

Littlewick Green v HURLEY 1XI – 6th August 2011

HURLEY

P Ridgeway	b Willis	3
G Lewis	b Willis	12
S Riaz	c Horne b Willis	0
V Sharma	b Willis	6
R Brown	b Willis	26
T Balchin	b Willis	0
N Akhtar	lbw Willis	0
D Day	Not out	5
P Todd	b Willis	0
M Cole	c Horne b Willis	0
J Chambers	b Willis	6
	Extras	5
	Total	63ao

R Willis 11.5-5-17-10

LITTLEWICK GREEN

W Neale	b Ridgeway	20
P Horne	lbw Cole	5
C Green	b Akhtar	7
A Hurley	b Riaz	1
M Hickman	b Riaz	12
J Lucey	Not Out	2
R Tibble	Not Out	2
	Extras	15
	Total	64-5

N Akhtar	9-3-20-1	S Riaz	6.3-2-14-2
M Cole	5-1-19-1	P Ridgeway	3-2-1-1

Rarer than the arrival of Haley's comet, more perfect than Gwyneth Paltrow is a 10 wicket haul from a bowler, but on Saturday Hurley were blown away like old chip paper by Littlewick's Robin Willis (10-17)

The toss proved crucial, Hurley lost it and Littlewick immediately inserted the visitors on a soft deck sweating under a tarpaulin. Hurley brought a young team as holidays crippled their availability with 5 players under 21. The 38 year gap between the new opening pairing of Phil Ridgeway (3) and George Lewis (12) also contrasted styles as Lewis immediately went for his shots rattling 3 boundaries before the inswinging Willis clattered the stumps in the 3rd over. Willis then produced wickets in his next 5 overs Riaz lobbing to cover and Ridgeway chasing a wide delivery to deflect onto the stumps and Hurley disappeared to 43-6, including one hat trick. Willis found swing and seam as well as variable bounce to wreak havoc with the visitors, none more so than the sight of Trevor Balchin holding his forward defensive only to hear the clatter of timber behind him.

A brief lull of 3 overs during which Ross Brown (26) played some beautiful drives and cuts to show what was possible, allowed Hurley to progress to the dizzy heights of 54 before Brown played on and Paul Todd missed his first delivery to register the third golden duck of the afternoon. Denis Day (5not) and young 'Skip' Chambers (6) eked out 7 runs for the last wicket before Willis completed his record breaking spell bowling Chambers in the 23rd over at 2.30pm.

Too early for tea, so the sides changed over immediately. With a modest total to chase down Will Neale (20) and Pat Horne (5) proved circumspect in the face of a hostile Naeem Akhtar (1-20) and sometimes wayward Mike Cole (1-19). Neale was dropped at slip off Akhtar, but Cole made the breakthrough trapping Horne lbw with the score on 16. Neale hit a couple of boundaries as 20 runs were added before Akhtar bowled Christa Green (7). Hurley turned to the High Wycombe Express of Shoab Riaz (2-14) and his excellent pace ripped out Adrian Hurley's off stump with the home skipper

having scored only a single. Thoughts of a dramatic fight back with Littlewick teetering on 37-3 were soon put to bed as Neale and Marcus Hickman (12) added a vital 19 with some edgy boundaries and more conventional classic drives. The edges seemed to motivate Riaz to add more pace and his exocet Yorker made a mess of Hickman's stumps sending the bails almost to Wales with the visitors almost home at 56-4. The wily Ridgeway (1-1) ended Neale's vigil, but victory was secured at 4.10 by 5 wickets as Tibble squeezed the 2 runs required.

Hurley MotM : Ross Brown