

U11 Colts: Potters Bar vs. Finchley 6th June.

Match notes

Many thanks to Seb and Isobel for scoring.

Finchley skipper - Louis

Finchley won the toss and elected to bowl first.

We made a number of tactical changes in both batting and bowling line-ups for this game, hoping to learn from the recent home match. Joe opened the bowling with a maiden and Luke bowled their opener in a wicket maiden from the other end. Joe took a good catch during Luke's second wicket maiden to leave Potters Bar on 5-2 after four overs. Harrison Palmer, one of Potters Bar's county players, came in to bat and immediately started scoring. Sam bowled two overs opposite Peter who clean bowled the Potters Bar captain in his first over. Harry came on to bowl leg-spin for the first time this season and after being hit for four, with his next ball, removed Harrison's off stump. Peter took another wicket in his next over, Joe taking a second good catch, whilst Harry put down two maidens in a row and was still annoyed at himself for letting a C&B chance slip. Louis replaced Peter and bowled two very tidy overs for just three runs to leave Potter Bar on 39-5 after fourteen overs. Alex bowled two overs down the hill and Luke and Harry one more each. Joe clean bowled James Ilott in the last over and Alex took a great catch off the last ball of the innings. Potters Bar finished on 62-7.

By a long way, this was our most disciplined bowling and fielding display this season. There was only one wide bowled in the whole innings, four byes and not a single no-ball. Andy was, as ever, tidy behind the stumps and every member of the team made excellent stops to save vital runs. The throwing in, and backing up, was again the best so far this year.

Joe and Sam opened the batting against by far the quickest and most accurate bowling attack we've faced. They survived brilliantly for ten overs but scoring runs proved very difficult. Sam did a great job for the team and was applauded off by all his team-mates as he retired, unbeaten on seven. Alex was instructed to hit the ball but was caught out doing exactly that, as was Andy, who hit a good four before being falling in the same way. Louis came in, and he and Joe ran superbly, picking up lots of very quick singles. As our total crept towards the target, Potters Bar were forced to bring their openers back into the attack. This paid dividends as James Ilott bowled Louis for four. Harry took a single before being bowled by Patrick Scott, who also took Peters wicket in the same way. Joe was still playing his best innings of the season at one end and Luke picked up four runs before being bowled by Ilott. In the closest finish of the season, Finchley needed twelve from the last two overs and Toby scored one and ran well with Joe to pick up a couple more before being bowled by Scott. With seven runs required for victory off the last ball Nick managed to hit a great four to leave Finchley agonisingly close on 60-6.

Joe was unbeaten on 24, after an innings of great maturity and overall the batters gave a good account of themselves against quality opposition. To see the Potters Bar fielders lining the boundaries in the final few overs shows how close we pushed them.

What a fantastic match, an advert for the game of cricket at this level, played hard but fair by both sides and in a great spirit. I think everyone watching will agree that all the players on both teams deserve credit. We were very unlucky to lose by the narrowest of margins but will take many positives from the game. It showed how as an entire squad we have improved through the season and we can look forward to our return league match, later in June.

The important thing now is for everybody to maintain this level of performance in the match on Sunday. If we do this, we can go into the game with confidence.

Result: Potters Bar (62-7) beat Finchley (61-6) by 1 run.

Bowling:

Name	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wkts
Joe	3	1	8	2
Harry	4	2	9	1
Luke	4	2	10	2
Peter	3	0	6	2
Sam	2	0	11	0
Alex	2	0	11	0
Louis	3	0	3	0
Extras			6	

Fielding:

Catches – Joe (2), Alex

Batting:

Batsman	How Out	Runs	4's	6's
Joe	Not out	24		
Sam	Retired – not out	7	1	
Alex	Caught	0		
Andy	Caught	4	1	
Louis	Bowled	4		
Harry	Bowled	1		
Peter	Bowled	0		
Luke	Bowled	4		
Toby	Bowled	4		
Nick	Not Out	4	1	
Dillon				
Extras		13		
Total		60		

Gareth.