

Littlewick Green U13 106 for 8 lost to Hurley U13 107 for 5 by 5 wickets

Hurley : Milsom, Krag, Dawkins, J Graham, Pryor, Savage, Wright, Funnell, Wardell, Morgans, Spicer

The first round of the U13 cup saw Hurley make the short visit to neighbours Littlewick Green on a bright but deceptively breezy Friday evening. After battling our way through the traffic for a prompt start we were facing the prospect of a non-match as the hosts only had one player by 6pm, but team-mates finally materialised and Littlewick Green elected to bat. Our line up had yet another debutant Cameron Wright who had a most promising debut.

With the boundary somewhat on the small side for this age group, the spectators stocked up on liquid refreshments from the nearby pub in expectation of a high scoring game. Littlewick started steadily and it took the introduction of the left arm spin of Wardell to get the breakthrough as he bowled McKersie. In Athani and Etherington the hosts had a couple of talented top order batsman who struck the ball cleanly and straight. Athani was on the verge of retirement when Wardell claimed another wicket, and wickets kept falling at regular intervals. Wardell finished with with 4 for 24, all bowled, and with Krag and Morgans only going for 25 in their combined 8 overs, the hosts ended on 106 for 8. Extras again starred thanks to some wayward bowling, as the byes stacked up and the Dawkins radar malfunctioned.

Our reply got off to the worst possible start as Krag lost his leg stump to the second ball of the innings, with Herbert bowling fast and true for Littlewick. Wright came in at three and looked composed in his stay at the crease, with some off side shots in particular quite pleasing on the eye. With Morgans being bowled for 6, Dawkins joined Wright and put on 60, with a few lusty blows taking Dawkins to retirement at 31. Milsom hit a couple of nice boundaries and with Funnell following instructions to hit the ball hard Hurley cruised home in 15 overs, leaving them victors by 5 wickets and the prospect of hosting Slough in the next round – a tough prospect and a real test for this developing side.

Thanks to Alan for umpiring, and to all who came to watch.