

## Hatfield Heath vs Manuden CC 8<sup>th</sup> May 2022

On a bright spring day at Hatfield Heath, Manuden captain Chris Holt lost the toss and the home side elected to bat. Opening bowler Will Fox sent down a decent initial spell of medium pace. However Hatfield Heath's opening pair soon got the measure of the conditions and the change bowlers proved to be a little ring-rusty, bowling too many boundary-balls which both batsmen capitalised on, despite a committed fielding effort. There were good spells in the middle of the innings from Joe Davey and Neil Jenkins bowling medium pace, and from Dan Hawkrige bowling slow left arm, but still wickets were hard to come by and the home team batted deep and saw out their 40 overs for the loss of only a few wickets setting 245 to win.

Phil Hoult and Jim Tatchell opened the batting for Manuden and started well with a flurry of boundaries ensuring the rate was matched, until the first wicket went down. After that Manuden lost 2 relatively quick wickets before Nick and Adam Pulfer brought the counter attack with a fine display of hitting. However when Nick Fox had to retire for 50, the remaining batsmen could not match his firepower and the rate started to get away from Manuden and wickets fell regularly. Even Nick's re-appearance at the crease was too late to prevent Hatfield Heath closing out victory by 59 runs.

Manuden's fielding was sharp and there were some fine individual performances with bat and ball, but ultimately the target set by the home side was always going to be challenging. The opposition was composed of league players and Manuden did not having enough depth in bowling faced with an unexpected 40 over format and an 8 bowler requirement.