

## Downley 1XI v HURLEY 1XI – 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2018

### Downley won by 3 wickets (45ovs W/L)

<b>HURLEY</b>		
N Akhtar	c Guy b U Ali	0
D Simoes+	lbw b Willans	10
V Bhagwani	b U Ali	3
I Arshad	c Brown b Ilyas	2
J Cole	b Ilyas	2
S Riaz	c Brown b U Ali	66
H Graham	c Martin b Ullah	1
G Double	lbw b Ullah	0
P Ridgeway*	b Ullah	4
M Cole	Not Out	4
J Langlands	lbw b Ali	0
	Extras	7
	<b>Total</b>	<b>99ao 38.5ovs</b>

U Ali	8.5-2-16-4	I Ullah	11-3-31-3
T Ilyas	8-1-18-2	D Willans	11-2-27-1

<b>DOWNLEY</b>		
J Cox	c Bhagwani b Arshad	1
A Brown	lbw b Akhtar	12
R Ali	b Akhtar	16
I Ullah	b Akhtar	4
B Hughes	b Akhtar	0
U Ali	c Langlands b Riaz	27
D Stone	b Akhtar	6
S Martin	Not Out	25
C Guy	Not Out	5
	Extras	4
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100-7 31.4overs</b>

N Akhtar	12-2-26-5	V Bhagwani	3-0-14-0
I Arshad	5-1-19-1	J Langlands	2.4-0-10-0
S Riaz	9-2-31-1		

Rocking up to Downley for Hurley's first ever fixture there, the visitors were greeted with an open common, no sightscreens, covers or clubhouse, but an outfield with more grass than Bob Marley's back pocket. The ground is situated appropriately at the end of a Dead-End. A silent prayer of thanks was made for the facilities at Hurley. The toss looked critical on a damp, green wicket and of course Downley won and invited Hurley to bat. This they inevitably failed to do with the single exception of Shabob Riaz (66) who clearly was playing a different game.

Hurley's talisman Naeem Akhtar fell first over as the home umpire was still adjusting his specs, caught down the leg side. Dave Simoes (10) and Vik Bhagwani (3) dug in against the seaming ball, but inevitably Bhagwani's patience frayed and was bowled with Hurley 4-2. This rapidly became 13-4 with Arshad brilliantly caught at cover by Brown and Josh Cole (2) bowled by Ilyas (2-18). Riaz then played a face saving innings mixing patience with brutality adding 31 with Simoes before he fell to the first of 3 challenging lbw decisions. Skipper Phil Ridgeway (4) hung around with Riaz to add 24 for the 8<sup>th</sup> wicket as Hurley had thoughts of reaching the dizzying heights of a competitive 120 score. But Ridgeway played over the top of Ullah (3-31) and Riaz fell at deep extra cover to another brilliant diving catch from Brown. Langlands was 'trapped' first ball as Hurley failed to make 3 figures and a batting point.

Tea was taken in the bijou facilities with Prof attempting a wine-gum sandwich from the fare on offer. An early breakthrough was essential to have any hope of defending 99 as the outfield and pitch dried and some of the hay blew away. Imran Arshad (1-19) bowled the second over and his first ball flew off the edge to gully where Bhagwani snaffled the catch to remove Cox. To say Naeem Akhtar was 'literally on fire' might have the pedants reaching for buckets of water, but he produced a spell a beautiful out swing to take 5 wickets in 21 balls hitting the stumps, and more often the off stump on each occasion. The home side declined to 43-6 and all was still. U Ali (27) and Sam Martin (25not) then added 40 with Martin looking to be aggressive with nearly every ball. As Downley edged to victory the home scorer got more vocal with useful repetitive advice such as 'head on', and 'come on Downley' with surprising volume. Ali eventually slapped Riaz to square leg with Downley on 83 and with Martin smacking 11 from the 31<sup>st</sup> over, the home side reached their target in the 32<sup>nd</sup>. An unusual day that will not feature in my particular season highlights.