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| Danny Flanders | ct Ian Metcalfe | b David Lloyd | 11 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Roy Cockram | | b Chris Board | 7 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Jamie Teale | | b Chris Board | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Julian Ford | ct Chris (Jnr) Yates | b Tristen McDonald | 36 | 0 | 6 | 0 |
| Simon Carter | ro Richard Forbes | | 8 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Chris Jolley | | b Steven Martin | 8 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Phil Horwood | | b Steven Martin | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Mark Teale | Not Out | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Extras | | (1lb 16w) | 17 | | | |
| Total | | (all out , 48 overs) | 145 | | | |

Bowling

| | O | M | R | W | Nb | Wd |
|------------------|----|---|----|---|----|----|
| Tim Wheatley | 10 | 2 | 23 | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| Richard Forbes | 10 | 3 | 30 | 1 | 0 | 3 |
| David Lloyd | 10 | 1 | 27 | 1 | 0 | 7 |
| Steven Martin | 4 | 0 | 21 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Chris Board | 10 | 3 | 22 | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| Ricky Yates | 2 | 0 | 14 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Tristen McDonald | 2 | 0 | 7 | 1 | 0 | 1 |