

### Hurley 99-8 beat Finchampstead 78-6 by 21 runs

After a long week of healthy debate with Finchampstead about whether our scheduled U11 Central Division fixture was on or off, late confirmation from the opposition saw Hurley take to the field at a well and truly packed Shepherds Lane. After agreeing to bat first, Hurley started well with a solid opening partnership between Joe (8) and David (15), the latter in particular playing some very attractive shots. Some excellent catching from Finch then left Hurley struggling as big guns Bill and Chris at 3 and 4 were caught off steeping catches in the outfield. Fortunately the U9 contingent in our lower order contributed well led by Oliver D who hit a career best 17 and Louis and Theo who both got 8. Hurley finished on 99-8 from their 20 overs.

In response Finch were always behind the asking rate as the Hurley ground fielding was exceptional, even if the catching left a bit to be desired ! Of the six wickets that fell, there were four run-outs, including some quick thinking from Chris and an excellent return throw from Alexander. The other two were clean bowled Oliver D and Alexander. All 11 players got a bowl and Chris led the troops admirably. Congratulations to Raff Bowler who stepped in at the last moment for his debut and showed us the cricketing potential he has. Finch ended on 78-6, leaving Hurley victors by 21 runs.

Well played to all, and thanks to Reg, Alan and Malcolm for their assistance. Just one observation from Reg's immaculately kept scorebook - the Finch total included 45 extras including 28 runs worth of no-balls and wides, each one being 2 runs conceded. This compares to Kidmore End where we only conceded 6 runs from no-balls and wides - so if we can tighten up a bit next time round that would be good as these extras can make a big difference !!