

Knotty Green 3rd XI vs Hurley 2nd XI – Chiltern League Division 2 (90 overs win/lose)

Date: 07th May 2022

Weather: Cloudy, pleasantly warm and sunny at times

Elevation: 707 feet above sea level

Toss: Hurley – elected to field first

Result: Hurley won by 6 wickets

Innings of Knotty Green

P. Slade	c & b	R. Singh	81
S. Raghunath		Run Out (Zaman)	37
D. Patel ⁺	LBW	R. Singh	0
N. Patel	st A. Singh	L. Cole	29
K. Patel	b	Ridgeway	13
M. Butcher	ct A. Singh	L. Cole	8
R. Monsy	LBW	Ridgeway	3
J. Shah	ct Zaman	L. Cole	4
J. Patel*	ct M. Singh	Ridgeway	1
D. Barot		Not Out	6
J. Slade	st A. Singh	J. Singh	0
		Extras (3b, 2w)	5
		TOTAL	187

M. Singh	6	1	14	0
H. Zaman	4	0	22	0
J. Chahal	3	0	14	0
J. Singh	3.3	0	22	1
R. Singh	9	2	29	2
L. Cole	9	0	52	3
P. Ridgeway	8	2	31	3

Innings of Hurley

C. Williams	b	K. Patel	49
J. Cole*	ct D. Patel	Barot	66
M. Singh	st D. Patel	Shah	20
R. Singh	b	J. Slade	4
J. Singh		Not Out	7
P. Ridgeway		Not Out	11
A. Singh ⁺			
S. Singh			
J. Chalal			
H. Zaman			
L. Cole			
		Extras (12b, 12lb, 7w, 2nb)	33
		TOTAL	190-4

K. Patel	8	2	31	1
D. Barot	9	3	15	1
P. Slade	5	0	25	0
J. Shah	6	0	36	1
S. Raghunath	4	0	11	0
J. Slade	6.5	0	38	1
R. Monsy	1	0	10	0

Maybe it was the altitude of the rustic little village ground high up in the Chilterns at Ibstone, but Hurley 2nds arrived for their first league outing of the 2022 season against Knotty Green 3rds with plenty of enthusiasm despite some early season selection headaches. A solid bowling and batting performance saw the visitors come out a comfortable 6 wickets victors in this 45/45 win/lose format, although that looked far from certain midway through the home teams' innings.

With Hurley skipper Josh Cole stuck in traffic Joban Singh deputised at the toss, duly called correctly, and after some early morning rain had left the track a little sticky had no hesitation to ask Knotty Green to bat first. Knotty Green openers Paul Slade (81) and Sidhu Raghunath (37) saw no major alarms as they rattled along at 5 an over, both profiting from the Hurley seamers bowling too short and some calamitous fielding. You couldn't fault the effort at times, and this was epitomised by Jasdeep Chahal who in chasing a ball down the slope to try and save a boundary, tripped over the rope, cleared the road and landed head-first in the netting and vegetation; thankfully no permanent damage was done. Raghunath was dropped early in his innings and went on to strike some lusty blows including one six that came perilously close to hitting your scribe's brand-new car. The breakthrough was finally made in the 21st over when Raghunath was run out trying a tight second run, beaten by Hamzah Zaman's accurate throw to the keeper having added 104 for the first wicket. Cole rotated his seamers to try and make the breakthrough; thankfully when the seamers are ineffective Hurley have a triumvirate of quality spinners of various experiences and having belatedly thrown the ball to Ravi Singh (2-29), Liam Cole (3-52) and Phil Ridgeway (3-31) wickets started to fall at regular intervals, the home team losing 9 wickets for 74 runs. Singh had Dhruv Patel (0) LBW and after swapping ends had Slade caught and bowled with one that popped off the rapidly drying pitch, 135-3. Only Nick Patel (29) was solid at one end whilst the batters kept coming and going. He was finally tempted by a flighted delivery from Cole to be comfortably stumped by Akash Singh to leave Knotty floundering at 176-7. Singh had a hand in three of the dismissals, also removing Michael Butcher (8) thanks to a good catch behind off Cole. Not to be outdone by someone 45 years his junior, Ridgeway joined the collapse, making full use of the slope to extract some turn, by having Kishan Patel (13) bowled attempting to heave to leg, Rahul Monsy (3) adjudged leg-before and skipper Jack Patel (1) well caught at long-on by Mandeep Singh. Joban Singh (1-22) returned to remove 13-year-old Jack Slade (0) thanks to a ricochet off Singh's pads, that Hurley stalwart Mike Walton would have been proud of, and leave Knotty Green on what felt like an under-par 187 at tea. Hurley were certainly the happier of the teams as at one point it looked like a score of around 240 could be on the cards.

With a pitch showing signs of variable bounce the chase could have proved difficult, but in the event was reasonably comfortable, although a last-minute collapse did nothing to ease the nerves. Hurley's batting often relies on a mixture of patience and attacking flair, and so this proved with an impressive 132 run opening stand by the obdurate Clive Williams (49) and effervescent Josh Cole (66). Although both batsmen were dropped several times, and Williams 'caught' off a waist high no ball, a plethora of extras helped the visitors to a solid if unspectacular start against the new ball and Knotty medium pacers. Williams in particular took a liking to the extra pace of first-change Paul

Slade (0-25) hitting some lovely drives before finally falling one short of a well-deserved half-century in the 31st over, bowled by the admirable Kishan Patel (1-31). Cole also played some nice on-drives as timing the ball became somewhat tricky and some inventive field placings by the Knotty skipper kept the run rate down. Needing nearly 5 an over to win, impetus was provided by Mandeep Singh (20 off 12 balls) before being rather comically stumped via keeper's gloves/pads/box off Jainham Shah (1-36); there was some uncertainty about what had happened, but the umpires ruled that a stumping was the most appropriate decision. An exhausted Cole was finally caught behind off a thin inside edge off Dev Barot (1-15), showing the spirit of cricket by walking when it wasn't clear it had carried. Ravi Singh (4) was bowled by young Jack Slade (1-38), but this was the last success as Joban Singh (7*) and Ridgeway (11)* saw off the remaining runs with minimal fuss to see Hurley to 190-4 and victorious by 6 wickets with 5 overs to spare.