

U11 Colts: Potters Bar vs. Finchley 26th June.

Match notes

Many thanks to Nick for scoring.

Finchley skipper - Louis

Potters Bar won the toss and elected to bowl first.

Joe and Alex opened the batting. After our tactics last time Potters Bar didn't use their usual opening bowlers but still kept it very tight, restricting us to 9 from the first 4 overs. Joe was very unlucky to be caught behind off a double bouncer in the fifth over and Alex was run out in a mix-up three balls later. Louis and Andy were at the crease but Andy was bowled in the sixth with us on 9-3. Harry came in with Louis but scoring was still difficult and after 10 overs we were on 20-3. After 12 overs Potters Bar brought on James Ilott but Louis hit a superb straight four off his second ball. With the last ball of the over Harry was bowled by a great off-stump yorker to leave us on 29-4. Nick came in and nearly reached the boundary with his first shot but Potters Bar kept the squeeze on with two maidens in a row. In the 17th over, with James bowling, Louis hit another four and two more excellent drives to take eight from the over. Nick was bowled at the beginning of the 18th over with the score on 41 with Henry coming in. He and Louis ran well to take 7 from the last two overs leaving us with a total of 48-5.

Louis' excellent 21, his best innings of the season, had given us something to bowl at. All our batsmen hit some nice strokes but the quality of the Potters Bar fielding made scoring very difficult. They certainly knew where to place their fielders as time and again well struck shots went for no runs. I think that against many teams, we would have had a total of over 70, a competitive score in the conditions. However, we knew the chances of restricting Potters Bar to 48 on their own ground were extremely slim.

Gabriel and I ran through many combinations of possible opening bowlers but eventually decided to use Joe and Harry (I must admit at this point to being very nervous for Harry, being asked to open as a leg-spinner against a really strong batting line up and with very few runs to play with). Joe opened the bowling with an accurate over but a couple of good shots meant Potters Bar got off to a quick start. Harry beat the bat from the off and managed to get Luke caught behind by Andy in his first over. Joe bowled another good over and coolly ran out Drew after a batting mix-up, helped by a good throw in from Alex. Harry kept up the pressure in his second over and bowled Harrison, bring James Ilott to the crease. At 11-3 in the fourth over, Potters Bar were just beginning to get a little nervous, but James Ilott signalled his intent with an impressive sweep shot for four. Joe's third over was a very accurate maiden that saw him shave the stumps. Harry conceded his most expensive over of the entire season, with nine coming from his third, as Potters Bar went on the attack and they continued against Louis in the next. Harry bowled a good last over and Joe returned to the attack to bowl his last over but the batsmen got the final six runs required to win.

As the light was still reasonable it was agreed to continue playing and most of the team had a chance to bowl an over. This brought forth some fielding spectaculars with a 20yd, direct-hit run out from Toby and the bizarre sight of us bowling to a field including seven slips and a gully!. The lads enjoyed it!

It was an excellent effort from the bowlers under very difficult circumstances. Joe and Harry bowled bravely and at one point even sowed the seeds of doubt in Potters Bar. Our fielding was average - a few very good stops and a few that slipped by – but realistically a score of 48 was never going to be enough to win.

Overall, the thing that won the game for Potters Bar was the sheer quality of their fielding. Their positioning and awareness were first class and the way they talked to each other throughout our innings should be seen as a lesson.

Result: Potters Bar (49-3) beat Finchley (48-5) by 7 wickets

Batting:

Batsman	How Out	Runs	4's	6's
Joe	Caught	4		
Alex	Run out	3		
Louis	Not Out	21	2	
Andy	Bowled	0		
Harry	Bowled	2		
Nick	Bowled	2		
Henry	Not out	3		
Toby				
Jamie				
Edward				
Dillon				
Extras				
Total		48 for 5		

Bowling:

Name	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wkts
Joe	4	1	18	0
Harry	4	0	21	2
Louis	1	0	11	0
Extras			(Included)	

Fielding:

Catch – Andy

Run out – Joe/Alex

Gareth.