

Christchurch Under 13s Match Reports 2011

11th July

Bournemouth 67ao XCH 123 ao

J. Padiachy 29, T. Parkinson 25, M. Rollinson 23no

J Padiachy 2.4-0-3-8, J. Owens 2-0-2-8

Despite the regular clatter of timber and committing the cardinal sin of not using up all the overs, the team achieved a competitive target after winning the toss and electing to bat in its first outing with a new captain, Mr Padiachy, who led by example with bat, ball and in the field.

Jish and Tom laid the foundations with a partnership of 41 and two other partnerships between Tom and Matias and Harry and Matias steadied the ship when things might have gone pear-shaped at 26-2, Matias hitting a season best. Once again against Bournemouth I see that every wicket that fell was a direct hit. Given that we were always ahead of the notional required run rate, anyone out playing an aggressive stroke to a good, straight one ought to ask themselves if that was the right decision given the position of the game. All it does is run the risk of letting the opposition back in it. We have done this on a couple of occasions this season - against Ferndown who now look likely to win the league and against Bournemouth who got to the county cup final. This is where you are headed if you address this. In fact, if I could point to one moment when I felt confident we would win in this game, it was when Tom went in and simply blocked the first ball.

Anyway to accentuate the positive (which is not too difficult after another twenty points), the fielding was much tidier than the opposition's and the catching was excellent, Dom's at deep backward square leg being the pick of them in my view. The bowling was penetrative with most people picking up wickets. If you have the opposition at 28 for 4 at the end of over 6 you are in command of the game. The running between the wickets was also sharp and decisive.

I notice there was not much dynamism in the field after a while and little pressurising of the new batsman and once again someone was on a hat-trick, but the number of close catchers did not visibly increase. Also they had only

one player who hit a few runs. In a closer game, it would have been worthwhile setting a deeper field and letting him have a single. Congratulations on another good win, but can you repeat the trick against their other side next week? I see no reason why not.

27th June

XCH 167/4 Wimborne/Colehill 39ao

J. Owens 33 no, J Padiachy 31 no, D. Roper 30 no

H. Nye 1-0-3-2

Another 20 points off one of the weaker sides in the league. A very fast start with some hard-hitting from Jish and Jack saw us get to 85 in six overs at which point I thought we might be on for a record score. Jack hit 27 off the first 13 balls, farming the strike wherever possible, but Jish, clearly piqued, nearly caught him up in the race for retirement, hitting 20 off the next 7. This is pretty fast scoring, I have to say, and even though the bowling was mediocre (not to say, cafeteria), it still has to be put away. Could we please do this to Bournemouth? It would make an old man very happy.

Tom kept up the scoring before Matt and Dominic moved things forward at a more steady pace after the loss of two quick wickets, Dominic finishing with his highest ever score and a well-deserved retirement. The remaining batsmen used up the overs productively to leave us on an unbeatable 167. The running and backing up was mostly good, but could be improved further. It's all about sharp, clear calling and backing-up a long way. It pays to be forceful. There were, I would add though, far more examples of good running than bad. It was one of the differences between the teams.

The bowling was tidy with only 5 wides in the 12.4 overs needed to dismiss the opposition and three maidens shared between Jack, Jish and Matt while Harry took two in two. In fact by the end of over 10, the opposition had only garnered 18 runs with us not bowling a single wide or no-ball till the end of over 8.

I think our field settings could improve. Why did we have three leg side fielders at one point? And why were the settings generally so deep, particularly for new batsmen and Harry's hat-trick ball? Well done for this competent all-round performance.

13th June

XCH 98ao - Poole Town 93ao

J. Padiachy 30 n.o., R. Boulton 24, S. Jackson 11

J. Padiachy 3-0-12-3, R. Boulton 2.5-0-12-2

I would not have thought, three quarters of the way through the Poole Town innings, that I would be writing a winning match report and drinking Victory beer this Monday evening, but obviously I underestimate you.

It seemed like a replay of last week with us storming to 80 off 10 overs with only 3 down. Unfortunately we didn't capitalise on this by constantly leaking wickets and leaving a dreadful 5.5 overs unused. We've really got to work on defending because that's all that's needed sometimes to inflate a good score into an unbeatable one. Extras and forceful backing-up can unnerve teams at the fag-end of a game, especially with the score spiralling ever upwards.

