

Harrow Wanderers Cricket Club

Founded 1870

CRICKETER CUP 1st ROUND

Harrow Wanderers crash out to a strong Bradfield side in the 1st Round.....

- **Harrow Wanderers** - 221 all out (Robbie White 57, Lalit Bose 41)
- **Bradfield Waifs** - 225-4 (Shailen Assani 2-46)
- **Harrow Wanderers Lost by 6 wickets**



*Back Row: Anshy Rath, Callum Berrill, Will Jones, Andrew Turner, Doug Pratt Yunus Sert
Front Row: Robbie White, Shailen Assani, Rob Nelson (c), Alex Spencer, Lalit Bose*

An extremely frustrating and disappointing day for the club who were defeated heavily by a strong and motivated Bradfield team in the 1st round of this years competition, in front of a boisterous home crowd.

Harrow had not played away at Bradfield since 1996 (when they lost by 1 wicket in a dramatic semi final, off the last ball of the match) so the club were looking for revenge. It was the Wanderers' strongest team on paper for several years with excellent availability, so hopes were high.....but ultimately the club lost to a better side on the day.

The captain Rob Nelson (a survivor from the 1996 defeat) won the toss and chose to bat on a pleasant day in Berkshire and after 5 overs things looked extremely positive at 45-0, with openers Will Jones and Lalit Bose dominating the Bradfield bowlers which include Ryan Higgins of Middlesex and a number of Minor County and strong club players.

Jones fell for 28, pulling hard to mid wicket with the score on 71, but Bose and Robbie White (Middlesex) continued the scoring rate before Bose departed for a quick fire 41.

There followed a wonderful partnership of 50 between two high class players White and Anshy Rath (Hong Kong), manoeuvring the field expertly and punishing the rare bad balls from the high class Bradfield spin attack, when they came.

The turning point of the innings came when Rath was unfortunately bowled by the off spinner Gumbs for an elegant 33. For Harrow to post a really challenging total, much had relied on these two, but it was not to be.

Callum Berrill, fresh from a mountain of runs for Bedfordshire this season, worked hard for his 18 but was brilliantly caught out on the boundary with the score on 176-3 off 34 overs – with overs and wickets in hand, the Wanderers felt they could push towards 300 if the middle order could perform and the tail wag!

Unfortunately, what happened was very different. Yunus Sert fell first ball to a marginal LBW decision and the middle/lower order failed to capitalise on the great start, with wickets tumbling regularly. Robbie White eventually fell for a fine 57 trying to increase the rate and only some late hitting from Assani saw us to a score of 220.

Whilst below expectations, the Wanderers felt the total was defensible if they could bowl tightly and take early wickets. Runs on the board in the Cricketer Cup can often be crucial.

An early wicket for Shailen Assani, bowling with pace and skill, getting the ball to seam around, gave the Wanderer's hope but a mixture of poor bowling, some near misses in the field and a Bradfield side not afraid to play their shots, saw the score rise at a alarming rate.

The batting side never came under pressure from the Harrow bowlers and with their Middlesex 1-day star Ryan Higgins stroking the ball to all parts with apparent ease, the total was reached with the loss of only 4 wickets with plenty of overs to go. Higgins ended on 99 not out off 92 balls (7 x 6's!!).

On reflection, the HW's were almost certainly light on runs and to see the top 5 all get starts but fail to push on to a substantial score, was crucial. Defending 220 on a flat wicket against a side packed with quality, we needed early wickets, half chances taken and some luck, but to the disappointment of the team and the supporters, the bowlers failed to make significant inroads and it was not to be.

Availability for the competition has been excellent this year and the commitment to the cause could not be faulted - thanks to all who played and came to support, and of course to the vice captain Alex Spencer for his tireless work over the past 6 months. A special thanks also to our club President Fred Woolley for leading the supporters club!

We hope for a more successful campaign in 2018...

ROBERT NELSON

Club Chairman

Cricketer Cup Captain