

Benwell Hill Under 13s – 2025 Season Review – Jim Robinson

2025 was a season to be proud of. Overall, everyone who played improved and developed as the season went on. It was nice to have a core of 13s which the team could be built around and allow others including several U11s to play and perform well against some decent opposition. We welcomed some new players to the club, Adam Hasan and Thomas Butler who as well as being excellent cricketers were a pleasure to coach and got on brilliantly with their new team mates.

We were hoping to do well in the Vitality U13 Cup and a win against Morpeth then Corbridge left us with a final against a very strong Tynemouth. Batting first we made it to 98/6 with an excellent 30 from Daniel Hynd, 19 from Oliver Smalley and 16 from Sukhveer Bhinder. Unfortunately, we were just unable to defend our total and Tynemouth made it to 102/7 from 19.3 overs. Thomas Butler taking 3 wickets to keep it close right to the end.

The league went well starting with a win against Corbridge, 32 no for Thomas Butler the stand out score in a total of 119. Corbridge were bowled out for 44, 3 Wickets for Sukhveer. Thomas' batting and Sukhveer's bowling were to be features for the rest of the season.

The game of the season followed with a tie against Tynemouth. Batting first we scored 100/5 against a very strong bowling attack. 30 no from Flynn Pattison getting us to a respectable total. A Brilliant Bowling display from everyone kept us in the game and with the scores tied in the final over Flynn took the final wicket to draw the match.

An abandoned game against Newcastle City and a close loss away to Backworth followed. We bounced back with a very convincing win over Ponteland. Batting first our openers got us off to a great start, 30 for Adam Hasan and 25 for Oliver. 33 from Thomas got us to 140/3. Another excellent bowling and fielding display left Pont all out for 74. 2 wickets for the metronomic Charlie Krzysiak, who has bowled so consistently at the start of the innings for 2 years, set the tone and the remaining wickets shared around bowling Pont all out for 74.

The biggest win of the season followed away at Stocksfield. Batting first our top 4, Adam, Oliver, Daniel and Sukhveer all scored 30 and Flynn at 5 making 29 leaving us on 186/4. Stocksfield were then bowled out for 57 in under 13 overs. 2 Wickets apiece for Flynn, Zack Astell, Emily Smalley and Aryan Mandal.

July was limited to back to back games against South North. Although we lost both games we had a relatively inexperienced side and were able to give some up and coming U11s game time and experience stepping up from pairs cricket.

Once the main league had finished at the end of July a series of friendlies were played throughout August and into September. As well as allowing continuing development of the more established players this allowed some very promising U11s to play more regularly. Joseph Haxon impressing with his wicket keeping and batting and Thomas Wardle showing real potential with the bat.

Overall, an excellent season with the team well led and captained by Sukhveer aided by Oliver Smalley. The batsmen get a lot of mention in reports but a big congratulations to Charlie, Emily, Alistair and Aryan who bowled so well throughout the season and don't always get the credit they deserve.

The attitude of all the players has been fantastic and I hope they continue to enjoy the game and progress through the coming age groups and they all have a successful 2026.