

A 164 opening partnership between Chris Yates jnr and Gary Clapham set Rowledge up for a five wicket win over league strugglers Hursley Park at picturesque 'The Quarters' last Saturday.

In stifling heat and on a belting track it was no surprise that Hursley captain Oli Green opted to bat first upon winning the toss. Early joy though for Rowledge as Richard Forbes struck in his first over. Harry Cox went for an expansive drive and Gary Clapham reacted quickly at slip to gobble the ball up as it was parried by a full stretch Ian Metcalfe.

Forbes was unlucky not to account for Rory Cox moments later when he was spilt at square leg and then Rowledge agonised further as a suicidal attempt at a single would have seen the end of Cox but for the direct hit attempt narrowly missing.

Cox, the classy young left hander looked in great touch after that and with Raman Prendergast finding his feet, Hursley set about a 117 run second wicket partnership. Prendergast looked particularly good against the spin of Rob Smith lofting him straight back over his head on a handful of occasions.

Lloyd re-introduced Forbes and he was immediately able to find his way through Prendergast's defences. Rowledge were now doing a good job at controlling the run rate with Tim Wheatley proving particularly effective.

Upon Prendergast's departure, Smith returned to the attack and Cox who had been somewhat starved of strike attempted a lofted drive against a well flighted Smith delivery and lost his leg stump.

Wheatley got a deserved strike as Chris McDermott was trapped plumb in front. Philip Hughes played some inventive shots in his 44 and Mike Bailey, Derek Manning and Oli Green all added late impetus to take the home side to 258 for 6 off their fifty overs. Rowledge had bowled fairly well and were confident this was likely to be a below par score.

Clapham and Yates jnr never looked troubled in their stand that seemed to kill the game off. Clapham was typically strong through cover and both batsmen punished anything loose. The runs came in such good time that Rowledge were never likely to run out of overs, but when the opening pair took a risky and rather needless single that saw Clapham run out for 91, a mini collapse ensued.

With the previous weeks dramatic middle order collapse there was perhaps a slight worry Rowledge may fall foul again as four wickets fell for 33 runs. Lloyd joined Yates jnr and the pair steadied things before Yates jnr nicked off to returning opening bowler Steve Wilson, leaving Lloyd and Metcalfe to see Rowledge over the line.

## Hursley Park

			R
Raman Prendergast		b Richard Forbes	62
Harry Cox	ct Gary Clapham	b Richard Forbes	1
Rory Cox		b Rob Smith	59
Philip Hughes	ct Ian Metcalfe	b David Lloyd	44
Chris McDermott	LBW	b Tim Wheatley	2
Mike Bailey	Not Out		35
Derek Manning	ro		22
Oli Green *	Not Out		16
Howard Bailey +	Did Not Bat		
Andy Marks	Did Not Bat		
Stuart Wilson	Did Not Bat		
	<b>Extras</b>	( 2b 14w 1nb )	17
	<b>Total</b>	(6 wickets, 50 overs)	258

## Bowling

	O	M	R	W
Simon Bonser	10	1	48	0
Richard Forbes	10	1	45	2
Rob Smith	10	2	54	1
Tim Wheatley	10	0	36	1
David Lloyd	5	0	32	1
Ricky Yates	5	0	41	0

## Rowledge CC - 1st XI

			R
Chris (Jnr) Yates	ct Howard Bailey	b Stuart Wilson	89
Gary Clapham	ro		91
Peter Dickinson		b Derek Manning	11
Ricky Yates	LBW	b Mike Bailey	0
Nick Morant	LBW	b Mike Bailey	11
David Lloyd *	Not Out		33
Ian Metcalfe +	Not Out		13
Rob Smith	Did Not Bat		
Richard Forbes	Did Not Bat		
Tim Wheatley	Did Not Bat		
Simon Bonser	Did Not Bat		
	<b>Extras</b>	( 1b 3lb 7w 2nb )	13
	<b>Total</b>	(5 wickets, 47.3 overs)	261

## Bowling

	O	M	R	W
Derek Manning	10	0	53	1
Stuart Wilson	8	0	54	1
Oli Green	10	0	51	0
Andy Marks	9.3	1	48	0
Mike Bailey	10	0	51	2