

THE HURLEY TRUMPETER

Newsletter May 2018
Volume 1, Issue 8



Hurley Cricket Club



Hurleycc.co.uk

Greetings

I did go into a bit of a sulk last quarter. I won't publish another Trumpeter if no one wants it. But then Veg piped up and Sandbags helped out, then Mo-joe pledged support. Thank you,

And now, this -

I was at Binfield watching the Berkshire over 60's and at tea the conversation turned to the expansion and demand for senior cricket. This got me thinking that coupled with the erosion of colts cricket and village sides, there is a definite demographic 'wave' or tsunami towards an inevitable decline in cricket as we age. For Hurley, we must decide whether we are caught in the backwash of decline or ride the wave to survival. It's your choice. Oh, and for those players who shelter in the 2XI, get called back occasionally to the 1XI then mysteriously are unavailable, remember, you do belong to a club. Without supporting the club, there will be no cricket or 2XI.

-o-

If you want this newsletter to continue please share your thoughts and pictures

mikeridge2906@gmail.com

Go on, give me some feedback!!!



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Greetings	1
Dates for your Diary	1
Club Meeting	2
The Subs dodger	2
Remembering Doc	3
Subscriptions	3
Around the Ground	4
I know what you did last winter	5
Scorer's Desk	5



Still hilarious!



Dates for your diary

Socials:

May 19th - Quiz

June/July/August - Friday night is T20 social

July 20th - T20 BBQ vs Rugby Club

Wednesday nights are social/net nights

Why not get kitted out for the new 2018 season in club logo? SERIOUS CRICKET has lots of club wear. It does make a statement to the opposition fielding a team in club colours. The club also receives income from all purchases. So far we have raised £170.



<https://seriouscricket.co.uk/teamwear/stores/hurley-cricket-club>

EXTRACT FROM 'The Middle Stump' Blog

The Subs Dodger

In this day and age with card machines in most cricket club bars, online banking and being able to transfer money off a mobile phone, these individuals should be as extinct as the dodo, the phoenix and the woolly mammoth, yet they still exist.

How you can turn up for a game of cricket, having played for five, ten or twenty years and not bring any cash with you is bordering on fraud?

The match fee at our club is £11. I think for six or seven hours worth of entertainment this represents excellent value if you compare it to watching a football match for ninety minutes or going to the cinema. Plus you get fed for this - no extras like the cinema where a box of popcorn costs a fiver or a carbonated drink will be close to four quid. This is also fraud but I digress. The eleven quid is split into various sections - a club has to pay for match balls from the league (close to fraud but I won't get litigious), an umpires fee which is forty notes and a scorer. Throw in a tea which is 40 quid to feed thirteen with your players and a scorer and the gap or margin to work with, is tighter than Rahul Dravid's bat and pad when he plays a forward defensive.

Again a player who says he is skint, can often negotiate to pay towards the end of the month with an agreement from the Treasurer but you have some who try and dodge this integral part of the summer Saturday. **To see the club captain's face as a young player claims poverty and yet takes a call from his mates for a big Saturday night out can often replicate the look on his face when drop outs hit him at 11am on a Saturday morning.**

A Club Captain will hear every excuse under the sun. He will have players in their forties and fifties claiming to be students and thus qualifying for a reduced sub and numerous who claim to be unemployed. The creative excuses of those in cricket clubs with unemployment is the antitheses of the government statistics. Figures may well be manipulated to hide those in zero hours contracts or part time work so that the unemployment rates are shown to be better than they actually are. These have been done by a host of different governments but the opposite applies to club cricket. If those in cricket clubs were to be believed, the national unemployment rate would be near 30%.

Our club captain had a scenario last year with five or six individuals who hadn't paid at an away game. Having collected £55 in match fees, this gentleman paid the umpire and the scorer and then had to pay the opposition the tea money of £45 out of his own pocket. This left him with not enough money to buy a post match drink, leaving him slightly irate on a thirty degree day. Filling out the match day forms with "To Pay" next to a host of his players meant he had more "Toupees" than Bruce Forsyth, Terry Wogan and Paul Daniels combined.

The cunning match fee dodger will work his way around the rules at every opportunity. With clubs such as mine, implementing rules that anyone who owes three weeks worth of match fees shouldn't be available for selection, weak captains who are desperate at times like the last weekend of July when the school holidays kick in are forced to pick them so that they can turn out a side. This is how the predatory instinct of the match fee dodger kicks in and how they make life difficult for clubs up and down the country.

Not paying is basically nicking money from your club. As well as making your skipper and Treasurer pull their hair out, it is pure and simply, theft. Why should your team mates all pay and this person doesn't? Cricket clubs up and down the country survive on tight margins. They have a number of volunteers working behind the scenes trying to make the place better for all concerned. Those who don't pay are ruining the tireless efforts of the volunteers and like rodents, if left untreated they will make the house fall down.

Do yourself, your club treasurer and your mates a favour and pay up.

REMEMBERING

Neil 'Doc' Halliday

The awful news that Doc died on 16th May after a 4 month fight with cancer was truly shocking. Doc was one of that handful of genuine special characters that have graced the Hurley wicket. Not blessed with much height, but loads of heart, an engine that could power the Flying Scotsman. He was a very handy allrounder, bowling low skiddy deliveries from a run-up that was like a Harrier jump jet, and a belligerent tail end bat. He was part of the all-conquering 1990's side and two years ago returned for the Past vs Present match.

