

Match Report:

Hythe U11s played Hawkinge in a friendly at The Grove on 1/8/10 and won by 9 runs.

This was a good close match that nearly fell victim to some unexpected rain just before 10am. *Thanks to Martin Cobb and Shaun from Hawkinge are due as the fielding restrictions that were put in place allowed the game to go ahead as well as protect the initially damp table with the upcoming cricket week in mind.* Amazing what can be achieved when calm heads are allowed to rule...

Max won the toss and chose to bat first.



Opening for us were Hythe debutant **Alfie Taylor** from the Edenbridge Club in Lancashire and a blast from the past from last season, **Dylan Fernandes**. Both players batted well and no wickets were lost. **Dylan** batted in the correct style we all remember but also showed that he is now able to attack the bowling more easily, tucking a couple of boundaries away well behind square on the leg side. **Alfie** attacked more off the front foot and scored well, hitting **4 boundaries**. He looked very comfortable with the bat and is obviously a great asset to his home club.

A good solid start from these two was continued by **Ken** and **Jack**. We suffered a couple of run outs in this partnership as the Hawkinge fielding was proving to be as tight as their bowling. **Ken** struggled to find the boundary, but rotated the strike well calling through singles at every opportunity. **Jack** unleashed a few big hits across the boundary line and also picked up the singles when they were available. The partnership ended with the score around 250 which was acceptable.

Oliver and **Matt** came in next and struggled to get the ball away, though the partnership did prosper from some wides which helped keep the score moving. **Matt** prodded at the ball on the off side to pick up a few singles though still declines to attack the ball when it is on the leg side. *Easy runs to be had there Matt!* **Oliver** was more aggressive in his outlook though this led to him being stumped as he left his ground when attacking. I think we also lost another wicket to a run out.

The fourth pair was **Harry S** and another debutant **Shaun**. **Harry** had hurt his leg in warm up and had been planning on batting with a runner until the last minute. He hit **3 boundaries** and looked to be as aggressive as possible. **Shaun**, understandably in his first game, appeared nervous at first and took a while to settle to the pace of the game. Lacking the experience that **Harry** has amassed over the last couple of seasons he was not always able to run some of the singles **Harry** called. I was pleased to see **Shaun** tuck a couple of singles away to square leg towards the end to get himself off the mark. *Well done Shaun, with your first game under your belt it will only get easier!*

Last in were **Sam** and **Max**. *Up until he faced the first ball of the pair Sam had not been dismissed in a match since our first game of the season back in early May.* Then to prove that like buses, wickets come in groups, he lost his wicket 3 times in the 5 overs! He nearly scored enough runs to pay the team back, thrashing a lovely drive through mid off. **Max** batted with his usual style and demonstrated a lovely array of shots all around the wicket. He hit a **couple of boundaries** but also relied on his deft touch and great running to build a great score.

Our total was 292, which was not as high as it should have been and a tribute to how well Hawkinge went about their business in the field.

Many thanks to all the Hawkinge players who abided by the playing regulations and kept off the table as much as possible. Much appreciated!



After a scoff and a trough Hythe headed out to defend their score.

*Once again in the field the attitude of a minority of our players left a lot to be desired with much criticism of fellow Hythe players. Should anyone think these comments are down to my own interpretation of what is acceptable on a cricket pitch I have to report that the Hawkinge umpire expressed his concerns to me over what he was hearing and also told the offending players to be quiet. **We are now at the point that I will start to ask players to leave the pitch if they are unable to modify their behaviour after a warning.***

We were minus **Harry S** who was unable to take the field as his leg injury had flared up again. *Hope you recover quickly Harry.*

Jack and **Ken** had the unenviable task of opening the bowling to a very good opening batsman from Hawkinge who smashed 2 sixes and 5 fours in a very entertaining 35. **Jack** suffered more than **Ken** as the batter lined **Jack** up and swung through the line, hitting the ball cleanly and a very long way!

