

HURLEY 1st v THE LEE 1st

22nd August 2020

Venue: Shepherds Lane
Toss: Hurley
Weather: Breezy, light showers

Innings of The Lee

1 Michael Cooper	c Mahmood	b Zaman	10
2 Adam Brown		b Shah	0
3 David Tossell		b Naeem	13
4 Jamie Line*+		b Zaman	0
5 Charlie Boyd	c Double	b Naeem	0
6 Richard Morrison		c&b Ridgeway	13
7 Mark Channer	lbw	b Shafaqat	7
8 Charlie Line	not out		62
9 Harry Rice	c Double	b Shafaqat	11
10 Matthew Line	not out		20
11 Jordan Essex	did not bat		
Extras	(9 w, 2 b, 3 lb)		14
Total			150-8
Overs			40

Bowling

U Zaman	8-2-14-2
R Shah	6-2-24-1
M Naeem	8-3-32-2
P Ridgeway	5-0-19-1
M Shafaqat	8-1-25-2
H Gul	5-0-31-0

Innings of Hurley

1 Yasir Gul*	c Morrison	b Rice	8
2 Ian Dawkins	c Cooper	b Channer	52
3 Ibraz Hussain	lbw	b Morrison	61
4 Faisal Mahmood	not out		9
5 Umer Zaman	not out		6
6 Greg Double+)			
7 Mohammed Naeem)			
8 Phil Ridgeway)	did not bat		
9 Mohammed Shafaqat)			
10 Rizwan Shah)			
11 Hassan Gul)			
Extras	(3 w, 9 b, 5 pen)		17
Total			153-3
Overs			30.5

Bowling

H Rice	5-0-21-1
A Brown	8-5-6-0
M Line	8-0-31-0
M Cooper	5-0-47-0
M Channer	2.5-0-12-1
R Morrison	2-0-22-1

Result: Hurley won by 7 wickets

A feature of the adjusted schedule of the 2020 pandemic season was that Hurley's 1st XI fixture list comprised a run-in of four home matches, and for the first of these Hurley welcomed The Lee 1st XI to Shepherds Lane for the first time. The Lee joined the Chilterns League in 2014 and gained promotion to the second tier following the restructuring of the League over the previous winter. One thing that the two teams had in common was a wide-margin defeat at Pinkneys Green in their previous outing. Storm Ellen had blown away the sticky, stagnant air mass of high summer, although once the wind dropped it still felt quite warm in the sunshine. Jeff Dawson had made the ground look its best after the rain of midweek.

The Lee were invited to bat, and the Hurley bowlers kept a tight rein on the scoring. Almost straightaway the hosts were among the wickets. Rizwan Shah, bowling from the Farm end, bowled Adam Brown with the last ball of his first over. Umer Zaman, bowled his spell right through from the Lane end, and had the other opening bat Michael Cooper caught by Faisal Mahmood at mid-off in the ninth over with the score on nineteen. In his next over Zaman bowled captain and wicketkeeper Jamie Line for a duck. It's been a while since 'bowled Naeem' appeared on a Hurley scorecard, but Mohammed Naeem bowled David Tossell with the first ball of his second over. Four overs later Naeem also had Charlie Boyd caught with the gloves by Greg Double for nought. Phil Ridgeway came on at the Lane end for the seventeenth over, and caught and bowled Richard Morrison with the last ball of his second over. Mohammed Shafaqat bowled off-spin from the Farm end and trapped Mark Channer lbw in his second over. At this stage The Lee were fifty-four for seven wickets after twenty-two overs. They had had to negotiate intermittent showers between 1:50pm and 2:30pm, but the rain had not been sufficiently heavy to force an intervention, and the batsmen had been keen to continue.

Charlie Line had arrived at the crease with the score on forty-two and launched a counter-attack, adding thirty-six with Harry Rice and an unbeaten sixty with Matthew Line for the ninth wicket to add some respectability to The Lee's innings. It was very difficult to judge during the match how crucial these stands would prove in the light of Hurley's recent batting frailties. Shafaqat had Rice caught behind in the 32nd over and the visitors closed on 150 for eight wickets.

After the interval Hurley opened their innings in the late-afternoon sunshine with captain Yasir Gul and Ian Dawkins. The Lee used the old ball for most of the Hurley innings and opened with Rice from the Farm end. Brown bowled five maidens from the Lane end and bowled his spell through. Captain Yasir Gul was caught at slip by Morrison with the last ball of the seventh over with the score on twenty-six. Hurley also found scoring difficult in the early going, but the key difference was that Hurley reached the mid-point of their innings with nine wickets still intact, and with the score on sixty-two. Dawkins rolled back the years and anchored the innings with a calm and elegant half-century. Ibraiz Hussain played himself in initially, but once he had found his touch he opened his shoulders. The Lee spilled chances to catch both Dawkins and Hussain just before the mid-point, and took the new ball for the 23rd over. Dawkins and Hussain added eighty-eight for the second wicket until the former was caught at mid-off in the 27th over. The match was played on a strip quite close to the pavilion, and Hussain took full advantage of the short boundary by hitting five sixes in the area between the garage and the pump house, with Cooper and Morrison receiving some punishment. Morrison soon got his revenge, and trapped Hussain lbw in the thirtieth over with the score on 146. There were now only five runs needed, and there was a touch of arrogance and perhaps disrespect at the end as the Hurley batsmen insisted on scoring the winning runs with a boundary, which came in the form of a four in the direction of the tennis courts.

The match was played in a cordial atmosphere. Hurley scored seventeen runs off the 22nd over of their innings and it was not until then that victory seemed assured. They produced a display of target-chasing as efficient as that seen at Coleshill, and the victory brings to an end a long winless run at home stretching back to the visit of Denham early last season. In the next match they entertain Bourne End on the same ground.

Umpires: Howard Mansell and Colin Treadaway