

SPX Cricket Round 2 Report

U13 Blue v U13 Black

St Pius X enjoyed a special in-house derby on Saturday as **U13 Blue met U13 Black**. The match was played in terrific spirit, with both teams showing teamwork, sportsmanship and plenty of encouragement across the park. **U13 Blue** produced a confident, well-structured performance to secure the win, while **U13 Black** kept competing to the last ball and took plenty of learning out of the contest.

U13 Blue set the tone with patient batting, smart running between the wickets and positive intent. Partnerships were a feature, with batters rotating the strike and putting bad balls away. With the ball, Blue were disciplined: consistent lines and lengths, sharp catching, and good backing-up in the ring kept the pressure on.

U13 Black had their moments too. Several bowlers settled into tidy spells, fielders cut off boundaries with committed chases, and there were encouraging signs of batters working to build innings under pressure. Most pleasing was the persistence and good humour the boys showed throughout — exactly what we love to see in SPX cricket.

Well done to both U13 Blue and U13 Black for the way the match was played. Thank you to our coaches, managers, scorers and families for your support each week.

U13 Gold

The U13 Golds fought out an **excruciatingly close contest** under challenging conditions, with an outfield that resembled a well-worn paddock more than a pitch. Wakehurst's stubborn tail-end dug deep and, despite a determined Pius bowling attack, managed to scrape home by just one wicket.

There were many highlights: Haarlem Fallowfield earned Player of the Match for his all-round display as top scorer, strong bowling figures and a run out. Christian Tully took an outstanding caught-and-bowled, while Alex Paixao's three-wicket haul kept the pressure on throughout. The fielding effort was excellent, with a number of sharp catches and direct-hit run outs. Although the result went against them, the boys played with spirit and determination in a memorable contest.

– Mr G Gabriel, B Fallowfield and P Brennan

U14 Red

A narrow loss for the U14 Reds at picturesque Tania Park against the Beacon Hill Bashers. Sent in to bat, the innings was anchored by solid knocks from Oliver Pemberton (34 not out) and Zac Bunny (13), setting a competitive total of 78 on a slow outfield.

Pius bowled a full length and fielded with intent, taking regular wickets and bringing the game to a knife-edge finish. Beacon Hill, with only two wickets left and 15 runs required, eventually scraped home by one wicket despite a late breakthrough. A brilliant one-handed running catch at cover by Kairav Singh was a highlight and earned him Player of the Match.

The boys put in an excellent performance, with continued improvement to come in areas such as punishing loose balls, bowling tighter lines, and reducing extras. Well done U14 Red on a fine effort.

– *Mr A Ward*

U15 Yellow

The U15 Yellows secured a **clinical victory over Harbord** on Saturday with a strong all-round team performance. Harbord were bowled out for just 77 runs thanks to tight bowling and superb catching. Remarkably, the opening four bowlers did not concede a single extra while reducing the opposition to 4/23.

The batting response was just as assured. Retired openers set the platform before Luka Hilton took the game away with a blistering 22 runs off just 8 balls. A commanding display that saw SPX home comfortably and builds momentum ahead of their clash with Forest Seaforth next week.

– *Mr S Callow*