When bowling to a batter who “has his eye in” it is really important to try to change your bowling around to disrupt his rhythm. Try bowling slower balls or suddenly changing to a shorter run to make him change his routine. Also keep the ball up to the batsman, aiming at his feet if possible, a yorker. This will prevent the batsman getting “underneath” the ball and lofting it over the in-field. You can change where you are bowling on the crease, changing the angle of attack. Ask the wicket keeper to stand up to the wickets if the batter is leaving his ground to attack you.

Jack did pick up a **wicket** in a later over and also threw in smartly to **Alfie** who whipped the bails off to claim a **run out**.

Ken was in chipper mood all morning and seemed to really relish the confrontation with the big hitter. He went for a couple of deflected shots through gully before tightening his line and bowling and into the batsman's body, where he didn't look so comfortable. **Ken** eventually claimed his man, bowling him behind his legs for a well-deserved **wicket**. *I enjoyed the way the batter and bowler joshed with each other as they passed on the wicket-both had enjoyed the battle!*

Dylan bowled next and served up a fantastic spell of 3 overs for 1 **wicket** and **conceding no runs!** It was that sort of form that won Dylan our best bowler award last season. *Well bowled Dylan, it was lovely to have you back for the game.*

Matt bowled 2 overs and went for only 11 runs. As is more and more the case **Matt** is bowling a good line and length and becoming a competent bowler.

Shaun was next up and bowled his 2 overs. He struggled to find line or length and quite a few extras were conceded. After every ball **Shaun** was able to tell me what he needed to do to get the delivery correct. Practice makes perfect and we will work with Shaun at training for the rest of the season to enable him to get that ball where he wants it. *Shaun did his best throughout the game and I hope he is proud of his efforts.* He received a constant barrage of not always helpful advice and I was impressed with his temperament and attitude. *Good on you Shaun!*

Oliver bowled 3 overs and conceded only 5 runs from them, claiming a **wicket**. He chose to bowl medium pacers and *I think his bowling was improved from last week because of this consistency of delivery.*

Sam and **Max** bowled to the last pair and did a good job in keeping the scoring low and bagging a **few wickets** to help narrowly defend the total.

Some good fielding, particularly from **Alfie** behind the stumps who kept *magnificently* for us. He pulled off a stumping and his glovework to take cleanly and remove the bails from Jack's low, hard throw was fantastic. *Many thanks for your efforts Alfie and we hope to see you at training again before you head home.*

Sam held a good catch from **Max**'s bowling, though shelled another running chance a bit later that I think he should have held! *I would have...!*

In all a good win. *Hawkinge more than played their part in the match and showed great sportsmanship by not putting their big hitter back in to bat when their wicket keeper was injured and couldn't come to the crease. I gave them the OK to bat whoever they wished as they allowed us to choose who would bowl the overs Harry S would have had he been on the pitch and they chose to give a batting opportunity to another player who was watching the match.*

Match Stats

<u>Batting</u>	Runs
Alfie	20
Dylan	12
Ken	9
Jack	15
Oliver	3
Matt	3
Harry S	14
Shaun	2
Sam	11
Max	17

<u>Bowling</u>	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets
Jack	3	0	28	1
Ken	4	0	24	2
Dylan	3	3	0	1
Matt	2	0	11	0
Shaun	2	0	21	0
Oliver	3	1	5	1

Sam	4	0	20	2
Max	4	0	27	2

Bowling point to Sam and batting point to Alfie.

This is the last game I will be awarding the points for, as the only potential game left will be played to “proper” cricket rules.

The points totals are:

	Batting	Bowling	Total
Sam	3	5	8
Max	4	1	5
Ken	1	2	3
Harry S		1	1
Euan		1	1
Guy	1		1
Jack	1		1
Hannah		1	1
Alfie	1		1

Batting prize goes to Max

Bowling prize goes to Sam

All rounder prize is shared between Sam and Ken.

The presentations will be on the last Sunday in **August, 29th**, and all involved with the U11s will receive a medal and their match stats.

Cheers,

Rod