

**HURLEY 2<sup>nd</sup> v Littlewick Green 2<sup>nd</sup>      Date: 16<sup>th</sup> June****Played at Hurley****Innings of Hurley 2<sup>nd</sup>**

C Williams	c. M Duxbury	b. Lucey	34
Abdullah Ali	c. M Duxbury	b. Leakey	31
N Fernando		b. Leakey	2
M Williams	LBW	b. Leakey	8
Sc. Taylor	c. M Duxbury	b. Hesom	59
St. Taylor	Not out		24
G Double	Run Out		10
D Walton	Run Out		1
H Gul	Not out		0
A Williams	dnb		
		Extras	30
		Total	199
		For	7

**Bowling**

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wkts.
C Sethi	10	3	24	0
D Herron	5	1	11	0
C Leakey	15	4	51	3
J Lucey	4	0	13	1
J Hesom	7	0	35	1
B Duxbury	3	0	18	0
A Sethi	3	0	27	0

## Innings of Littlewick Green 2<sup>nd</sup>

J Herron	c. Sc. Taylor	b. A Williams	44
B Green		b. Walton	47
J Lucey	st. Double	b. Gul	7
C Leakey	c. St. Taylor	b. Gul	26
M Duxbury	c. Sc. Taylor	b. Fernando	17
D Herron	c. Double	b. Walton	9
C Sethi		b. Sc. Taylor	16
J Hesom		b. Sc. Taylor	1
B Duxbury	Not out		1
A Sethi		b. Sc. Taylor	0
		Extras	6
		Total	174
		For	9

## Bowling

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wkts.
Scott Taylor	9.1	1	34	3
A Williams	6	1	26	1
H Gul	8	2	50	2
Steve Taylor	7	1	32	0
N Fernando	5	2	8	1
D Walton	4	0	23	2

## Result:

Hurley's run of success continued on a cool and occasionally blustery day at Shepherds Lane. After a selection week fraught with player dropouts for reasons ranging from religious observance to medical absence (get well soon, Mike) ten fit players arrived at the ground to take on Littlewick Green - who turned out to be missing their own eleventh player for reasons of cock-up rather than conspiracy.

Having removed the covers from a pitch that was already showing signs of breaking up, Clive Williams tossed the reliable 500 Chilean pesos, and Littlewick stand-in David Herron's call of 'tails' was met by the stern face of Cardinal Henriquez.

Reasoning that the pitch would not improve with time, Williams chose to bat first, and he and Abdullah Ali assembled their third half-century opening partnership of the summer. It wasn't without incident, and Williams in particular had a couple of narrow escapes as he struggled with the lack of pace of Channi Sethi, who might have had him lbw in the first over of the match. Williams and Abdullah gradually found some rhythm - and the boundary, especially off Chris Leakey until, with the score on 52, the introduction of John Lucey saw Williams (34) miscue a long-hop straight to Mike Duxbury at mid-off.

Joined by Nally Fernando, Abdullah upped his own strike rate, but lost partners as first Fernando (2) drove over a full ball from Leakey that clipped the top of the stumps, then Matt Williams (8), after a few good contacts, was back when he might have been forward and departed lbw. Hurley were 81-3 with more than half the overs gone, but the tide turned again when Scott Taylor joined Abdullah. The pair added 35 in six overs, before Abdullah (31) became Leakey's third victim.

Steve Taylor joined Scott and the pair added an energetic 52 in eight overs. On 58, Scott tried to hit Jack Hesom into the cow field but found only Duxbury on the boundary. This brought in Greg Double for his first 2s outing for two years, and he and the distinguished Taylor brought the total up to 190 and in sight of the fifth batting point (and the captain's declaration target.) With overs running out, Double and Taylor tried to manipulate the strike and to take whatever singles were on offer - or not, as it proved when Double (10) tried to manufacture a leg-bye out of a ball that stopped almost dead off Taylor's pads, but failed to beat the ball to the striker's end. Dave Walton (1) also fell trying to get Taylor back on strike, leaving Hassan Gul to face the final ball of the innings, with one run to get for 200 and the final point. He missed it and Hurley had to settle for 199-7, with Taylor not out on 24.

It's often said that the best chance of winning a match comes when there's a chance you might lose it. Littlewick clearly fancied their chances, taking 54 off the first 12 overs from Hurley's new-ball pair of Scott Taylor and Alexander Williams. Taylor bowled with pace and swing - and without luck, as edges fell short of the slips and the occasional grubber crept harmlessly past the stumps. Meanwhile, from the Shepherds Lane end, Williams achieved sometimes alarming bounce but nothing went to hand until the dangerous James Herron (44) slapped a wide ball to Scott Taylor at cover and departed, clearly furious at his mistake.

Hoping to exploit the wearing pitch, Williams introduced first Hassan Gul and then Steve Taylor. Lucey swung wildly at Gul and presented Double with a simple stumping, while at the other end, Bill Green must have been wearing his wife's lucky knickers as two dead-straight lbw appeals by Taylor failed to lift a finger. The two Hurley spinners bowled beautifully, but Williams' aggressive fields meant that anything short or leg-side tended to go to the boundary, and another 50 partnership took Littlewick to 120-2, requiring 80 from 17 overs. At this point, Gul's impressive control of line did for Leakey (24); starved of his preferred leg side shots, he attempted a drive to a ball well outside off, and Steve Taylor at cover took the catch.

After an eight-over spell, Gul needed a rest, and Fernando took over at Shepherds Lane. His second ball induced another false shot, this time from Duxbury (17) to Scott Taylor at cover point. 140-4 and the door was half-open. But in the way at the other end was Green (47). With 13 overs left and 60 to win, Green knew he was Littlewick's only hope. Time to play the joker; it took Dave Walton only four balls to toss one up, down and through his defences. 142-5, and the venerable Sethi joined David Herron, finding some gaps to put loose balls through, and added 22 in four overs. Hurley refused to go on the defensive, and got their reward when Walton

found the toe of Herron's bat and Double ran from behind the stumps to collect the catch. 164-6 and Hurley scented victory. Scott Taylor returned, this time at the Shepherds Lane end and with one aim in mind - the stumps. He hit them twice in his first over, to remove Hesom (1) and Sethi (16), leaving only the primary-school pair of Ashok Sethi and Ben Duxbury. The first ball of his next over removed Sethi's off stump from the ground, giving Hurley victory by 25 runs, 29 league points and the satisfaction that comes from keeping your nerve in a tight situation.

Credit must go to all six Hurley bowlers, who dared to keep attacking rather than spread the field, and notably to Greg Double, whose first outing as Hurley 2s keeper showed energy, spirit and no little skill. Only six extras - none of which were byes - out of 174 shows how disciplined Hurley were in the field.