

THE HURLEY TRUMPETER

Newsletter July 2018
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Hurley Cricket Club



Hurleycc.co.uk

Greetings

Whatsapp! Hugely empowering to some and hugely frustrating to others. I check it once a day on average to be bombarded by 100s of posts. Some of it is funny, some not as funny as their authors think. Sometimes it's informative, supportive, divisive, perplexing and pointless. But it does show a great interest in Hurley cricket. And yet we have only 33 members and struggle to field 3 sides a weekend.

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If you want this newsletter to continue please share your thoughts and pictures. How can I get all that Whatsapp inventive into this little format.

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Go on, give me some feedback!!!



Still hilarious!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Greetings	1
Dates for your Diary	1
Dave and Phil	1
Docs Funeral	2
Match Fees	2
Player exposed	3
Veg's finger	3
Teas	4
Around the Ground	4
Scorer's Desk	4
Tour 2018	5

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 receives income from all purchases. So far we have raised £170.



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

Dates for your diary

Socials:

July T20 parents v kids
July 20th - T20 BBQ vs Rugby Club

Wednesday nights are social/net nights

Both Dave and Phil at their favourite pastimes.



DOCS Funeral

Monday 4th June

Hurley CC were well represented at Doc's funeral and it was incredible to see so many people there to say goodbye. It was very humbling as everyone fell silent outside as the family arrived and the coffin carried in. It was the most poignant moment for me.

There was standing room only in the crematorium and people were stood outside as well. We estimated about 300 in all. A very warm eulogy followed on the life of Doc, sadly his 7 years at Hurley were missed and the roles he played in League cricket and cricket tours. A warmer side was revealed in his wooing of his wife. Only Doc could go out to 'Firestarter'.

MATCH FEES

– Pay them in before I have to chase

(A big hug from Rita if you don't)

Now most of the gettable subs are in, I'd like to turn to match fees. There are still a few who persist in not paying. We now have to fork out £4,000 for a new(ish) outfield mower. How do you think we pay to provide these facilities and are you happy for others to pay? Evidently.

I'd like to share my favourite excuses:

'I'll pay next week' (if you can't bring £10 will you bring £20?), 'I've set up a DD', 'I batted No11 and didn't get a game' (6hours entertainment m'lad), 'the club owes me money' (oh yeah?) and the timeless 'I only have money for one drink, and I got really pissed last night/am going out tonight'.



I think there were 9 representative of Hurley at the crematorium, and most repaired to the Crown at Playhatch to remember him over a glass or two and lay plans for a more formal memorial at the Past v Present match in August. It would be great to see as many people as possible to raise a pint of Strongbow in his honour. We hope to have a memorial bench in Doc's Cow corner on the day.



CAPTION COMPETITION
Tour 2018

PLAYER EXPOSED

Naeem Akhtar

Roy of the Rovers, Captain Fantastic and many more epithets for THE most enthusiastic of cricketers. One of the kindest people in the club but not so accommodating to opposing batsmen or bowlers. He had a year off in Newcastle but the draw of Hurlley was too much and this year we welcomed him back with delight albeit he was carrying a bit more timber. What do they eat up there?

He is lucky in having an understanding wife, though she is not always aware when he is working or playing cricket. In order to play more, he often packs her off to Pakistan. Having surprised her with a third child, this has not dampened his availability.

He favours the slap through gully which can be his nemesis. He takes a keen interest in his stats even pestering me on a Sunday morning to count up the

number of balls faced while I'm writing up the report . I love his enthusiasm.

In 2015, Naeem needed 48 from the last match of the season to score 1,000 for the season. Somehow he engineered his availability and scored 54 at Welford Park. Whatsapp is awash with his rivalry with Shabob for League runs and wickets. But, he is now off to Prague to work on a year's contract and I have everything crossed for his return.

OVER 35 vs UNDER 35s - Fri 22nd June

We were blessed with the most beautiful evening, one day after the summer solstice. The youngsters were confident but the oldies racked up 147 with Orbes creaming 47 and Spear (Ian Dawkins) ducking facing his nephew Ollie getting bowled early as Ollie swapped pads to sling down a few quicks but never got to bowl to him. The youngsters never really got going dismissed for 84. The smell of burgers, pizza and bacon too much and too tempting. Thanks Val for catering.

