

### Hurley U11 272-7 beat Braywood U11 260-10 (24 overs, pairs cricket)

A Hurley side missing six players who have featured regularly this season, including our two top run scorers, gathered at Shepherds Lane to play a developing Braywood side. They, like us last year, are new to youth cricket this season and seem to be well stocked numbers-wise with some potential clearly starting to come through. The format of the game was hard ball pairs cricket, 12 a side (even though we could only muster 11, an achievement in itself as the U9 were playing and the holidays are in full swing), each team starts at 200 and batsman bat in pairs for 4 overs, accumulating runs as normal and losing 5 runs each time a batsman is dismissed.

Stand-in captain Joe Graham lost the toss and we were invited to bat. Here is a summary of our innings by pair which ended on +72 with 7 outs. Not a lot of detail but some good batting from Ben and Oliver D, and the total boosted by some wayward bowling by the visitors late on.

Ben Lederman/Raff Bowler	net +11, out twice
Joe Graham/Henry Graham	net+10
Oliver Dawkins/Blake Dyson	net +9, out three times
Oliver Wardell/Theo Patrick	net +26
Rolly Bhalla/Alex Williams	net +7, out once
Imogen Ballard/Theo Patrick	net +9, out once

Our bowling was front loaded and new addition from the village Ben Lederman steamed in and bowled 2 impressive maidens, but a couple of catches went begging and it wasn't until the seventh over that we got our first wicket, when Oliver D took the first of his three catches in a wicket maiden from Joe Graham. After 17 overs and with 7 to come Braywood were well set on 251 but the last three bowlers, Raff, Imogen and Rolly bowled magnificently at the end and another five wickets fell to leave us victors by 12 runs.

Special mention to Rolly who was asked to bowl 4 overs to cover our player shortage and went for -1, -3, -4 and 7, concentrating on bowling straight into the wind, rather than at full pace. This spell coupled with Imogen's first ever bowl in her first ever game of cricket calmed the nerves of all spectators.

Thanks to Braywood for the game and the enthusiastic sporting nature in which it was played. As they enter the league I am sure we will have many good close games against them.

It is great to see some new faces and very pleasing to see everyone enjoying it. This format ensures everyone gets involved so well done to all my guys who performed well. Thanks Jono for wielding the pencil and mastering the occasionally confusing scoring format.