

Hurley U/15 152 for 3 beat Sonning 124 for 6 by 28 runs

Following the heavy defeat at the weekend, Hurley returned to winning ways with a resounding victory, despite only fielding nine men over Sonning.

On a scorching June evening, Hurley were surprisingly inserted into bat but soon lost Calliss (2), caught once again driving airily in the covers. Dawkins had already shown signs of promise in his innings, and joined by a more circumspect Hill, made use of an electric outfield to steadily increase the run rate. Dawkins dominated the partnership of 65, with some controlled drives and calculated running, offering just one chance as he accelerated to a well earned 50*. Hill (40*) grew in confidence throughout his innings, and despite the loss of Skelton (4), with an ill advised pull of a ball that failed to get up, and Patrick (0) caught in two minds. Bussell, ever the class act, with a stance wider than a jockey at Ascot, manoeuvred the ball around the field with consummate ease, demolishing the supporting bowlers for an excellent 40*, in addition to Hill hitting two monstrous sixes in the last over, to help Hurley reach a mammoth 152-3.

Respite from the heat for the watching parents and coaches was delivered by half man half God, Alastair Hill with a well delivered box of beers, due to the bar not being open.

Hurley had to play their cards correctly, with depleted numbers in the field. Patrick (3-14), put the disappointment of his batting firmly behind him, accounting for the opener, Howell the supporting act with a sharp catch to his left. Dawkins (1-22) got himself on the board early, and also gobbled a catch off Patrick to put Sonning into dire straits. The game was well and truly up, smart glove work from Skelton rewarding Patrick again, and Bussell (2-4) picked up two wickets with some ordinary deliveries, that resulted in toys being thrown out of the pram by a succession of deflated batsman.

Captain Hill, wisely rotated his ranks - it may have prevented many of the team getting back for Love Island, which is a good thing but also gave the opportunity for rising stars, the 'Subbuteo' boys, Henry and Noah Drew to gain some experience that will bode well for the future, sharing six overs between them.

It was to the credit of Farris (60*) and Thomas (17*), putting on an impressive 86 partnership, that Sonning didn't wilt with the game up and Hill, commended by both umpires for his captaincy, ensuring everyone picked up game experience.

Coaches MOM: Ollie Dawkins

Parents MOM: Alec Bussell

Parents Parent of the Match: Alastair Hill - potentially saved a break in at the bar