

## Potters Bar U11 v Finchley U11 League Match 26<sup>th</sup> June

Finchley very kindly agreed to delay the start of this important league game until I arrived (stuck in a 2.5 hour traffic jam) and by the time I did turn up the toss was had and Potters Bar were to field first. Finchley very cannily opened the batting with a very straight but not particularly attacking batter last time round to negate the effect of James Ilott and Pat Scott, so I opened the bowling with Hadley Caswell and Luke Jupp this time round in case they did it again and it seemed to work albeit in the most peculiar way!

Luke was his usual economical self and Hadley bowled well too but it was a ball of sheer mastery that was to undo their best batter. Hadley flighted the ball so perfectly that it bounced twice and in his eagerness to despatch the ball into the still unsold new flats in The Walk, the batsman top edged where Harrison was amazed but thankful for the chance. One down and the dangerman out of the way.

Unfortunately Finchley never really recovered from that dismissal and although it is still considered a legal delivery in U11's cricket I can see no reason why this shouldn't be no balled – my boys are good enough to not bowl that drivel!!

I held back Pat and James until the end as they have been the best bowlers week in week out, but it was Freddie Scutt who once again showed what a good bowler he is becoming. No wickets for him but an extremely tight spell saw just 4 runs from the bat in his 4 overs. James didn't have his best day ever and went for a few more runs than he would like but did get the wicket of Harry who can be dangerous also. Pat bowled brilliantly at the end of the innings picking up one wicket also and conceding just 5 runs.

After the poor performance in the field against Islington that cost us the match, the boys were back to their best. Robert Poth patrolled the cover boundary beautifully with some super throws and didn't let a ball get through him. The visitors restricted to just 48 runs in their 20 overs. A walk in the park it should have been!!!

Having not bowled a ball Drew was promoted up the order to give the ball some of his special treatment and Luke Jupp was to partner him at the top of the innings. Joseph and Harry were their two trump cards and if Finchley were going to win this match these two bowlers would have to cut through our top order. And it was on the cards as first Luke Jupp nicked a ball behind and then a crazy single saw Drew stranded at the same end as Pat Scott. Pat stood his ground and it was Drew who had the long walk back to the Pavilion. The very next over saw Harrison bamboozled by an excellent delivery from possibly the best leg spinner in the County and Potters Bar were reeling at 12-3. James Ilott then joined Pat for what was a very important partnership. Another wicket now whilst Harry and Joseph still had overs left would have put us under severe pressure. But credit where it is due they both played beautifully, James especially, with the bad ball being despatched for 4 and the good balls being defended – good mature cricket. The total soon became less than 20 to win and from then on I was pretty confident.

The game was finished with these two still at the crease and a 7-wicket win was completed in less than 10 overs. The Finchley Umpire also saw the early result as a

great chance to give some guys a game and I immediately retired Pat and James (who was run out anyway) where they made way for the rest of the guys to have a good knock.

Overall a top performance from the boys and it's great to see that it's not just the 'stars' that are winning the games for Potters Bar. Unlike last season every member of the squad has put something towards a victory probably more than once and I have been very proud of them for that. Great win boys, and a league title to reward them for their efforts.

Scores:

Finchley 48-5

Hadley 1-4 off 3

Freddie 0-4 off 4

Pat 1-5 off 2

Potters Bar

49-3

James 18 not out.

Pat Scott 10 not out.