

ZCCC in GRYCC Summer Cup U15 Tournament Report

8 & 9 May 2021

After a hiatus in competitive cricket due to COVID-19, GRYCC hosted teams at Bout-du-Monde again for a spring version of the Romande Cup. Teams from Basel Dragons, a combined GRYCC and Gingins, and Zurich Crickets competed. The format was 20 overs round-robin where everyone played each other twice. Saurav from GRYCC joined the Zurich side to make 11 players.

Match 1: Basel Dragons

ZCCC 108-2 (Shankar 24*, Danyal 16*; Lasse 1-5) bt BDJCC 88-7 (Connor 22*, Lasse 13*; Saurav 1-4, Shankar 1-8) by 20 runs

The U15s arrived at a sunny Bout-du-Monde and their first match was against Basel Dragons. Sasha won the toss and elected to bat first. He and Arya got off to a circumspect start, minimising risks, but both accelerating towards the end of their innings, with Arya (15*) hitting a boundary before retiring. Shankar replaced him and got up and running with a four. Sasha (10*) retired bringing out Alex. Where Shankar was able to score off almost every ball he faced, Alex (1) found it difficult to time it, and eventually chipped Lasse to Aayush. Danyal came out and he and Shankar pushed hard for twos, putting the Basel fielding under pressure. Shankar bookended his innings with a four, bringing Dhruv to the crease. Danyal went on to retire and the run rate started to drop a little, with the pressure seeing Saurav run out. Dhruv (5*) and Paarth (1*) were there at the end to see the total to 108-2.



Danyal and Andreas opened the bowling and were very tight, giving away only 10 runs off the first four overs, but with both wickets intact. Dhruv struggled to be consistent with his length and Lasse hit a full toss for four, but Dhruv struck back bowling Fynn. George similarly struggled with a beamer going for byes. Connor took advantage of anything short and hit a six and three fours to retire. Lasse retired a ball later, and Zurich sensed with two new batsmen there was an opportunity. Shankar picked up the first

wicket with Sai chipping the ball to Danyal. Arya and Avneet both bowled very tightly, with maidens. Arya's included the wicket of Parth, caught at mid wicket by Avneet. Some sharp fielding by Arya to Sasha behind the stumps saw Simul run out before Saurav bowled another wicket maiden with Aayush caught by Alex. George P and Owen looked to rebuild, but the required rate started to climb. Owen eventually succumbed, nicking George behind.

Pratyush was run out last ball, looking to take any run with a Danyal direct hit, leaving Basel Dragons to finish on 88-7.

Match 2: GRYCC / Gingins

ZCCC 143-8 (Shankar 37*, Avneet 30*; Finlay 1-3) bt GRYCC / Gingins 63 a.o. (Finlay 14, Harris 6; Arya 2-1, Andreas 2-4, Paarth 2-5) by 80 runs

Sasha again won the toss and opted to bat again against GRYCC / Gingins. Adarsh tried some shorter deliveries, one which Arya pulled for four and another that Sasha pulled for six over backward square, to get the side off to a faster start. With perhaps a rush of blood, both perished soon after, with Sasha (9) out bowled, attempting to ramp a straight one from Adarsh. Arya (6) fell shortly after bowled by Nevzad. Shankar continued in much the same form as in the previous match, although this time hitting two sixes. He was joined by Avneet who, having smashed runs in the U13 tournament, did much the same here. The team sped along to 65 off 8 overs when Shankar retired. Avneet hit a massive six over a fence into the football field and also retired. A quick flurry followed with Danyal and Saurav both bowled without scoring. Alex and Dhruv looked to rebuild, with Alex in particular timing it well. He found the boundary 3 times. Dhruv (6) wasn't able to pierce the field and eventually was caught by Adarah off Finlay. Run outs saw the next three depart, with Hassan dealing with George (7) and Paarth (1), and Nevzad doing for Andreas. This brought Shankar and Avneet back and more boundaries followed, pushing the score onto a big 143-8.

Again Danyal was accurate and this time got the wicket with Nevzad only able to pop the ball to Avneet at cover. Andreas also got into the action with some quick glove work seeing off Louis and a few balls later Adarsh pulled a ball straight to Arya at the backward square boundary. Badri and Finlay consolidated, with Shankar and Alex both getting hit for four. Shankar responded with a maiden, and the pressure told with Saurav having Badri caught by Avneet. Avneet then took the ball and bowled Ákos. At the other end, Paarth stopped Harris' vigil with Sasha whipping the bails off. Two balls later, he had Hassan bowled. Arya kept up the pressure and bowled Rasesh, and the next ball did the same to Sushanth! The returning Finlay kept out the hat-trick ball, but the following over Arya struck again getting the ball into Sasha to run Finlay out to complete the victory!

