

HURLEY 1XI v White Waltham – 11th June 2011

HURLEY

P Ridgeway	lbw Beard	10	
D Simoes	lbw Scarborough	5	
D Nye	c Beard b Gibson	9	
S Taylor	c West b Gibson	28	
P Hunjan	c Metherall b West	42	3x6
R Brown	b Scarborough	16	
N Akhtar	b West	42	3x6
T Balchin	Not Out	13	1x6
D Day	c Pugh b West	1	
P Todd	Run Out	0	
C Williams	Not Out	0	
	Extras	14	
	Total	180-9	

WHITE WALTHAM

A Elliott	c Akhtar b Brown	26	
G Pugh	c Taylor b Hunjan	15	
M Baglow	c Simoes b Hunjan	20	
A Parnham	c Nye b Brown	0	
M Earl	b Akhtar	11	
C Metherall	b Akhtar	34	
S Bradford	lbw Akhtar	5	
B Scarborough	c Nye b Ridgeway	1	
R West	c Nye b Ridgeway	1	
L Beard	b Akhtar	12	
D Gibson	Not Out	8	
	Extras	22	
	Total	155ao	

N Akhtar	12.2-5-31-4	R Brown	6-2-21-2
C Williams	5-0-24-0	P Ridgeway	7-4-14-2
P Hunjan	9-0-29-2	S Taylor	2-0-19-0

A thrilling fight back by Hurley at home to top of the league White Waltham on Saturday saw a spirited team effort secure a narrow 25 run victory led by their ebullient skipper Naeem Akhtar. With rain clouds swirling round Shepherds Lane, and over night showers leaving the wicket soft, visiting skipper Gareth Pugh called correctly and asked a fragile Hurley to bat. Both Hurley openers were scythed down early to lbw decisions with only 24 glowing less brightly on the scoreboard. Dean Nye (9) and Steve Taylor (28) added a tentative 19 before Nye swept in the air and was well caught at mid wicket by Luke Beard. Missing key players and without huge confidence in their batting this season, Hurley then progressed with less urgency than a Fifa Ethics Committee adding 61 in 20 overs. Hurley gradually built a solid platform with wickets in hand before Pav Hunjan (42) picked up the pace with three straight sixes. The experience of Richard West (3-31) made the breakthrough with the score on 104 and followed up next over to take a sharp slip catch to remove Taylor off Dan Gibson (2-53). The key partnership was then 52 in 6 overs between Ross Brown (16) and Akhtar (42). Wickets were exchanged for runs as Hurley added 82 in 12 overs to post a still below par 180-9.

The confidence of the visitors after tea was evident as misfields were applauded and the admission made that they should be shot if they did not reach their target, especially when their openers raced to 54 in 11 overs. Hunjan (2-29) surprised Pugh in the 11th over and Taylor taking an extra pace back clung on to the catch at slip as it headed past his nose. Three overs later Ross Brown (2-21) also found lift as Andy Elliott (26) fended to point where the flying Akhtar took a superb one handed catch. Wickets disappeared faster than cherry tomatoes on a super models plate as the visitors failed to dig in. Chris Metherall (34) provided the only real resistance guiding the middle order and tail, and his partnership of 29 for the 9th wicket with Luke Beard (12) threatened to overhaul Hurley; but skipper Akhtar brought himself back clean bowling Metherall with the visitors on 144. Beard played some

threatening shots but his fate was sealed in similar fashion in Akhtar's next over, the visitors all out for 155, cue jubilation in the home dressing room and a rye smile from the scorer.

MotM : Naeem Akhtar