PINKNEYS GREEN 1st XI v HURLEY 1st XI   10th August 2021

Venue: Pinkneys Drive, Maidenhead

Toss: Hurley

Weather: 18 degrees C, febrile atmosphere (football's coming home)

Innings of Hurley#

1 Kelvin Baillie		c&b Stokes	18
2 Umar Zaman	c McDonagh	b Dhillon	11
3 Faisal Mahmood		b Curlewis	23
4 Shaan Hussein	c Stokes	b Dhillon	8
5 Aman Singh	lbw	b Dhillon	5
6 Jagdeep Singh	lbw	b Dhillon	6
7 Greg Double+	c Vadher	b Heyes	31
8 Ibraz Hussain*		c&b Curlewis	10
9 Ankush Sharma	c Stokes	b Curlewis	13
10 Hassan Gul	not out		0
11 Imran Mohammed		c&b Heyes	0
Extras	(2 nb, 2 w, 4 b, 1 lb)		9
Total			134
Overs			34.4

Bowling

J Dhillon	12-2-43-4
J Stokes	8-0-33-1
S Curlewis	9-1-15-3
N McDonagh	4-0-32-0
C Heyes	1.4-0-11-2

Innings of Pinkneys Green

1 Steve Curlewis		b Aman	0
2 Vinay Mopur	c Baillie	b H Gul	56
3 Christopher Heyes	lbw	b Aman	0
4 Jagsit Dhillon		c&b Aman	7
5 Jack Stemp+	not out		56
6 Sheyan Patel	not out		4
7 Jake Stokes*)			
8 Uday Tikoo)			
9 Chandu Sekar Bandla)	did not bat		
10 Neil Vadher)			
11 Nathan McDonagh)			
Extras	(5 w, 6 b, 1 lb)		12
Total			135
Overs			25

Bowling

Aman S	12-2-47-3
U Zaman	8-1-32-0
A Sharma	2-0-13-0
H Gul	2-0-22-1
Imran M	1-0-14-0

Result:　　　　　　Pinkneys Green won by 6 wickets

The 1st XI season continued with a game with our near-neighbours on land given to the Norman Knight Ghilo de Pinkney. This was not the most significant sporting contest of the weekend, but it was still a keenly-contested game of cricket, and a must-win match for both teams following home defeats the previous weekend.

There was rain in the area at about noon, which was quite appropriate as your scribe's opposite number in the officiating role was the broadcast meteorologist Phil Avery. Avery cut a striking figure in a white coat and Panama, and was to have a good game, although most of the decisions fell to your scribe. The conditions slowly improved and the match got underway at 1:30pm with an agreed no reduction in overs. Stand-in captain Ibraz Hussain called tails and opted for early runs on the board. The overs from the near end were bowled by captain Jake Stokes and off-spinner Steve Curlewis. Thus Jags Dhillon opened the bowling from the far end. Despite bowling his away swing accurately, Kelvin Baillie was able to work Dhillon away on both sides of the wicket. The score had reached twenty-nine in the eighth over when Baillie fell to a stunning one-handed catch by Stokes off his own bowling. Umar Zaman again opened the batting, and he fell to a good catch in the covers by Nathan McDonagh in the eleventh. Faisal Mahmood helped add forty-six in eleven overs, and during this phase of the match the home side became quite excitable as appeals were declined, but they slowly calmed down as the visitors lost wickets. Fifty-nine for two became seventy-nine for six as Shaan Hussain, playing his first game for Hurley for five years, fell to a leg-side catch; Dhillon claimed the wickets of the Singhs Aman and Jagdeep lbw, and Mahmood was finally bowled by Curlewis. Greg Double came to the wicket on seventy-five for five after nineteen overs and top-scored with thirty-one. After playing himself in initially, he found McDonagh bowling fast but too short on the surface, and scored runs with pull shots to leg. Double got hot during his innings and stripped off to reveal a salmon-coloured Adidas tee.

Ibraz Hussain batted uncharacteristically down the order for six overs until dismissed by Curlewis with the score on 108. Ankush Sharma fell to a third catch for Stokes, and Double was caught on the leg side in the thirty-fifth with the score on 134. The Hurley innings came to an end when Imran Mohammed fell first ball to a caught-and-bowled by veteran Christopher Heyes.

After a pizza tea for most of the Hurleyboys, Pinkneys Green came out to bat for a notional fifty-five overs. Aman bowled a full opening spell from the far end and was eventually replaced by Imran. Curlewis has been a Hurley nemesis in the recent past with both bat and ball, but this time the visitors got him early with the score on eight with the last ball of Aman's second over via an inside edge. Heyes followed four overs later trapped lbw for a duck with the score on twenty-one. The other opening batsman, Vinay Mopur, a right-handed bat with a black long-sleeve vest, was still there, and he and Jags Dhillon lifted the score to forty-three until Aman took a return catch to dismiss the latter. Dhillon's dismissal brought Jack Stemp to the crease, and he and Mopur added seventy-one in eleven overs to take the hosts within sight of victory. Stemp, who made runs in the equivalent match last season, showed good technique and composure against Aman. Zaman bowled well without luck from the near end and was replaced for the eighteenth over by Sharma with the score on sixty-eight. From then on the runs kept coming. Mopur's open stance partially obscured his stumps, much to Aman's frustration, but he was able to get a bat on every delivery. With thirty-five runs needed, Ibraz turned to Hassan Gul for the twenty-second and pushed several fielders back. In Gul's second over, Baillie took a superb catch in front of the scoreboard to dismiss Mopur for fifty-six. In the following over Imran replaced Aman at the end of his spell, and Stemp completed the run-chase in the company of Sheyan Patel to finish with an undefeated half-century and guide the hosts to victory with thirty overs to spare.

Despite the wide margin of victory Pinkneys were made to work for their win. Having won the toss, Hurley were about sixty runs short of posting a competitive total, and this restricted bowling options. While several Hurley players have got runs in the past, others do not look to 'bat long'. Pinkneys are mainly a young team with plenty of ambition. The next match sees Hurley host Denham at Shepherds Lane.

In other news, Novac Djokovic won his sixth Wimbledon and twentieth Grand Slam titles, and England lost 3-2 on penalties to Italy in the Euro 2020 final at Wembley (1-1 aet).

Umpires: Phil Avery and Howard Mansell