

HURLEY 1st v CADMORE END 1st

12th September 2020

Venue: Shepherds Lane
Toss: Cadmore End
Weather: Dry, clearing skies

Innings Cadmore End

1 Mohammad Asad		b Kayani	0
2 Tayab Ilyas		b Akhtar	44
3 Luke Pollard	c Cole	b Zaman	11
4 Mohammad Waqas+	c Ridgeway	b Akhtar	14
5 Ahtsham Khan	lbw	b Baillie	3
6 Abra Khan		c&b Baillie	1
7 Mansoor Hameed*	c Hussain	b Ridgeway	8
8 Ahson Maqbool	not out		13
9 Mohammad Ayaz	lbw	b Zaman	0
10 Usman Ansar	lbw	b Ridgeway	1
11 Amer Khan	c Dawkins	b Ridgeway	0
Extras	(1 w, 1 b, 3 lb)		5
Total			100 all out
Overs			27

Bowling

F Kayani	5-2-19-1
U Zaman	7-0-25-2
N Akhtar	5-1-14-2
J Cole	2-0-16-0
K Baillie	4-2-11-2
P Ridgeway	4-2-11-3

Innings of Hurley

1 Yasir Gul*	lbw	b Maqbool	0
2 Ian Dawkins	c Asad	b Ayaz	32
3 Ibrah Hussain	not out		52
4 Faisal Mahmood	not out		8
5 Naeem Akhtar)			
6 Kelvin Baillie)			
7 Josh Cole)			
8 Umar Zaman)	did not bat		
9 Fayyaz Kayani)			
10 Phil Ridgeway)			
11 Mike Walton)			
Extras	(2 nb, 2 b, 5 lb)		9
Total			101-2
Overs			24.1

Bowling

U Ansar	7-0-11-0
A Maqbool	5-0-14-1
Abra Khan	3-0-27-0
M Ayaz	4-0-28-1
Ahtsham Khan	3-0-6-0
M Hameed	1.1-0-7-0
M Asad	1-0-1-0

Result: Hurley won by 8 wickets

For the last game of the 2020 part-season, Hurley welcomed Cadmore End to Shepherds Lane on what was probably the latest end to the league season on record. Cadmore End joined the Chilterns & Mid Bucks Premier League in 2019 and were promoted from the third tier as champions. Mid-week on-line delving suggested that documentation was not the visitors' strong point, the team appearing to be variously comprised of Brazilian footballers (Luke) and characters from a Quentin Tarantino film (Mr Malik). Fortunately, the team provided greater detail when pressed. Meanwhile two victories and a walk-over had propelled Hurley from eighth to fourth in the table, and their task was to close the season out with another win in order to keep the pressure up on Monks Risborough and Pinkneys Green. Hurley's quest to field another strong team was assisted by the cancellation of the 2nd XI fixture.

Cadmore End opted to bat after a dry week. Fayyaz Kayani, bowling from the Lane end, took an early wicket when Mohammad Asad was bowled in the third over without scoring. Tayab Ilyas added thirty-five with Luke Pollard, and thirty-four with Mohammad Waqas, and posed some interesting questions for Hurley with his expansive stroke-play. Pollard was caught by Josh Cole low down at gully off Umar Zaman in the tenth over. Cadmore End reached sixty-six for two wickets after fourteen overs, but thereafter their innings evaporated as quickly as a flask of ether. Waqas was caught by Phil Ridgeway at slip off Naeem Akhtar in the fifteenth over, and Ahtsham Khan was adjudged lbw by Kelvin Baillie in the next. Ilyas was fifth out, bowled by Akhtar in the seventeenth over with the score on seventy-eight, and after that Cadmore End were unable to offer much resistance. Ridgeway came on for the twenty-first over and took three wickets; Ahson Maqbool, batting at number eight, closed undefeated on thirteen.

After the interval Hurley opened their innings in the afternoon sunshine with captain Yasir Gul and Ian Dawkins. The hosts lost Gul in the fourth over with only one run on the board when Maqbool trapped him in front of middle stump, a dismissal which brought the in-form Ibrah Hussain to the crease. Usman Ansar and Maqbool restricted Hurley to twenty-four for one after eleven overs, but the first change bowlers were unable to maintain the same control, and three expensive overs when defending a low total cost the visitors dearly. Dawkins and Hussain each played another assured innings and steadily chased down their target. The visitors' heads appeared to drop in the field as there were several bizarre episodes of conceded overthrows. Dawkins was eventually caught at point at the Farm end by Asad off Mohammad Ayaz in the twenty-first over with ten runs needed. The winning runs were scored by Faisal Mahmood with a six on the leg side in the direction of the kitchen, and Hussain completed an unbeaten half-century, his fourth of the season. The match was completed inside four hours (bargain!).

A potential nightmare for this occasional scorer turned out not to be too bad. Cadmore End were beaten comfortably, and Hurley closed the season in as good a shape as they have been in quite some time, although it should be borne in mind that four of their opponents were promoted from lower divisions during the close season. Finally a big thank-you once again to Jeff Dawson for all his work on the ground, Mike Walton for selection, and Yasir Gul for taking on the captaincy.

As recently as late June it seemed unlikely that there would be any meaningful cricket at all this season. The worldwide death toll from Covid-19 during the eight weeks of the league season was about 320,000.

Scorer: Howard Mansell

Umpire: Dave Walton