The 5th week of the season saw 4 games played

Preston Under 14s vrs Datchworth

No report yet

**Preston under 10 vrs WGC**

On a glorious night at Preston, the under 10 were asked to bat first. Nid and Xander opened up an started slowly relying on extras and with a couple of wickets we were 197 /2 after 2 overs. Nid 12 then got into his stride to hit a couple of boundaries as we were 219/2 after 4. Next up Elliott (6) and Toby (9) who scored 10 off the first over with Toby hitting a lovely 4. Lots of running and extras saw 32 scored off the bat but a couple of dismissals saw us on 241/4 at the half way stage

Harry and Nathan then came to the wicket and with extras coming in the first over then Harry playing some textbook shots, a couple of boundaries, to score 13 they pushed the score on to 266/4. The last pair of Daniel and James did not have the best of starts as both went to the first balls they faced. They then got stuck in to get us to 263/7 at the close of the innings.

We had a great start in reply as Elliot got a wicket with the first ball, James then took a wicket to leave WGC on 206/2 after 4. The next pair looked dangerous as they hot a couple of fours but a wicket for Harry and another for Elliott meant WGC were 223/4 after 8. The next four overs saw us win the game, as Daniel and James with two wickets put us into a winning position.

The final four overs were played out with not to much excitement as WGC finished on 226/7

Wicket takers Elliot2/10 James 3/3 Harry 1 /13 Daniel ¼.

 Special mention to Xander – excellent straight bowling

**MATCH REPORT (22ND MAY 2017 H V NORTH MYMMS U11’S)**

A disappointing batting performance saw the boys lose their unbeaten record as they lost by 52 runs to a decent North Mymms side.

Winning the toss Jacob decided to bowl and in tandem with Arham they bowled a tight opening spell with no luck. They were replace by James and Awad who each claimed a wicket but the North Mymms opener now had his eye in and hit some impressive boundaries before finally retiring on 33 which proved to be the real difference between the sides. Robert picked up a couple of wickets with his off spin, one of which was well caught by Jacob and Elliott pounced for an excellent run out to stem the tide but Harry and the returning Jacob and Arham were well played by North Mymms middle order and North Mymms posted a challenging 100-5 from their 20 overs.

Our inning got off to a disastrous start as Elliott ran himself out without facing a ball and Nidhaan was bowled without scoring. Arham crashed a couple of boundaries before being well caught for 13 which started a bit of a collapse as Toby and Jacob followed soon after in the same fashion and in-between Xander was run out after several calls of yes and no. Harry and James stuck around for a bit picking up mainly extras with some good running before James was run out going for a quick single and Harry was caught for 2. Awad smashed his first ball for 4 but was bowled the next ball trying to do the same and was quickly followed by Robert leaving Nathan stranded as the not out batsman as we finished all out for 48 from 13.5 overs.

I think it says a lot about how far the boys have come, especially the fantastic win against Hitchin, that we were disappointed with the performance on the night but it should be noted that the majority of the team are playing against boys at least a year older. We didn’t quite have the same focus either in the field or with the bat as we did in the previous game and the boys decision making was punished by some excellent bowling and fielding from the opposition who held all their catches and took the run-out opportunities given to them.

Prior to our innings I told the boys to be positive with their running and attacking shots as we attempted to chase a big total which in hindsight proved to be the wrong message as we played too recklessly. Our success in the previous matches was to play the bowling on its merits and be patient in building innings and taking the opportunity to target the weaker bowlers later in the innings. Hopefully the lessons learned by the players and myself as coach can be taken into the next few matches and we can bounce back stronger.

Thanks again to all the parents who helped on the night.

The remaining scheduled fixtures are listed below:

8/6/2017 – A v North Mymms (Unfortunately I am unavailable as away golfing in Portugal that week but Nigel or Ashley will be in contact)

23/6/2017 – A v Hitchin

26/6/2017 – H v Weston

30/6/2017 – A v Welwyn

TBA – H v Welwyn

**Under 10 softball vrs Hitchin**

Under 10 softies fell 14 runs short of a successful 286 run chase at Hitchin.. Scorecard and full match report to follow.

Cracking debut for Harry, a maiden over & 2 wickets including a sharp caught and bowled and so nearly the winning partnership with Declan.

Glam shot of the day -  Sam's pull shot all along the ground and into the bushes

Perfect catch of the match - Harry

Man of the Match - Freddie for another tight bowling display and top run scorer

Special mention - Yash for some great power hitting!

Great team bowling effort - Everyone bowled 2 overs including at least one very good over!!

Coach's Comments/Areas to work on..

Running between the wickets: calling, backing up..

All comes with experience but there were a couple of suicidial calls both of which should have resulted in -5 (only one did). Also when the required run rate climbs to above 6 we need to be more urgent: calling earlier - almost tip and run. Don't ask Cal about that!!!

We bowled much fewer wides than they did. but cutting off easy boundaries was the critical difference: when captain says "field on the boundary" it means exactly that, not half way, or 5 steps deeper than the fielding circle !

Well done to all, a good game of cricket and still in the hunt for the knockouts if we can put a couple of wins together.

**Preston Under 13 vrs Bishops Stortford**

On a glorious morning in Bishops Stortford, the boys were met by a lovely ground and a large crowd. With Olly Skinner and Tom Harvey making their first start of the season and Jude returning to keeping duties, Winning his third consecutive toss Olly elected to bowl to enable us to allow Jack to field before departing to golf. Tom and Adam opened the bowling and both bowled well without any fortune, but kept the runs to a respectable 4 a over. Olly had elected to have a defensive field of 4 on the boundary from the word go, which was working out. Tom bowled straight through to have 0/14 from his allocation. Harry replaced Adam and a good first over was followed by a slightly wayward second over but still good pace and bounce. Olly then went for the slow bowling option of himself and Alex and the run rate slowed as the opener retired for 30. Next ball saw the first wicket fall on 58 and then the pressure was applied as Alex 1/19 Olly 1/7 off four put Stortford behind the clock, Push was introduced with a new shorten run up, he is now a leg spinner. His two overs produced three wickets including a catch from Olly C. The innings closed on 85/5.

The boys were in a good place at the interval and a solid start was required to make sure we had wickets in tack. *At this point the report is thanks, to Olly and Alex, as the coach left.* Jack and Luke started watchfully and had 7 off three overs before Luke was caught for 4. Olly and Jack then batted sensibly playing themselves in and seeing off the opening bowlers. They put on a stand of 60, with Olly hitting some excellent cover drive plus a six, Jack hit 4 boundaries and was unfortunately out just before the retirement mark for 26. Olly then retired on 32. It was then left to Adam 9\* Tom and Pushan 6\* to see us over the line, the final runs being a boundary from Push to give us 3 consecutive victories.

Thanks to all the supporters, Iain for umpiring the second half and Tony for scoring.

Have a good week

Ash