

Highfield CC vs. IBM Hursley CC at Hursley on 17th of April 2010

Highfield CC's first friendly match of the 2010 outdoor season was away at IBM on a warm and sunny day. We had a mixed team out, with four players, Chas, Gordon, Ben W, and Raj making their Highfield debuts. Ben Schwarz was captain for the day as Tim was unable to make the entire game.

Ben lost the toss and we were asked to bat first on a soft and green wicket. Steve and Chas opened up and slow and steady was the order of the day, adjusting to the slow nature of the pitch. Chas undertook the majority of the early scoring with some free flowing shots sending the ball to the boundary. The opening pair saw off the opening bowlers, Moring and Bennett with spells of 6 overs for 23 and 24 respectively. On came the slow left armer Moger, in his first over he bowled Chas for 37, and the partnership was 51. This brought Gordon in, he too got off to a slow start, facing 12 balls before getting off the mark with a single. The score was steadily advanced to 63 before Steve was stumped off the bowling of Moger for 22. In at number four was the explosive Avi. He too got off to a slow start scoring just five runs off his first twenty balls, during which time he lost Gordon also stumped to Moger for 7. In came Ben W, and with Avi put on a brisk 52 for the 4th wicket, Avi making 56 before being castled by a low bouncing delivery by Parsons with the score on 145 in the 30th over. Srini then came to the crease, playing in his first game in 3 years for the club. The scoring rate increased again as the 5th wicket partnership put on 63 in just 8 overs. Including Ben Wythe's first ever six with a chip over midoff. Ben was eventually bowled by the returning opening bowler, Bennett for an excellent 40 with the total on 204. In the next over Srini was also bowled by Moring for a solid 27. That left Zia and Matt C to finish off the innings, which Zia did with an imperious, IPL style six over long on. We ended our 40 overs on 222/6 with Zia 11 not out and Matt C 4 not out.

After tea Ben S and Gere opened up the attack and both quickly settled on good a good line and length. With the run rate creeping along at around 2 an over the pressure finally brought about a wicket as Symons was bowled for 11 in the 7th over. At the end of the opening spells the score was 19/1 off 10 overs, five of which were maidens. A double bowling change brought on Raj and Matt C. Both kept the pressure on and in the 15th over Raj picked up his first wicket for Highfield when he bowled Maskell for 8. After five overs apiece, Raj and Matt were replaced by Srini and Zia. A few loose deliveries allowed the scoring rate to increase slightly, but the wickets kept coming as Srini bowled Adams for 15 in the 23rd over with the score on 61. Zia was replaced by debutant Gordon, bowling leg breaks and googlies. Three overs later Raj returned to replace Srini and immediately picked up his second wicket, bowling Meech for 15 in the 29th over. At the other end Gordon bowled well and eventually got his reward, picking up Parsons LBW for 4 in the 35th over with the score on 113. The final five overs were shared between Zia, Srini, Matt and Gere, and were the most expensive of the innings as the Wicket Keeper Pollard powered his way to 54 not out. But it was too late to help make up for the slow start and the game finished with the score on 164/5, and a 58 run victory for Highfield. The final bowling figures were:

Gere 6-2-20-1
Ben 5-3-9-0
Raj 8-2-20-2
Matt 6-0-29-0
Srini 5-0-29-1
Zia 5-0-24-0
Gordon 5-0-23-1