

### Hurley U13 147 for 4 beat Reading Tigers 113 for 7 by 34 runs

Hurley : Milsom, Krag, Dawkins, J Graham, Pryor, Hoare, Wright, Duguid, Wardell, Morgans, Bowler

Sunday mornings at Hurley Cricket Club have been transformed into a hive of colt-related activity in the past 2 seasons and yesterday was no exception as we welcomed Reading for a league game against a backdrop of coaching on the far side of the pitch. Yet again flush with numbers we delayed the start to allow Reading to get to a full complement to be able to start proceedings. Captain for the day David Morgans lost the toss and was invited to bat first.

New opening partnership for the week was the two Joes, Pryor and Graham, and they followed instructions to play positively, putting on 21 before Pryor gave Willoughby the charge and was stumped. This brought Krag to the crease and his innings was a glorious mix of drives and pulls, with four 4s and one 6 towards the clubhouse which left the spectators desperately preserving their tea and bacon rolls. Krag retired on 32 and Cameron Wright (13) came in for his second innings in 3 days with some proper cricket shots, and with Graham caught in the deep for 19 off the impressive Heble (3-12) Hurley overtook the coaches target of 120 in the 18<sup>th</sup> over. Dawkins and Morgans made hay in the final over with some brilliant running between the wickets, and with 12 extras coming from the over with some wayward bowling, and the score closed on a quite imposing 147 for 4. A good performance with 5 people in double figures which I am not sure we have had before, and this with the likes of Duguid and Milsom still in the hutch.

Reading Tigers went about the run chase in a very positive way, and in opener Jhavar (29) and number 3 Watts (31 retired) they had two batsmen who played nice and straight and struck the ball cleanly. They were always behind the required rate though as Duguid and Wardell bowled economically. The fielding wilted in the heat though with quite a few misfields and dropped catches, and frustration got the better of the ~~each~~ scorer who was politely asked to pipe down and refrain from offering advice on fielding positions by the visiting umpire. All a bit serious and Test Matchy but there you go. Two fielding highlights amongst the lows – Harry Hoare showing tremendous commitment to chase down and stop a four, and Graham's direct hit with one stump to aim at to remove the dangerous Jhavar. It was left to the skipper Morgans to bowl a cracking last over which included 2 wickets and to see Hurley home by 34 runs.

So four out of four this season and a solid team performance. We will work in the ground fielding over time as this is key and there will be clubs who will punish us. The emphasis is on team as there will be times when some of you may not have as much involvement as you wish which I apologise for, but please stick with it and always give the best you can in every facet of the game. It was good yesterday that everyone acknowledged that the batting order was fluid and no-one badgered me about when they were going in.

Thanks to all the umpires we used, including cover for the visiting umpire who must have been delayed as he finished the last few pages of the May edition of Umpiring Monthly.

Next Cup game : Slough home tba but in w/c 5<sup>th</sup> June

Next league game: Sunday June 10<sup>th</sup> Woodley (away)