

Holyport 1XI vs HURLEY 1XI – 7th July 2018

Hurley won by 6 wickets (W/L/D)

HOLYPORT		
A Riley	c Akhtar b Graham	35
B Patel	lbw b Riaz	18
A Hussain	b Arshad	62
Z Hussain	b Riaz	0
J Ginige	c&b Akhtar	27
D Muntaz	c J Cole b Arshad	20
A Muntaz	b Akhtar	5
Q Razool	b Arshad	0
A Ashraq	c Ridgeway b Arshad	3
T Hayes	Not Out	2
H Hussain	Absent	
	Extras	42
Total		214ao 35.5overs

N Akhtar	13.5-3-44-2	H Graham	5-0-47-1
I Arshad	10-0-68-4		
S Riaz	7-2-30-2		

HURLEY		
N Akhtar	Not Out	114
I Arshad	c Riley b Ashraq	55
S Riaz	b Ashraq	0
J Cole	c Z Hussain b D Muntaz	31
M Williams	b Ashraq	7
H Graham	Not Out	0
P Ridgeway		
J Graham		
M Cole		
W Riaz		
	Extras	11
Total		218-4 37.3ovs

Q Rasool	9-0-37-0	A Ashraq	8-0-52-3
T Hayes	6-0-24-0	Z Hussain	2-0-11-0
H Hussain	4-0-29-0	D Muntaz	2.3-0-21-1
A Muntaz	6-0-36-0		

Football might be coming home, but Hurley travelled to Holyport in somewhat of a disarray, depleted by family commitments and a certain World Cup QF so that they took the field with 8 men, 2 colts and no recognised 'keeper. Skipper Phil Ridgeway won the toss and opted to field with a bone-dry outfield and merciless sun. Imran Arshad's first 4 overs disappeared for 32 as Holyport carved 60 from the opening 10 overs with Alex Riley (35) particularly enjoying the short wide deliveries. Henry Graham was equally punished but removed Riley to a good catch by Akhtar at point. Riaz replaced Graham, his 4th ball trapped Patel lbw and bowled Zed Hussain next ball as Holyport faltered on 73-3. But a 4th wicket stand of 96 in 14 overs saw Hurley wilt under a barrage of boundaries from A Hussain (62). Naeem Akhtar switched to spin and immediately took an excellent return catch to dismiss Ginige (27). Relief more than jubilation greeted the wicket and Arshad bowled the rapacious Hussain with Holyport 182-5 from only 29 overs. The start of the England match brought a break to watch the match with Holyport nicely placed on 203-5 after 32 overs. Harry Maquire, Deli Ali and a plateful of sandwiches revived spirits after a 90 minute break. Hurley almost bounced out like Tigger on speed. Arshad dismissed D Muntaz to an excellent catch at gully by Josh Cole and bowled

Razool in the first over after the break. Two more wickets fell in the next 3 overs, and with no11 absent, Holyport evaporated for 214 in 36 overs. The break did the home side little favours while stand-in keeper Mike Cole oiled his creaking limbs.

With depleted resources Hurley needed a good platform and got it with an opening stand of 120 between Arshad (55) and Akhtar (114not) in 24 overs. Gareth Southgate might be worshipped as a God in some Polynesian islands, but Akhtar is Hurley's idol with another superb century. Arshad's lofted drive to cover sent him back to the pavilion and Riaz was bowled second ball as Ashraq (3-52) caused Hurley to wobble. Fifteen-year old Josh Cole (31) punched his 3rd ball for a straight boundary on the lightning outfield. Cole is maturing into a fine batter and scored the bulk of the 49 run 3rd wicket stand. With Akhtar at his imperious best, Hurley were almost home at 183-3. Matt Williams (7) showed promise supporting Akhtar to 206 before he fell to Ashraq. With a reverse sweep flourish Akhtar cruised Hurley to victory by 6 wickets and 16 overs to spare. Given the real shortage of resources, the win was a real bonus for Hurley.