Obviously Jish has played a large part in this win with runs and wickets and we are indebted to his Bothamesque feats. He also showed his speed twin that, in this sort of low-scoring game, aiming for the stumps is more important than trying to knock the batsman's block off, entertaining though that can be. I thought for a moment I was watching a 1970s test match and not a twenty over thrash on the rec. Mr Boulton was not far behind him with runs and wickets. He has, as they say, more tricks than an India snake-charmer.

But this was not a two-man performance. Everybody contributed in all departments of the game. Whether batting, bowling or fielding. It is a win you can be very proud of - against last year's league winners.

The main disfiguring blot on the score sheet is the ghastly extras column - 30 runs - the equivalent of one retired batsman.

Please give this a little thought amid the euphoria.

6th June

XCH 96 ao Parley Panthers 100/2 off 18 overs

J. Padiachy 24, T. Parkinson 22, J. Owens 15

J. Owens 4-1-8-1, T. Parkinson 2-0-15-1

A disappointing result and one which could easily have gone our way with a little luck.

Batting we made a good start, remaining ahead of the run rate we had set ourselves, having 83 in the bank for the loss of only two at the end of the thirteenth over, the target being 85 by the end of the fifteenth. Unfortunately, we lost all our remaining wickets for only 11 more runs. I don't know if anyone was thinking about this at the time, but with 42 balls left and an overall target of 120, we needed only to take singles to achieve it – with six wickets do it. This is something that you really need to consider during the game. The run rate will tell you how much risk you need to take each time you face a ball. We also committed the cardinal sin of not using up all our overs. This is a bit like saying 'here you go, Parley, old boy, you have 20 overs, we only want 18!' 96 was always going to be a difficult one to defend even on the savannah-like surface of Barrack Road, but we got off to a decent start with Jack in particular, bowling tightly, uprooting the stumps with his third ball and being unlucky with an lb appeal against their top-scorer that looked pretty close. But Parley (who were sounding pretty worried at one point) kept chipping away and reached the target with 2 overs to spare. Achieving our target of 120 would have left them needing 10 an over which would have been interesting. Our fielding, I have to say, wasn't great with a couple of catchable chances going down and some ludicrous over-throws. If I were Matthew Allen I'd be pretty annoyed that my first ball (which should have yielded a wicket) went for four.

23rd May

XC H 196 for 3 – Wimborne/Colehill 35a.o.

J. Padiachy 33 n.o., T. Parkinson 31 n.o. , J. Owens 30 n.o., A Coffin 23

J. Padiachy 3-2, J Owens 1-6, S. Jackson 1-3, H Nye 1-0

A pretty comprehensive win against an under-strength side weakened by other commitments. We put on a good score with some positive hitting and running and everyone who batted making a contribution.

We also bowled pretty well with, in particular, Jish showing the way with the wonderful figures of 3-1-2-3 – the product of a graceful, slinging action for which I would like to claim the credit. (Well, I would like to). It nearly brought him a hat-trick on this occasion. Given the speed of our bowling attack, it is good wicket-keeping that only one bye was conceded. We are fortunate that we have found in Matias a keeper who can keep while a decent attack goes about its work with confidence. At the other end, Jack, Harry and Sam supported parsimoniously, taking a wicket apiece. Most pleasingly, in the 11.4 overs it took to get them out, there were only 4 wides bowled.

The fielding was also mostly decent – the highlight being a quick turn and throw from Harry which began the fall of wickets.

If I were to be critical, I would say we could have made 200 if we had backed up a bit more towards the end and pushed it.

Please let us not get carried away with this result. When we score 196 against Parley that will be the time to crack open the champagne or, in your case, the liquorice allsorts.

16th May

XCH 162 for 6 - Suttoners 93 a.o.

J. Owens 32n.o., J. Padiachy 29, A. Coffin 19, H. Nye 15

D. Roper 2-0-2-9, J. Padiachy 3-1-2-10, H. Nye 2-0-1-11, R. Boulton 4-0-2-25

Despite an early wicket loss, we got off to a flier reaching 80 off 8 overs for the loss of only one wicket, Jack and Jish hitting ten fours and a six between them on a fast outfield. Two quick wickets followed before Harry and Matias steadied the ship - Harry being out to an lbw which may have been

unfortunate with the score on 115. Alex, Dominic and Matt used up the remaining overs profitably to get us to 162 - the highest we have achieved at Barrack and it was always going to be a difficult target to get.

