

Littlewick Green U11 80 for 8 beat Hurley U11 79 all out

Another glorious morning at the home of Berkshire cricket saw home captain Chris Dawkins win the toss and invite Littlewick Green to bat. With the first ball of the over racing away for a boundary the home parents might have expected a large total to be accumulated, but opening bowlers Chris and David Morgans kept things tight and only conceded 15 runs from their combined 6 over spell. Things really picked up though when first change bowler Alexander Williams took a wicket with his first ball courtesy of another fine catch from Joe Graham. Second change Oliver Wardell had the confidence to bowl his excellent left arm spin – with his length immaculate, he removed the dangerous Mitch and along with a couple of excellent run-outs, Hurley were in the ascendancy as the visitors collapsed to 27 for 6. In a repeat of the previous week however visiting batsman Keegan scored a useful 25 to retire and the innings closed at 80 for 8, with Keegan unable to return to the wicket as the 9<sup>th</sup> wicket stayed intact. Everyone bowled well but Alex (2-8), Oliver W (2-10) and Henry (0-3 off 2 overs) were outstanding. Twenty-one runs conceded in wides were however to prove costly with hindsight. We need to work on this as we suffer every week – only 53 runs were scored off the bat.

The Hurley reply started badly as opener David Morgans who has been our rock this season, lost his leg stump from an unplayable delivery by the impressive and fast Mitch. His partner Joe Graham was to follow in the next over as he was run out without grounding his bat. Raff Bowler at 3 and Louis Skelton at 4 both played nicely and unhurriedly, both scoring boundaries, with Louis' cover drive the highlight. However with the score on 15 Louis was adjudged caught behind which brought Chris to the crease. Chris played nicely, often taking the aerial route and flirting with danger on occasions, but he got to 25 and had to retire and wait anxiously to see if he would get another go. The wickets again fell in quick succession and Hurley were left staring defeat in the face at 57 for 8. Theo Patrick at 10 played very nicely though, cashing in on the short ball of his legs, but when he was run out for 8, Chris was left to return to the scene in partnership with Henry to try to get the 14 runs needed to take us over the finishing line. Some great shot selection from both players (see Henry – defence is possible) and some sensible running saw three runs needed off the last over and Henry on strike. Three nervous dot balls were followed by a bye (and momentarily a wide which would have won us the game until the umpire reversed his decision) and Chris needed two off the last two balls. However he was bowled 5<sup>th</sup> ball of the over for an excellent 32, a real captains innings, but we were left one run short. Littlewick Green bowled very well and only conceded 4 runs from wides, a factor which was ultimately to win them the game.

With much confusion surrounding the wide that we had but then had taken away, the match ended in controversial circumstances amid much discussion with the opposing manager, but this should not detract from the fact this was a great game of cricket and both teams played superbly. Well done to all of you and just to clear up the matter for those of you who may have left – the umpire said it hit Henry's body so could not have been a wide, and even if there were a few who didn't like it, he is the umpire and we must always respect the umpire's decision.