

HURLEY 1XI v Monks Risborough 1XI – 9th June 2018

Hurley won by 4 wickets (W/L/D)

MONKS RISBOROUGH		
S Ul-Haq	b Akhtar	0
F Butt	c Double b Arshad	7
H Amjad	c Cole b Arshad	10
A Shehzad	c Akhtar b Riaz	44
A Mahmood	c Simoes b Arshad	0
M Amjad	c Golabek b Riaz	29
B Khan	lbw b Langlands	4
I Alam	b Graham	24
W Raja	b Riaz	4
N Jameel	Not Out	24
J Iqbal	b Akhtar	2
	Extras	22
Total		170ao 43overs

N Akhtar	8-3-17-2	S Riaz	13-2-57-3
I Arshad	7-1-35-3	H Graham	7-0-21-1
J Langlands	7-0-30-1	V Bhagwani	1-0-4-0

HURLEY		
N Akhtar*	c M Amjad b Butt	29
D Simoes+	lbw b Iqbal	54
J Cole	b Butt	33
V Bhagwani	lbw b Iqbal	8
S Riaz	c Ul-Haq b Jameel	13
T Golabek	b Jameel	3
G Double	Not Out	4
I Arshad	Not Out	9
H Graham		
P Hinnell		
J Langlands		
	Extras	18
Total		171-6 46.5ovs

J Iqbal	14-2-39-2	F Butt	9-2-22-2
N Jameel	8-1-41-2	A Mahmood	4.5-0-23-0
W Raja	10.4-2-26-0	I Alam	0.2-0-4-0

After dominating for most of the game, Hurley then engineered a dramatic climax worthy of any seen down at Shepherds Lane. Skipper Naeem Akhtar won the toss and asked visiting Monks Risborough to bat under humid but bright conditions. Akhtar (2-17) struck in the first over pegging back Ul-Haq's off stump with no runs on the board. This quickly became 36-4 as Imran Arshad (3-35) spraying the ball around like an Ally Cat but enticing Butt to slice to point where Greg Double took the ball above his head. Amjad drove Arshad hard to mid-on and young Josh Cole took another excellent low catch and then Mahmood edged to keeper Simoes. Shehzad (44) and M Amjad (29) then turned the sinking ship with a patient 5th wicket stand of 68, but with the fall of Shehzad and the score on 104-5 to Shabob Riaz (3-57) another tumble of wickets saw the visitors decline to 112-7. Tim Golabek plucked Amjad one-handed at square leg and the black pads of Khan were an easy target for Jonothan Langlands (1-30). The last 3 wickets however added 58 with Alam (24) and Jameel (24not) hitting useful boundaries. Akhtar eventually brought himself back, potentially too late but cleaned up Iqbal with his first over of his second spell to dismiss Monks for 170 in 43 overs.

Tea was an eerie affair with the whole of the opposition and 3 Hurley players fasting for Ramadan. For once, the Hurley reply proved solid in not losing early wickets as Akhtar (29) and Dave Simoes (54) added 74 in 24 overs. But with an excellent outfield and a wicket of variable bounce, the run-rate was adding pressure. Iqbal (2-39) proved difficult to get away. Akhtar fell to Butt (2-22) bringing 15 year old Josh Cole (33) to the crease. Cole played a beautiful innings driving with power but unluckily more often to a fielder. 37 was added before Simoes was trapped lbw for 54 having laid an excellent foundation for the home side. Hurley struggled to up the run rate despite a brief flurry from Riaz (13).

With 5 overs remaining, Hurley required 16 but with wickets in hand. Golabek and Cole were bowled in successive overs leaving Double and Arshad at the crease. Three overs left and 11 needed. Double scampered a single and Arshad caressed a square boundary. Double then forgot his lines and played out a maiden from the penultimate over with Arshad refusing a single from the final ball of the over. Seven wanted from the final over. Arshad picked off two 2's and a single leaving Double on strike for the last 3 balls and his team mates holding their breath. Double played a dot. The 5th ball was punched square with Arshad's advice 'just hit it' fresh in his scrambled brain. Double took off like a plump Ryan Giggs down the wing, turning like a cheetah after it's prey for the second. The keeper, with the sight of Double thundering towards him fumbled and Double was home, true to his name with the double winning runs. He sunk to his knees, team mates rushed on, players breathed again.