The opposition reply was immediately stymied by Jack and Jish who both opened with maidens – Jish with a wicket maiden. They bowled with pace and accuracy. They were backed up well by all the other bowlers. In contrast to the Ferndown game when we put down four, the catching today was good – most chances were held onto including a skier, by Tom; a sharp one, by Jack at short mid-wicket and a difficult off-balance effort at mid-off from Matt. Two thin edges were also well held by the keeper off the bowling of Robert and Harry.

Particularly memorable for me were Robert's direct hit run out and the two tidy overs from Dominic which yielded two wickets at 4.5 runs apiece, his best figures so far for us. Well done, Dominic!

Things to improve on –

- 1) no shying the stumps if there's no-one backing up unless we are in desperate need of a wicket
- 2) ground bats when running and don't enter into a debate between runs
- 3) remember that, if we are ahead of the required run rate (notional or actual), there is no need to take big risks to a good ball. It often ends in tears.

12th May

XCH 70-8 B'mth 71-4

J Owens 19

J Owens 4-0-3-10, H Nye 3-0-1-15

Not a game in which we covered ourselves in glory, but there some positives. The bowling was fairly tight with Jish conceding only 16 off 4 and Rob only 13 off the same number, in addition to the above. The fielding was also mostly

good – some sharp stops and good throwing. The no-ball and wide count was better than the last time and better than the opposition's.

Where it all fell down, of course, was the batting with too many people throwing the bat when the game situation required a bit of defending. It is pretty difficult to win a game of when we are eight down after twelve overs with only fifty-four on the board. Four wickets fell like this for only 2 runs. Our biggest partnerships were 19 (Jack and Rob) and 16 (Dom and Sam). Their highest was 46. Partnerships win games as they say.

Credit to Matias and Dom Roper for the final stand which added 15 and on another day might have made the difference. It helped to make a game that seemed destined for an early end a bit more competitive.

The biggest disappointment for me has to be the lack of cricket-awareness. At 30-1 off 5.5 overs, the team were well within the target set for them (20 off the first five, 30 off the second), the sixth over having yielded 11 already off a county A bowler. At that point, what was needed was a bit of respect and five an over for the next four overs, not 11 or 15 or whatever. If we don't learn this lesson, we're not going to win many cricket games.

9th May

XCH 116 for 6 Ferndown/Wayfarers 122 for 6

J. Owens 32n.o., T. Parkinson 10n.o.

T. Parkinson 2-4, J. Owens 1-17, J. Padiachy 1-26

Where did it all go wrong? 30 wides and no-balls has got to be one reason, a significant deterioration on the previous game. Also not taking our chances in the field and regularly playing poor shots up into the air was always going to cost us. They had one big partnerships of 48 which probably won them the game. Our biggest was 23 between Jack and Rob.

It wasn't all bad. Alex Coffin's run out was a great piece of cricket. Rob, Jack and Tom all bowled well. Rob was unlucky not to take a wicket. Jack's wicket was the furthest I've seen a bail travel in youth cricket so far – over half-way to the boundary. He also batted well and played some proper cricket shots, including a couple of powerful and elegant cover drives. Tom also batted well

and showed the kind of stickability which is needed to win games. He's going to have to bat higher than 5.

We will need to improve on this to beat Bournemouth on Thursday, but the team is capable of doing that.

4th May

XCH 121/3 Ferndown/Wayfarers 95a.o.

R. Boulton 32n.o., T. Parkinson 25n.o.

H. Nye 2-5, A. Coffin 2-13, J. Padiachy 2-16

The first game of the season and a competent performance. Particularly pleasing was the way, after losing two early wickets, Rob and Tom got their heads down and, playing sensibly, moved the game forward without taking unnecessary risks. They were well supported by Sam Jackson. The scoring rate may have been unspectacular, but the fact is that, between them, they used up all the overs and that was what we set out to do. 121 off eighteen on a slow outfield was a decent score and it came about partly because we actually played some decent defensive shots.

The bowling was good as the figures above illustrate and I can see that we bowled far fewer wides and no-balls than them, not far off the distance of the winning margin. Everyone bowled well.

Something obvious to improve on would be keeping the ball down. If you can't keep the ball down, defend it. I know it's easier said than done, but, at least in the early part of the innings, it is a good idea to think conservatively and preserve wickets. Also field placings, for example, a slip for the spinners? We don't want to defend all the time.

Running between the wickets could also have been better – let's get full value for our shots. Sharp running and clear and early calling are the keys. So well done! This was a good early season performance.