

Under 11s Cricket Match Report:

Hi all,

Hythe U11s played Elham Valley on Sunday 4th July and won by 47 runs.

Probably our best all round performance of the season resulted in a well deserved win on another lovely sunny morning at The Grove.

Hythe batted first and our innings was opened by **Harry W** and **Matt**. They faced some very accurate bowling and found it hard to score. **Matt** was able to score from a few deliveries whilst **Harry** eventually got frustrated and had a cross bat swish at a straight one that he missed and lost the only wicket of the partnership.

Joseph and **Harry S** followed and started to accelerate the scoring. **Joseph**, as Harry W previously, lost patience with good line and length bowling and lost a wicket swinging at a good ball. **Harry S** continued his impressive season with the bat by showing the aggression that has perhaps been lacking in previous innings and finding the boundary **3 times**. His defensive strokes looked solid and he at no time looked like getting out. A good partnership that set a good base for Ken and Jack.

Ken And **Jack** put on *over 50 runs in their 5 overs* and were a *pleasure to watch*. They ran and called well. **Jack** scored 10, of which 6 were singles, showing how well the strike was rotated. **Ken** dominated the scoring and amassed a fantastic 31, our highest individual score of the season so far. What made his knock so enjoyable was that he played at all times with a straight bat and all runs scored were the result of orthodox cricket shots. *Well done Ken!*

Our last pair continued to pile the pressure on the Elham fielders who were already feeling the heat. **Max** and **Oliver** added *over 30* with a mixture of good running and big hitting. *Max is now our top scorer with the bat for the season whilst Oliver looks as if he has been playing Saxon Shore league for far longer than 2 games.*

Hythe finished with a total of 294. This was always going to be a competitive score, helped by the fact that we only lost 4 wickets throughout our innings.

After a big drink and the application of sun cream Hythe took to the field to defend their total.



Elham opened with their 2 strongest players and came up against **Jack**, **Harry W** and **Oliver** who bowled the first 5 overs between them.

Jack bowled very tightly and gave the batsmen nothing to have a go at. *I know it was hot and that we stress to all players to protect themselves from the sun, but Jack may find it beneficial in future to remember to take his cap off when bowling!*

Harry W bowled the best 2 overs I have seen him bowl. He bowled around the wicket and made the batsmen play at every ball. He was very unlucky not to pick up a wicket as his nagging line and length forced the Elham Valley players to resort to the same cross bat shots he had played earlier in our innings. He also showed that he was paying attention by whipping the bails off at the bowler's end when he spotted the non-striker out of his ground. I explained the etiquette around this issue.

*Our next bowler was **Harry S** who bowled a spell he will be still be telling anyone he can find to listen to him about in 50 years time! He only went for 3 runs, 2 of which were from a wide and claimed **3 wickets. In a row! A hat-trick!!!!** Many players will go their whole careers without claiming one of these so for Harry to pick one up so early in his playing career is a fantastic feat. Even better, all three wickets were clean bowled. *Well done Harry and treasure the moment.* He also applied the finishing touches to 2 run outs during this spell and it is fair to say that these 5 wickets ended the match as a contest.*



Matt was our next bowler and took a **wicket** with his second ball. I was scoring and couldn't see clearly, but it must have been a hell of a ball as *even the umpire applauded!* **Matt** continued to show the development he has all season, only conceding 3 wides.

Ken was next and bowled his usual off stump line from left arm over. He bowled **2 maidens** and the only scoring shot from his spell was a streaky outside edge for 4. Unlucky not to claim his usual wickets Ken can be proud of a very good spell that well complimented his effort with the bat.

As usual **Max** bowled last and took the responsibility of the last over. He bowled a good line and length and went for very few runs from his 3 overs.

Joseph had a torrid time as wicket keeper, getting struck about the body a number of times. *He threw himself all over the place saving the team many byes.* I also noticed how much more quickly he is getting up to the wickets to receive throws from fielders. Joseph took one particular ball in the ribs that caused him some real pain. Had we been playing football he would have been carried off on a stretcher and declared unfit to play for a month, but as we were playing cricket he had a bit of a lie down then got up and got on with it. *We breed them tough in Hythe!*

So a well deserved win as we head towards out last few league games. I will be arranging friendlies in August and will let you know the details as I finalise them.

Many thanks to Andy Garton for umpiring.

I know I spoke to a few people at the end of the game who were keen to buy the playing tops, please see Clare for payment. If you do not want to buy the top, please return it to me so I can launder it for the next match.

Match stats

Batting

	dismissals	Runs
Harry W	1	0
Matt	0	4
Joseph	1	0
Harry S	0	13
Ken	0	31
Jack	0	10
Max	1	18
Oliver	1	11

Bowling

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets
Jack	3	0	9	0
Harry W	3	0	10	0
Oliver	3	1	16	0
Harry S	3	2	3	3
Matt	2	0	13	1
Ken	3	2	4	0
Max	3	0	8	0

I hope as many as possible are able to get to the nets arranged by Mark on Thursday evenings 18.30-19.30. I will not be there for the first 2 due to work, but we will assess how many are attending to see whether or not the sessions are viable. If you want mid week training then get along to the ground!

Well done to you all and I was also pleased to see a number of U11 players at training, using the opportunity of not playing in a match to work on the technical aspects of the game.

Cheers,

Rod.