

Zurich Crickets lift the U15 Basel Indoor trophy (14/15 November 2015)

Group match 1: Zurich Crickets vs Basel Dragons

The start to the tournament was a disaster. Zurich Crickets' bowling and fielding had certainly been adequate, restricting the Dragons to a very gettable 121. But the batting performance could not have presented a stranger picture of this team as one after another they came and went, for 33!

Basel Dragons 121 for 5 (Shamas 1 for 8, Surya 1 for 22, Luke 1 for 25)

Zurich Crickets 33 all out

Group match 2: Zurich Crickets vs La Chat

But cricket is never without its twists and turns and Zurich had been given a wake-up call. Shocked at themselves the team regrouped and in the following match against La Chat the Crickets dominated from the first ball. There was no sign of what had happened in the opening match. The team was focussed and a huge score was posted, the biggest of the tournament. The batsmen showed composure, fluently building partnerships throughout the innings. Unlucky not to total over 200, the Crickets demonstrated that they can all score runs. With 194 on the board the bowlers were confident but showed no signs of bullishness. In the 5th over it was Aadi who did the most damage with a triple wicket maiden in his first over. There was no recovery and the Crickets were through to the semis on Day 2 after Moeid and Rahul, who bowled consistently well throughout the tournament, took the final wickets.

Zurich Crickets 194 for 3 (Dayn 30*, Luke 26*, Surya 28*, Aadi 18, Moeid, 12, Shamas 10*)

La Chat 61 all out (Luke 1 for 4, Aadi 3 for 4, Rahul 1 for 12, Moeid 1 for 14)

Semi-final: Zurich Crickets vs Swiss U13

Batting first against a strong Swiss U13 team that had topped their group the Crickets again were not prepared to hang about, but took the game by the scruff of the neck. The scoreboard ticked along with pace. Three batsmen retired on the maximum while three others chipped in significantly to finish on 169. With the pace bowlers restricting the scoring with some controlled overs at the start the spinners were brought on. Once again wickets began to tumble. With Aadi and Triyan bowling in tandem their spell of 6 overs yielded four wickets. Only 13 runs were scored off the off- and leg-spinners. The match was comfortably won and the Crickets could look forward to the final and revenge. Basel Dragons would be the opposition.

Zurich Crickets 169 for 5 (Dayn 28*, Rahul 13, Luke 30*, Aadi 26*, Triyan 14, Zeki 11*)

Swiss U13 78 all out (Luke 1 for 11, Aadi 3 for 5, Triyan 1 for 8)

Final: Zurich Crickets vs Basel Dragons

Winning the toss and having put the first match against Basel Dragons firmly out of their minds Zurich Crickets were keen to bat first and post a big score. And score they did, relentlessly. They grasped the initiative and would not surrender it. Again the team showed that they can all hit big runs off the bat and the run rate rattled along. While Luke and Surya were explosive, Rahul intelligently rotated the strike. Moeid's acceleration of the run rate was perfectly timed, and with Triyan's quick runs at the end with Luke all the pressure was on Basel.

With 166 to defend, a well above par score, Zurich Crickets successfully restricted the run rate from the start while taking regular wickets after Callum and Musti were no longer at the crease. The match also displayed how well the Crickets fielded with three run-outs and three fine catches. With the run chase no longer in the control of the Dragons Dayn came on and his two overs and two wickets in the final three overs finally destroyed any chance the Dragons may have had of completing the run chase.

Zurich Crickets 166 for 5 (Rahul 20, Luke 42, Moeid 32*, Surya 26*, Triyan 9*)

Basel 138 all out (Dayn 2 for 14, Aadi 1 for 24, Triyan 1 for 17)

It had been another fine all-round performance and the Crickets deservedly lifted the trophy. The figures show just how rounded a team they proved to be. Standing in for the absent Chris, captain Luke, ably assisted by Dayn, was 2nd best batsman of the tournament with 104 runs. But so many of the other batsmen got retiring scores or just did the job they were given and expected to do. Aadi's bowling figures meant he finished 2nd best bowler of the tournament, but again all the others had great and decisive spells. Some of the fielding was outstanding with 15 catches taken, five falling to Dayn at midwicket and three to Aadi. But everyone held on to their catches, and seven run-outs were also made. Zeki behind the stumps was not only involved in most of the run-outs, but took two great stumpings, one caught-behind, and was a superb motivator for the team. Moeid took the best fielder trophy with some excellent athleticism and fine throws with direct hits from point and 3rd man to run key batsmen out.

Congratulations to the whole team. They worked hard, have improved their game and should look forward to a successful season this year together. No doubt several will be looking to push for places with the Swiss national Under 15 squad. We wish them all the best.