

Hurley U13 138-2 beat Ickenham U13 137-5 by 8 wickets

Hurley : C Dawkins, D Morgans, L Funnell, O Dawkins, W Krag, E Ballard, I Ballard, A Singh, J Graham, H Graham

The rains of Saturday gave way to a bright and pleasant Sunday as Hurley welcomed visitors Ickenham to Shepherds Lane for a friendly re-scheduled from June. With many players missing for Hurley due to the summer season, the ten who were available agreed to field first on the advice of Alan who knows both these teams well.

Oliver Dawkins opened the bowling and quickly sent opener Saurav back to the pavilion, although this dismissal prompted a quick ball change as we had inadvertently provided an adult size ball on account of stocks being low. Number 3 Jamie looked dangerous for the visitors and benefited from a dropped catch to stroke the ball to all parts, reaching the retirement score of 30 in rapid time. The Hurley wicket and outfield always give value for your shots and Ickenham were given full reward for anything that pierced the infield. Henry Graham and Ewan Ballard bowled excellent overs, but with Tom (30*) hitting the ball hard and the catching somewhat indifferent, Ickenham were able to press on to 137 for the loss of 5 wickets from the allotted 20 overs. Thirty wides spread across all 7 bowlers helped the Ickenham cause.

In reply Hurley started well against a nice Ickenham opening attack, with Joe Graham and a dominant David Morgans putting on 38 for the first wicket. When Graham was bowled Will Krag came to the crease and seemed in a hurry as he tried to attack nearly every ball. Morgans was run out for 27 to a somewhat kamikaze single but his innings and strokeplay were really good to watch. In came Chris Dawkins and together with Krag played some excellent shots. Dawkins benefited both from some slack fielding and the call of no-ball against some waist high full tosses which he was unable to put away. The duo both retired yet again and batted really well, being quick to punish any loose deliveries, driving and pulling powerfully. The retirements bought Oliver Dawkins (19*) and Luke Funnell (3*) to the wicket and they ran well together, getting the target down to 2 from the last over. Victory came as a lofted drive from Oliver cleared the field with four balls left.

An excellent game against a good side with a narrow but deserved victory. Well played to all of you and thanks to Ickenham for making the trip down. I hope you can accommodate us for a return fixture next year.