As the sun set over grazing cattle at 21.21 a few settled in the bar

So Veg broke a finger at Emmbrook parrying Shabob. He thought there was a lose piece of rubber rattling around in his glove, but it was his finger. Greg took the gloves and manfully (in front of his wife) did a useful job to Shabob's rockets. His crooked finger could well be used to umpire the next few weeks.

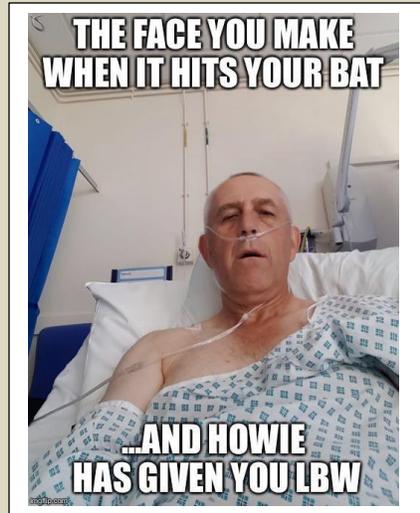
Royal Berkshire Hospital kindly supplied the X-Ray



TEAS

Never take Val's teas for granted. I don't know how much Littlewick pay their tea lady, and they admitted they do, but clearly it isn't enough. Within about 3 minutes the table was cleared and that was without the legendary DW, though Prof was in the ranks. I managed to elbow 4 sandwiches but missed the iced buns in the scrum. We even had to pour our own tea.

It was poor fare and I suggest the 2XI take extra rations when they visit.



A reporter to Adam Gilchrist - 'will you have any sandpaper in your pocket when you go out to field'

Gilchrist - 'nah mate, only Ashes'

Around the Ground (Greg's bit)

Greg Double's wife Cloe, does not understand cricket. During an afternoon at the cricket she went shopping while we were batting and returned when hubby went out to field. Clearly she wanted to avoid Greg's analysis on batting. A few weeks later, when looking at his red scuffed bat, she wondered why the bat was covered in blood!

Conversation overheard at home to Monks Risborough. The conversation inevitably got round to Greg's feet over tea (disgusting). 'his personal hygiene is so much better now, apparently it's because he wants more sex'.

Where would we be without Greg's contribution to Hurley life. Best 'sledge' so far this season at Pinkneys. To 'Jags' Dhillon, 'not so much a sports car as a family saloon'.

Announcing the GPL (Greg Premier League) and Captain of Banter

- 50 run fine for unsatisfactory teas
- 2 lives for batsmen who can prove they are still over the limit from last night
- Bonus 20 runs for team delivering the best sledge
- All pitches must score 8/10 on the 'ooh this is pretty scale'
- Beer at tea not compulsory but encouraged
- An award for whinge of the day
- Double runs if you flagrantly play across the line

As Pinkneys disappeared after the match without coming into the bar, I sat with four of our team, all glued to mobiles, no conversation ensued, times change.

Scorer's Desk LESSON 5

With advancing years come a maturing of the Humbug view on scoring.

- *Is it really too much to ask that I have a pleasant afternoon jotting down our runs and wickets leading to a satisfying win?*
- *Preferably I'd like to watch our youngsters develop and forsake the delights of social media and demanding girlfriends*
- *And after all this, is it too much to demand a little decorum from opposing scorers. No constant shouting encouragement or punching the air from a 12 year -old with one eye on 'Fortnite' on his smart phone?*
- *And NEVER agree to look after phones during a match as they inevitably ring, buzz or play stupid tunes*

The Almost Tour - Pat 'Legend' Hinnell

This year's Tour was originally scheduled to include 4 fixtures, and at one point a squad of 14 players was on the cards - and player rotation was a real possibility for the first time since 2009. Of course this was just a fantasy: the reality of the World Cup and England's progress therein started to impact on the squad and the fixtures.

