

## Little Marlow v Wendover

Saturday 23rd April 2022

## Little Marlow v Great Missenden Pelicans

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2022

Little Marlow Cricket Club recorded their first victories of the new season, against visitors Wendover and Great Missenden Pelicans.

On Saturday, the Wendover skipper, not having too much faith in the strength of his line-up, inserted his hosts on a batsman friendly surface. It proved to be a wise decision, although one or two of his bowlers might have disagreed as Adam Ali raced to a majestic century, dominating a series of partnerships before departing for 111 from just 70 deliveries. Skipper Uzair Hassan's 44 maintained the momentum before useful contributions lower down the order carried Little Marlow to 258 for 8 from their 40 overs.

Wendover were never in the hunt; Sai Kiran and Rahim Dad taking 3 wickets a piece as they subsided to 117 all out. The match lost any sense of competitive edge way before its close – one that would definitely would have benefited from keeping the draw as an option.

Sunday's match was a much closer, and therefore more enjoyable, encounter. Initially it followed a very similar path, with Sai Pavan Kumar providing the fireworks as Little Marlow, again inserted, raced along at 7 runs per over. The left-hander successfully targeted the trees and neighbouring field beyond the mid-wicket boundary, hitting three 6s and five 4s before falling for 55 from just 28 deliveries.

Opening partner, Anwar Mahmood, pressed on as partners came and went at close intervals, threatening to undermine much of the early good work. However, from 115 for 6, debutant Hemanth Palanati contributed 16 towards a 48 runs stand. Mahmood departed for an attractive 75, but a few well struck blows from Sai Kiran (16\*) steered Little Marlow to 197 all out.

Pelicans also made a flying start, taking advantage of some wayward bowling and dire fielding, the latter in sharp contrast to the smart, enthusiastic performance of the visitors.

The match turned irreversibly towards Little Marlow as soon as Pavan Kumar introduced the first of his many spinners. Contributor-in-chief, Rahmann (47), had a swipe at the first ball he received from 'leggie' Umar Islam, succeeding only in presenting Hugh Dickinson with a straight forward catch. 'Offie' Faisal Ahmed Khan removed the other three members of Pelicans' top four, a setback from which they never fully recovered.

Spin continued to be Little Marlow's most effective weapon as Sandeep Bellamkonda (3-13) and Pavan Kumar, switching from his usual medium-fast swing, kept the Pelicans behind the asking rate whilst working their way through the remaining wickets.

The innings closed on 174 all out.