Young cricketer

Cricket player, Alex Roper, who has cerebral palsy. Picture: ANTONY KELLY

Howzat! Thirteen-year-old Alex Roper is hitting the world of cricket for six by proving that determination and skill can overcome physical disability.

The Gresham's School pupil has limited use of the left side of his body as he was born with cerebral palsy. But despite his condition, it has not stopped him from playing the sport he loves.

And thanks to a natural talent for bowling he has been called up to play for his local club.

Now, Alex is playing in the highly competitive Burgess Division One league for Aldborough Cricket Club's Sunday team, against a combination of seasoned older players and promising young cricketers.

Because of his condition, Alex is only able to bowl chest-on, rather than side-on.

But it it means he can deliver a ball that swings inwards, before moving in either direction as it lands on the seam.

His dad, Guy, 48, said the technique made it hard for batsmen to play against.

"Like any bowler he has been hit over the boundary for four, but the following ball he always makes up for it," he said. "His concentration and determination not to lose out to the other person is phenomenal."

Alex was made man of the match during his first game with the club against Acle around six weeks ago.