

ZCCC Romande Cup U15 Report

3 & 4 October 2020

The first club event of the season is the Romande Cup, hosted by GRYCC. The U15 event was held at the Bout-du-Monde artificial wicket, in Geneva. The forecast was changeable, but crucially it wasn't raining when ZCCC arrived. The outfield was still damp however. The tournament was a round-robin between a Basel Dragons/GRYCC side, Cossonay, Gingins and Zurich Crickets. The matches were 22 over and there was a bonus point system for certain achievements (batter retiring on runs, bowler taking 3 wickets etc).



Match 1: Basel Dragons / GRYCC

BDJCC/GRYCC U15 129-7 (Kai 30*, Connor 24; Paarth 4-10 Andreas 1-12, Arya 1-13) bt ZCCC 76 a.o. (Sasha 19, Danyal 18*; Connor 2-4, Kai 2-8, James 2-9) by 53 runs

ZCCC lost the toss and were asked to field first. With two of the team arriving just as the match was due to start, so the start had a rushed feel. However Danyal started well, restricting the dangerous Kai to only 2 runs. Alex however struggled with line and length and Kai crunched two fours. Danyal managed to keep Kai quieter, only for him to hit a big six on Alex's next over. Connor joined in with the boundaries crunching 4 in total - one coming off a dropped catch with a slippery ball, in between good running. Kai retired, bringing out Nevzad who managed a couple of singles before Andreas had him bowled through the gate. Arya then bowled Louis before pulling a muscle in the next ball which went for 3 wides, bringing Connor on strike. Paarth completed the over, and had Connor bowled first ball! Paarth struck again, having both Adarsh and Sai stumped. Alex came back and had James caught by

Gianluca, before Paarth finished with a 4-fer, bowling Simul. Kai returned for the last two balls and could only manage 2, taking the total to 129-7.

Sasha and Alex strode out with the required rate at just under six an over. After pinching a single, Alex had to head back after being bowled first ball. Shankar lasted a little longer, and was trapped in front in Kai's second. Gianluca walked after edging James through to the keeper Thomas. Danyal came to the crease, and he and Sasha steadied the ship, and put together a couple of overs of hard running to reduce the required rate, despite not finding the boundary. Sasha retired, bringing Arya (with Gianluca as runner) to the crease. Despite the chaos of a runner, Danyal and he kept the running going. Danyal retired, and Vir couldn't stay out there for long as he was bowled by Nevzad first ball. Arya hit one four before falling to Connor, caught by James bringing together Paarth (0) and Andreas (3). Both struggled to puncture the ring and fell, bringing the retirees back. At this point the game couldn't be saved, but batting out the remaining overs would bring some confidence and deny BDJCC/GRYCC 2 bonus points. However Sasha could only pull a ball from Connor down Sai's throat and ZCCC finished on 76 all out.

Match 2: Cossonay

ZCCC 54-1 (Sasha 20*, Shankar 8*; Matthew 1-8); bt Cossonay 51 a.o. (Ryan 10, Thomas 6; Alex 2-10, Paarth 2-12) by 7 wickets

Sasha didn't have time to take his pads off before the next toss was lost and they were again asked to field. Success came quickly with Danyal finding Jai's edge second ball. Thomas managed to squirt the first ball away for four. After that, he and Ryan found the pace/spin combination difficult to get away and the pressure told with Andreas bowling Thomas. Alex had Matthew caught at cover by Andreas. Ishaan managed to stick around a bit longer but a mix up saw him run out by Shankar. Ryan retired, bringing Kiara to the crease. She stuck at it well, but found run scoring difficult. Gianluca got the breakthrough, bowling Dev. Aiden was then out to Alex in a strange wicket where he was hit in front but then the ball briefly lodged in his pads. At the same time he trod on his wicket, and the ball unlodged and hit the, now broken, wicket. Paarth finished things off quickly, bowling Alexander and the returning Ryan to finish the innings at 51 all out.

The reply innings got off quickly with Sasha guiding a four through third man. Alex (2) the task well before being hit in front by a hooping outswinger from Matthew. Shankar looked to get some batting time, and found the boundary once. Sasha finished off the game, hitting Kiara's first ball for four.