1998 was his year. He took 26 wickets and an unbeaten 52 at Farnham Royal. The year started with a minor operation to his nether regions after what became known as 'zippergate'. Only Doc. It was Allan Greene that christened him 'Doc' and later wrote the word 'WoW' on his behind using only two 'W's. then there was the tour to Chipping Sodbury.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

- Get them in before I have to chase
(A big hug from Rita if you don't)

Please note SUBS are now due. Subs have been kept at £70 for the 7th successive year. Those students in education and the unemployed £35.

As a little incentive we have also offered a discount of 50% to anyone introducing a new member who will also pay an introductory subscription of £35.

We continue to invest heavily in the club so please pay before I chase in person or send Rita.



Doc became legendary for his night manoeuvres in the hotel under the influence of the local beer and getting locked out of his room. His contribution to our reading matter was also appreciated and 'Buff' was well thumbed. Sadly we only played one match due to the weather, so we had to make our own fun.

Phil reminds me that after one night out in Reading after a match he disappeared with two girls on his arm. The following Saturday we were all eager to find out how the holy grail of 3 up had gone. Doc replied that he knew he was out of luck when the girls started kissing each other.

I think you can tell from the picture below what a warm, funny brilliant bloke Neil was. Sadly missed.



DOC HALLIDAY

QUIZ NIGHT - Sat 19th May

We faced stiff competition from Harry and Meghan, Jose and Antonio, but Lardy filled the club thanks to the camp site who clearly enjoyed themselves. The music round was all but drowned out as the camp site got stuck into the bar and more support from the club would have been nice. You missed a cracking quiz and excellent curries.

Whether it is playing for any team or supporting functions, we need more support.

PENALTY RUNS

Dave Walnut did an excellent job as umpire against Holmer Green. In the end, towards the end of their first innings, he awarded 5 penalty runs to Hurley for persistent running up the wicket. Ofcourse there were objections and a certain amount of grumbling in our innings. But I got to use over zero for the penalty runs and penalty runs still scored higher than 4 of our batsmen.



U9's v White Waltham

Around the Ground

Officialdom gone mad. The first Sunday game of the season saw the first Hurley bowler to fall foul of the new Laws and banned from bowling in the match. His head high 'bombs' were deemed illegal and he could not complete his over causing some angst to Rita scoring. No, it wasn't Bert but Shoab K. Not a great start to the season, next game he broke a finger.

The legendary tour this year is to Bournemouth from 10th to 13th July. Get you names down and enjoy the Graham boys failing to make breakfast and Mo's one-liners.

2018 marks an experimental year with the new Chilterns/Mid Bucks League. T45 (w/l) will sandwich beginning and end with the familiar 90 over (w/d/l). The 1XI play in the Premier (perversely one down from the Championship) and the 2XI in Division 4

Moves are afoot to replace scoreboard 0.2 with Superboard v0.3. many will wonder at

the point of an electric board facing the sun. Indeed Littlewick had a chuckle a few years ago until I pointed out the inadequacies of their facilities. 'Sparky' Walton has his eyes on an electro-mechanical replacement. Does he mean the board or the scorer?

I have the solution to late drop outs for selection to the Saturday 1XI. We don't publish fixtures anymore, just tell players it's home or away.

Well done DW for signalling my first ever 5 penalty runs, though I didn't have the faintest what was going on.

Best wishes to MW for a full recovery and full function after his operation. His 22 not out in 40 overs must be some kind of record even for him, but shows what a fighter he can be.

I know what you did last winter,
Veggie

Rather than put my feet up, increase the size of the waist line and hibernate, a request from a friend to run an U8s football team couldn't be turned down.

So, what's similar? Kids love getting out from school and having fun with their friends. For sure, it can be like crowd control but always fun and educated well, the kids will look up to you, even at 5ft 6. At cricket everyone wants to play a match, or bat. At football it's no different, can we play a match. Football is easier to facilitate this, as you can work on areas without the kids knowing why. It's different for cricket, as not everyone is active during a game environment (batters wait, fielders stand around) and due to pitch sizes needed.

As always, keeping it simple pays dividends. Many a time you scratch your head, developing an Einstein inspired game that confuses all.

However, creating challenging and fun sessions in an encouraging environment rewards all. I can't recommend the process more - take up the challenge.

Contributors this issue:
Mike and Veg.

Scorer's Desk
LESSON 4

Bugger, no one wants to score again, let alone play cricket. So here goes another season.

- *Smug scorers are now getting out their laptops and using scoring apps to record every pulled muscle*
- *I still rely on my BIC and trusty book until rain or elbow smudge the page*
- *Of course you need a team sheet prior to the match to enter into the app. This is a challenge for most opposition who don't know names or even their team mates.*
- *How long before every fielder is tracked for the yards run on the scoring App. Abdullah might confuse that system into thinking he had expired.*
- *get really confused with 5 penalty runs.*



Vik gets frustrated and takes the long walk
© Baylis Media