

Hurley U13 104-6 beat Reading 71-8 by 33 runs

Team : Dawkins C, Funnell, Krag, Cooper, Bowler, Milsom, Duguid, Savage, Pryor, Dawkins O, Wright

The final chapter of Hurley U13s rollercoaster season took place on Wednesday at Sonning Lane against Reading. Both sides were hit by summer unavailability, but Hurley's strength in depth was evident and the visitors were all present and warmed up as an assorted home 10 gradually appeared from all directions under darkening skies. Hurley were invited to bat after losing the toss.

Openers Pryor (complete with Bradley Wiggins sideburns) and Funnell started hesitantly and both fell to catches as they tried to take an early aerial route to accumulate runs. Cameron Wright looked assured at three but missed a straight one to leave Hurley in a spot of bother at 17 for 3 off 7 overs. Krag and Chris Dawkins then restored some respectability to proceedings with an unbroken stand in excess of 50, both batsmen playing sensibly and hitting the ball cleanly with their back foot drives being amongst the best we have seen all season. With 13 boundaries between them they both reached the required retirement score for the third time this season, as politely requested by the coach at the start of the match. Bowler batting at 7 played some nice shots but was unlucky to be run out from a direct hit. A little cameo from Oliver Dawkins (13 not out including some controversy over a waist high no-ball which bowled him) took Hurley to an excellent score of 104 for 6 from their allotted 20 overs.

After a generous stash of orange squash and biscuits Hurley eagerly took to the task of defending the total. Chris Dawkins and Krag bowled nicely but it took a bowling change to make the breakthrough as Oliver Dawkins took a wicket with his first ball when he bowled opener Gotan. In the following over second change Milsom induced a lofted drive from Panav which was excellently caught by Chris Dawkins at mid-on. Wickets fell at regular intervals with only Clarke (26) being able to stick around and score well. It took a brilliant catch from Krag at deep-ish mid-off to bring his innings to an end. Pick of the bowlers was 9 year old Oliver Dawkins picking up 3 wickets for 2 in his 4 over spell. It was left to Daniel Cooper to take Hurley to victory as he bowled his first over for the club and picked up his first wicket. Reading ended up 33 runs short and this margin of victory was possible as the all round fielding and bowling display was superb. Luke Funnell also put in a very competent display behind the stumps.

Thanks to Stephen Wright and Stuart Savage for umpiring and scoring respectively and sticking with it to a post 9pm finish.

So a fifth victory to go with the tie and two defeats from our 8 league games, leaving us second in the table behind divisional winners Sonning who showed clear improvement after we beat them in June. Two league games could not be fulfilled – Woodley who forfeited the game and Kidmore End where we ran out of time as league rules were too stringent for us to find a date.

I see 2012 as a season where we welcomed some new talent to the club and showed much promise as a team throughout the 20 man/woman squad. There were some excellent team and individual performances and we were able to announce Hurley as a very creditable club on the local colts scene. Above all everyone played every game in the right spirit and with a smile on their face and Alan and I have been enormously proud to be a part of it.