Match 3: Gingsins

ZCCC 158-3 (Shankar 28*, Danyal 22*; Akos 1-24, Rory 1-25) bt Gingsins 55 a.o. (Rory 12, Will 4; Andreas 3-10, Shankar 2-3) by 103 runs

The next morning saw another lost toss, but this time the team were asked to bat first. Sasha and Arya found the slow outfield meant boundaries were difficult, but Sasha ran hard and

retired (19*) after reaching a 40 run partnership. Shankar joined Arya and showed his power with five boundaries in total, including a crunched on drive. Arya (7) departed just before retirement, edging Akos to Will at short third man. Gianluca looked in great form, hitting two one-bounce fours before mishearing Shankar and being run out from a direct hit from the boundary. With 6 overs to go, extra bonus points for 150 runs were a possibility, and Danyal didn't mess around. Shankar retired with two overs left, but Alex could only last 3 balls before being bowled by Rory. Vir saw off his only ball for a single, and Danyal finished off the innings with a crunched straight drive to finish on 158-3.

Sticking with the pace/spin combination saw quick success with Andreas removing Alexander and Harris with identical balls - pitching on middle and turning to take the top of leg. Rory and Jeremie looked to rebuild, but Shankar came out firing, hitting Jeremie on the back leg. Rory didn't last much longer with some quick fielding from Arya to Gianluca to run him out. Gianluca was in the action again throwing the ball to Sasha to remove Oliver. Akos poked at a ball and was caught by Connor (guest fielder to make 10-a-side) at short third man. Connor struck in his only over, bowling Will. Andreas came back for his third over and bowled Finlay. Saurav and Josh saw off another three overs before Shankar bowled the former to finish the match on 55 all out.

Conclusions

ZCCC U15s had a good overall tournament, despite a rusty start. It was satisfying to see the performance levels improve over the three matches. The team is relatively new together, but it was great to see them bond, and support each other.



The bowling saw the greatest improvement over the weekend, with an average of 1.8 bowling extras per over in the first match reduced to 0.68 in the last. With that kind of bowling, the first match would have been a lot closer. The team has a strong pace attack, even with Arya unable to bowl after his injury. With a slow outfield, pace-off was a useful and fruitful option to have. Andreas finished tournament third highest wicket taker, with batsmen finding it difficult to score off his accurate off-spinners. However the star was Paarth with relentless line and length netting him the tournament best bowler title with seven wickets at an amazing average of 3.43.

Batting was tough with the slow outfield making boundaries hard to find. Sasha in particular suffered to get the ball away, but ran hard and finished the team's highest run scorer. Gianluca showed what power could do, and both Shankar and Danyal combined good running with some crunched drives to finish with 40 runs each at a strike rate in the 90s.

The fielding was another area of improvement, with a few dropped catches in the first match (difficult with a slippery ball) costing the team. They tightened up for the second two matches significantly. Sasha took the gloves, and while not the tidiest, was effective. He stopped a number of leg-side balls going for extra runs, took two stumpings and a good caught behind to finish second tournament fielding MVP.

Kai was awarded the player and batter of the tournament, Will the fielder. Congratulations to them. Many thanks to Adrian and Yvan for managing the team, and to Ravi and Bijit of GRYCC for putting on a great tournament.

Position	Team	Points
1	Basel Dragons/GRYCC	42
2	Zurich Crickets	32
3	Gingins	12
4	Cossonay	2

Statistics

Bowling

Bowler	Economy	Average	Strike Rate	Extras per Over	Analysis
Alex	5.38	14.33	16.00	2.13	8-0-43-3
Andreas	3.11	5.60	10.80	0.22	9-0-28-5
Arya	6.57	23.00	21.00	3.82	3.4-0-23-1
Danyal	3.86	27.00	42.00	0.86	8-1-27-1
Gianluca	3.86	27.00	42.00	3.00	8-0-27-1
Paarth	3.13	3.43	6.57	0.88	8.2-0-24-7
Shankar	3.07	10.50	20.50	0.44	6.5-0-21-2
Vir	5.00	-	-	2.25	4-1-20-0

Economy: runs conceded per over

Average: runs conceded per wicket

Strike rate: balls bowled per wicket

Extras per Over: number of wides or no balls conceded per over

Analysis: Overs-Maidens-Runs conceded-Wickets

Batting

Batter	Average	Runs	Strike Rate
Alex	1.3	4	22
Andreas	3.0	3	19
Arya	8.0	16	44
Danyal	-	40	91
Gianluca	6.5	15	87
Paarth	0.0	0	0
Sasha	58.0	58	70
Shankar	40.0	40	93
Vir	1.0	1	50

Average: runs scored per times dismissed

Runs: runs scored

Strike rate: scoring rate, where 100 is one run per ball faced