The first game was to be a Tuesday evening T20 fixture against Ferndown Wayfarers. TM had been assured that the home team would have a good side out as it was a club night/practice evening. Ringing up the match organiser the week before, amongst profuse apologies, TM was advised that both the club pitches had been commandeered for colts' Cup games. Subsequently the Tour was reduced to 3 days and our hotel booking adjusted accordingly. The Cottonwood Boutique Hotel on East Cliff - excellent location, good rooms - looked after us very well.

So, down to 3 games and a depleted squad of 9 (the re-scheduling cost a couple of players). The second game was against Mudeford CC, a charming little ground just outside Christchurch (and just co-incidentally another of TM's childhood haunts). It was another evening T20, Wednesday 11th July. Of course this was a non-starter, England v Croatia was a somewhat bigger attraction. To be fair, Mudeford invited us to watch the match at their social club adjacent to the ground, which was packed but the bar was easily accessible and the beer was subsidised and quite quaffable. Back to the hotel in somewhat subdued mood but after a few drinks it was generally agreed that the English boys had done well to get to the semis and that the Croatians would now go on and joyously stick it up les Bleus. A couple of keen observers had noted that another group of lads staying at the hotel were from Binfield CC who coincidentally were also on tour, and even more coincidentally also due to play Bournemouth CC on the Thursday evening. What they didn't know, and what TM was only advised on the week before, was that in the likelihood of Bournemouth not having enough players out on the night they would in fact be playing - Hurley! Not just a few cards being played close to the chest by Bournemouth, it was the whole deck. Of course, Binfield turned up on the evening to play what they assumed would be a largely indigenous team with perhaps some Hurley players tucked in to discover that they were actually playing Hurley with a couple of Bournemouth lads making up the number. As for the game, Binfield got off to a flyer and ran up 180, Mo and Josh bowled some tight overs and Joe took 3 wickets. Steve also got amongst the wickets as did our ringer, who was also a Taylor (there's been no audit of the scoresheet so no idea who took how many), and Henry took a couple of good catches in the deep. In reply Jim and our other guest put on 50 for the first at a good clip before scoreboard pressure took toll on the middle order. James, back for his third successive tour, looked classy as always and Matt as

ever ready to thump the ball aggressively to the long boundary. Henry played some big shots but was well taken in the deep and the game ended in somewhat unusual circumstances when in the last over, and still some 20 runs shy of the target, Joe played a beautifully executed straight drive which narrowly missed TM at the non-striker's end, but Joe's knee gave way and he collapsed in dramatic fashion. Luckily there were at least a dozen medical experts on the field at the time and much good advice was proffered over the ensuing 15 minutes. Most wisely, and with light fast fading, captain Steve stepped in and suggested the game should perhaps conclude there and then and offered Binfield the draw (their website strangely reports a different conclusion). As for Joe: Malcolm with Mo in attendance got him down to Bournemouth General's A & E, where they cogitated about life in general (!) over the next few hours whilst the rest of the team, having gorged themselves at BCC's exquisite barbeque, got back to the hotel and freshened up for a night of partying and general debauchery in Bournemouth town centre, a short stroll away. More about that in the next issue.

Friday, last day of the Tour, dawned bright and sunny, again. What a wonderful summer. TM however, resisted the temptation to do a six mile run up the beach front and settled for a full English, again. Usual seaside activities for the party then ensued before decamping to make our way back up the M3 and head for Mortimer West End, who have hosted an end of Tour game for us before. On that occasion we had put out eleven players, being traditionalists. However Joe's injury and Matt on baby watch meant we were now down to seven. With thunder clouds looming over south Reading, real or imaginary, TM agreed with MWE that perhaps we could be somewhat stretched to play a credible game of cricket. So that was that. Not much cricket but a lot of good humour and great company (thanks to Steve for his captaincy again).

The players:

Steve Taylor, Captain; James Taylor; Mo Basharat; Jim Fenwick; Matt Hampton; Joe Graham; Henry Graham; Josh Cole; two blokes from BCC; TM

Thanks to the non-players who were there for moral back up (and to enjoy the seaside!): Jim's wife Arvind and son Joshin, and Malcolm of course who would have played but is still recuperating and was enthusiastic as ever in his support.

As for next year's Tour, now that we can call in a few favours to build a fixture list - probably Bournemouth 2 'The Sequel'. Any other suggestions?