

Purley and Whitchurch U11 91 all out off 20 overs, Hurley U11 32 all out off 15.1 overs.

On a glorious summers morning for match 5 of the season, a slightly under strength Hurley U11 side made the long trek to Whitchurch to play the bottom of the table Purley and Whitchurch development side in a beautiful setting for cricket. With sun cream and hats the order of the day both on and off the pitch, stand-in captain David Morgans won the toss and asked the home side to bat.

The Whitchurch innings started badly with both openers back in the hutch quickly. Wickets fell at regular intervals to leave the home side struggling at 50 for 8. At the moment the home side pulled a rabbit out of the bag as the number 9 batsman blazed the ball to all parts in reaching his retirement score of 25. On the fielding front our usual dropped catches and overthrows were interspersed with flashes of brilliance, Will's first catch and debutant Chloe Woolley's run out being the highlights. Special mention should go to Theo who bowled a superb three over spell from the clubhouse end to end with 4 for 9, a seasons best for the team. Bill, David and Raff also bowled well and the home team finished on 91 all out from the last ball of the innings, probably more than double what might have been expected half an hour earlier.

The in-form opening pair of Joe Graham and David needed to get us off to a steady start, and things were looking rosy until David was run out coming back for a tight second run in the second over. Raff Bowler showed a bit of durability batting at 3, but when he was out and Bill Craig followed quickly with an ugly heave across the line leaving us 20 for 4, the target set by Whitchurch became a mountain to climb. The gung-ho attitude of our middle to lower order was unfortunately not matched with the quality of the shot selection, and wickets tumbled every few balls. Chloe got her first run for the club, but with Oliver Wardell unable to bat because of a sore hand, our innings closed on 32 all out after 15 overs, so no batting points.

Thanks to all who played and to Dave Pollitt for umpiring and Jono for scoring. Only 5 bowling points from this game. With games every week it leaves no time for coaching but please try and remember the front foot shots we have practised over the last 2 years. If it's a full pitched delivery on the stumps you need to play it with a straight bat (vertically !), move your feet to the pitch of the ball and keep your head over the ball. Play each ball on its merit!!

In my haste to leave to get to Dorney Lake for a 2pm start , I left the kit bag. Couldn't have been a worse place to leave it, which pretty much summed up the morning!!