

HURLEY 1XI vs Ballanger Waggoners – 14th July 2018

Hurley lost by 5 wickets (W/L/D)

HURLEY		
N Akhtar	c&b Adams	10
I Arshad	c O'Kelly b Adams	14
P Ridgeway	c Adams b Petrie	16
V Bhagwani	c F Thompson b Davies	28
Sc Taylor	b Petrie	0
S Riaz	b Thompson	7
St Taylor	b Petrie	1
H Graham	c M Thompson b FThompson	3
G Double	b Mclver	0
N Fernando	Not Out	11
D Walton	c F Thompson b Adams	13
	Extras	13
	Total	116ao 41.4ovs

N Adams	9.4-1-25-3	T Petrie	7-2-12-3
F Clark	7-1-16-0	F Thompson	6-2-14-2
I Davies	8-2-36-1	I Mclver	4-3-5-1

BALLINGER WAGGONERS		
R O'Kelly	b Akhtar	10
D Draper	c Akhtar b Riaz	0
R McIntyre	b Riaz	14
F Thompson	Not Out	39
M Thompson	c Akhtar b Arshad	6
T Petrie	b Akhtar	2
I Davies	Not Out	36
	Extras	11
	Total	118-5 23.4overs

N Akhtar	10-1-49-2	V Bhagwani	1-0-4-0
S Riaz	8-3-27-2		
I Arshad	4.4-0-27-1		

Conditions more like Harare than Hurley blazed in watery sunshine, and just begged for a run fest with a parched outfield and even more parched wicket. Unfortunately Hurley delivered a car-crash of an innings on winning the toss while their team-mates, barely without a phone in their hands lost focus with international football, cricket, tennis and social media.

There was little sign of the looming carnage as Naeem Akhtar (10) and Imran Arshad (14) added 22 in 6 overs before Akhtar attempted a swatted pull off Adams (3-25) only to balloon the ball back to the bowler. Hurley hit the buffers adding 8 runs in 6 overs as Adams and Clark applied the brakes. Arshad edged behind and Vik Bhagwani (28) blasted 20 from Ian Davies opening over to manoeuvre Hurley into a comfortable 57-2 at the first drinks break of 16 overs. Bhagwani fell to the all too obvious trap at long off before Ballinger switched to Petrie (3-12). His 3 wickets in successive overs tore the heart out of the Hurley middle-order. Scott Taylor was bowled off his pads, Phil Ridgeway lofted to mid-off and Steve Taylor was also bowled off his pads. Hurley folded faster than an Amazon packer declining from 65-2 to 79-6. Henry Graham (3) and Shabob Riaz (7) survived 6 overs without moving the score significantly. The leg-spin of Fred Thompson bamboozled both batters in his opening over. Graham almost cleared long-off and Riaz failed to pick the leg spin and was bowled. Hurley whimpered to 92-9 as Greg Double lasted 2 balls looking less likely to score than James May in a nightclub. Two 2XI stalwarts showed the more talented batters the way adding a defiant 24 for the last wicket, but Hurley were dismissed for a woeful 116 inside 42 overs.

Hurley's hope of defending their meagre score received a boost as Draper sliced Riaz in the second over to point (8-1). The Hurley bowling showed more fight than the batting as O'Kelly (10) was bowled by Akhtar and McIntyre (14) was bowled by Riaz (28-3). The two Thompson brothers added 34 in 8 overs before the drinks break and switch to Arshad. His first ball had Mo Thompson pushing at cover to make the breakthrough and Petrie was bowled by Akhtar. The visitors were wobbling at 65-5. But the admirable Fred Thompson (39not) and Ian Davies cruised Ballinger to victory with a 6th wicket stand of 53 in 7 overs. Significantly the visitors hit the boundary twice as often as Hurley managed on the rock hard outfield.

As Hurley head into an availability crisis with the holiday season upon us, it was an opportunity squandered.