

WELLESLEY HOUSE NEWS

THE WELLESLIAN

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YOUTH TRIUMPHS OVER EXPERIENCE

The U9s, led by Reuben Young Gadd, elected to bat first. Taking the first ball of the match is always one of the pressure cooker moments of cricket although it should be recorded there were no signs of nerves as Florian Young Gadd took his guard. If any of the players on either side laboured under the illusion that this match would be a gentle affair, this was instantly dispelled as Steve Gadd hurled a full throttle delivery down catching the edge of Florian's bat and sending the ball flying through to the wicket keeper. It would have been a great start for the Parents team had the catch been held



but the ball fair flew to the boundary for the first boundary of the day.

As the innings progressed the U9s grew in confidence and sent in their big hitters. Reuben & Laurie piled on the runs, whilst Suri & Sammy mixed big shots with some feverish running between the wickets.

The parents meanwhile tried every trick in the book electing to bowl underarm, revoking memory of the notorious Trevor Chappell underarm delivery in 1981, but luckily the U9s had neither been born to recall the incident nor did it phase them being as they have only ever played the game in the Wellesley spirit.

The U9s last pair of Clara and Sophie still had a lot to do. Some smart run-outs and a couple of sharp catches had pegged the U9s total back. However the Parents team began to wonder if they had in fact reversed their batting order as several strong blows brought some much needed boundaries to finish the innings.

Between innings, the U9s could reflect on a fine team performance with every member of the batting line up contributing to an imposing score. But would it be enough? Opening the bowling for the U9s Laurence sent down a full and straight delivery that would surely have hit the wicket but unfortunately for him his Dad did not get the memo to not take the match too seriously and smote the ball into the residential houses beyond the grounds of Wellesley. A wry comment followed from Mr. Martin who remarked 'the cost of that ball will be added to your bill!' Steve Gadd got in on the act with his own version of Bazball, showing little respect to the bowling of his talented youngsters, as he drove successive boundaries and struck an enormous straight six. The Parents middle order came into play with Mrs Franklin,



hitting some fine strokes before missing a straight one and being castled by an ecstatic Sammy. The baton passed to Poppy and Rachel who kept the pressure on the youngsters with a blend of the orthodox and the innovative, all the while the runs total building and the sense that the parents could sneak victory grew. Some fine Captaincy though from Reuben who brought on Clara to bowl and her straight accurate bowling, parsimonious as it was, put a complete brake on the scoring through the key middle section of the innings. Rounding off the innings Mrs Spencer and Claudine hit many fine shots but the fielding was tigerish and the U9s sensed they had the upper hand. Nevertheless, as the innings drew to a close, the Parents team dared to hope that they may have done enough but as Mr. Martin totted up the scores he duly announced the U9s the victors by just a single run. A desperate appeal by the Parents for a second innings was rejected and so they were left to rue what might have been...had that first ball catch been held, had the fumbled run-out been taken...next year's revenge match cannot come round soon enough!

