

Finchley U11 v Potters Bar U11 16th May 08

This match was being hailed as our toughest test so far and Finchley didn't disappoint. Some indifferent batting and some good bowling left Potters Bar with just 88 from their 20 overs. This total was only achievable because of the knocks from Luke Jupp at the top of the order with a classy 13, Harrison Palmer – also 13 before he played a loose shot to a straight ball, an excellent 20 from Patrick Scott before he was run out in true colts style – bat in the air passed the crease, Patrick should know better but at least he'll never do it again, and finally a swashbuckling 10 from the bat of Drew Daniels-Smith – his 2 fours of their County bowler got Drew smiling wider than the cat from Cheshire! But all in all we were about 20 runs light on a good batting track with a quick outfield. For the first time this season I was slightly disappointed with the way we performed with the bat.

At the half way stage I asked the boys for one final effort – to bowl and field like their lives depended on it – and this time it was Potters Bar who didn't disappoint.

James Ilott's opening spell was as hostile a spell of bowling as I've seen at this level – fast, straight and with success. 3 wickets in his first three overs and this pretty much broke the back of their batting. Patrick Scott opened from the other end and bowled equally as well but without the success that James enjoyed. Luke Jupp then completed a good match by bowling very straight and gave away just 1 run from his two overs.

Hadley Caswell, Alexander Dale and the aforementioned Drew all took a wicket apiece and bowled very tidily to bring home the victory for Potters Bar.

Freddie Scutt captained in Timmy Richards absence and did a grand job. He batted with maturity and put on 31 runs with Patrick and helped get the score to somewhere near respectability. On the field he was vocal, enthusiastic and encouraging – in fact it has been a pleasure to coach the boys so far this year as they have all been very enthusiastic and have encouraged each other throughout every ball bowled – whether near or very very wide!!!

Potters Bar ended up winning by 41 runs – a convincing win and we will face them again at home, this time, in the next round of the cup in early June.

A special word of thanks must also go to Jon 'the bearded wonder' Scutt for braving the bitterly cold evening and scoring for me once again. His figures almost added up and his writing was just about legible, thank you Jon – without you we wouldn't know we'd won!

Well played boys – keep up the good work.

Mark Ilott
U11's manager

Potters Bar 88-9
Jupp 13
Palmer 13
Scott P 20

Daniels-Smith 10

Finchley 47-9

Ilott 3 overs 3-3

Scott P 2 overs 1-4

Caswell 3 overs 1-4 (no runs from the bat)

Dale 3 overs 1-2

Daniels-Smith 2 overs 1-2