

Sonning and Charvil U11 75 for 7 beat Hurley U11 69 all out

Hot on the heels of “leg-bye-gate” of the previous day and with contentious words such as ‘farce’ and ‘daylight robbery’ still echoing around the ground, Hurley U11 assembled on a balmy Monday evening to take on the lowly Sonning and Charvil. With the coach imploring his team not to take the opposition lightly (Henley had bowled them out for 12 a month ago), Chris yet again won the toss and invited the visitors to bat, playing to our strength. Chris’ 3 overs went for one, and with some excellent back up from David Morgans, Oliver Dawkins and Oliver Wardell the visitors were 15 for 3 after 7 overs. Christopher chose to bowl all 10 players to ensure everyone was involved, including debutante from the village Oliver Graham (no relation to Joe and Henry). Opposing captain Jamie batted well to retire at 25, and along with a hefty 38 extras contributing over half their total the visitors ended on 75 for 7 with Oliver Dawkins taking 2 for 3. How I wish extras could have retired in all our games this year – we would only have lost 2 !!

The Hurley response began rather catastrophically with 3 wickets falling in the second over, as David and Raff Bowler were bowled and Oliver Graham left his crease to be run out. The hopes of the team were again pinned on the skipper who came in at 5. He and Joe took the score to 25 before Joe was bowled. Chris scored a run a ball 17 before he too was bowled (a common theme for this innings !!) and with Jess not scoring it came down to 2 of our 3 Olivers, Dawkins and Wardell to see if they could restore some sanity to proceedings. Drama was added by the fact that Sonning had to resort to part-time bowlers for a couple of overs, who conceded 5 wides (10 runs) between them, and Hurley edged ever nearer. The score advanced to 62 and the home side had a sniff of victory as 16 were needed off 4 overs. Disaster struck though as the younger Oliver’s innings of a patient and well constructed 12 from 32 balls ended as he played over a straight one, and guess what, his stumps were broken. There was a headline waiting to be written by the tail but two kamikaze run outs and yet another straight ball put paid to our chances and we slumped to 69 all out, our fourth consecutive defeat.

Bowling was good again although the back up fielding was slightly lethargic, but seven clean bowled and three run-outs with only 2 boundaries scored in our run chase gives me some clues as to where I should focus the next training session this Sunday. Please make every effort to be there !!!