Match 3: Basel Dragons

ZCCC 91-4 (Sasha 24*, Shankar 22*; Parth 1-4, Sai 1-11) bt BDJCC 90 a.o. (Fynn 16*, Sai 13; George 2-7, Alex 2-15) by 6 wickets

An early start on the Sunday saw a dew-covered outfield, and Sasha was happy enough to lose the toss and be asked to field, backing his bowlers and fielders. Danyal struggled a bit to get purchase in the delivery stride and bowled a few wides, but Andreas was accurate. The pressure told with Dhruv running out Lasse. Runs were hard to find from the bat but extras kept the scoreboard ticking. This was until Sai latched onto a beamer from Alex and put him over the boundary. Connor pulled a short ball through mid wicket for four, and tried again the next ball. But Danyal had moved back to the boundary and took a good catch with the damp ball. The next ball Alex had Parth trapped in front of middle and off! He had to wait until the next over for the hat-trick delivery but it was left through to the keeper. With Sai

retiring, there were two new batters at the crease, but Zurich kept it tight and scoring was again difficult. The fielding of the slippery ball made it very difficult to score and it was that pressure that saw Pratyush run out by Shankar to the keeper. There was yet another hat-trick attempt, this time by George after he bowled Simul, and then Laila could only sky the ball to Arya. This time the hat-trick ball was a wide. Things moved quickly with run outs and catches and Sai was the last man out, nicking Paarth behind to give Basel Dragons 90 all out.

Sasha and Arya got the innings underway sensibly, with Sasha in particular seeming to time the ball well but unlucky with the ball just holding up inside the boundary. However Arya (3) couldn't go on and chipped Sai to Aayush. This brought the in-form Shankar to the crease, and the pair ran very well, almost not having to call having played together since U9s. Singles were turned into twos and dots into



singles. They both found the boundary with the outfield drying, and Sasha brought up his retirement launching leg-spinner Pratyush over the mid-on boundary for six. Avneet tried to continue his big hitting but skipped down and missed one, and some sharp keeping saw him stumped for 2. Danyal came out with Shankar (resuming another long-time partnership) and consolidated. With Shankar's retirement, Alex came out, but a mix up and sharp fielding by Connor saw him run out without facing a ball. Dhruv only faced one ball before being bowled, leading to a mini-collapse. This time however Saurav was able to get a good innings going and with plenty of time in the game, he (8*) and Danyal (14*) were able to push the score along. They both retired in the 16th over, with only 3 needed. Paarth and George took no risks, and sadly it was a wide that secured the win, and the tournament with a game to go.

Match 4: GRYCC / Gingins

ZCCC 103-3 (Avneet 25*, Shankar 21*) bt GRYCC / Gingins 100 a.o. (Nevzad 22*, Adarsh 22; Arya 2-5, Dhruv 2-6, Saurav 2-8) by 7 wickets

Sasha lost this toss again, and was again asked to field. This time the GRYCC / Gingins openers were able to go hard at the ball, with Adarsh in particular hitting the ball well. After the first three overs going at almost 10 an over, Andreas managed to rein things in a little. The normally accurate Shankar gifted Adarsh a full toss which he pumped over the boundary to retire. With Adarsh gone, Zurich were able to get things under control again before Arya removed both Finlay (bowled) and Harris (caught Dhruv) in one tight over. There was a period of rebuilding for the batting side with Rasesh and Nevzad looking well set until Rasesh went after fellow GRYCC player Saurav and it went to Arya who took a smart catch.

Badri top-edged Saurav to the keeper two balls later. Dhruv bowled Hassan and then an over of dots from Avneet told when Ákos could only pop the ball back to the bowler. Dhruv struck again when Will drove the ball to a diving Andreas at mid on. Another excellent over from Avneet saw the score on 97 with one to go. Looking to get over 100, some aggressive running from the non-striker's end caused the last two wickets to fall in identical fashion, with Sasha sprinting to overtake the confused batsman and under-arming the bowler's end stumps down. The last ball of the innings was also a wide to give GRYCC / Gingins the century.

With the tournament result not in doubt (the team having three wins already), the batting order was mixed up. The U13 opening pair of Avneet and George got things under way. Avneet didn't make a mistake this time against the leg-spinner and hit two fours and six off three balls over mid-on. He rode his luck slightly but even when it wasn't timed, the ball went so high it was a tough catch. Avneet retired off 11 balls and soon after George (2) mistimed and popped a ball back to bowler Nevzad. Shankar and Alex (13*) did not look like getting out, but could not show the fluency they had previously shown in the tournament. It is a measure of Shankar's batting that he "only" scored one four and one six (drilled over the straight boundary). Arya found the square leg boundary twice with some well timed pulls. Andreas' (3) horror show continued and again was run out in a miscommunication. Dhruv (2) fell shortly after, bowled by Susthanth, but by this point the match was done with only 8 needed off almost 7 overs. Again Paarth (2*) was there with Arya (11*) to guide the team home.

Conclusions

Zurich Crickets dominated the weekend, out doing the other sides in all three disciplines. Most pleasing was that the matches were true team performances with contributions from everyone in the team. A coach cannot ask for more than four wins from four.



The batting showed intelligence with the team adapting to the game situation well. Sometimes runs were accumulated at a good rate with excellent running and sometimes through big hits. Avneet continued his U13 form and provided some brutality, although at U15 level his strike rate was reduced to “only” 163! Alex showed what he can do in the middle order, and Sasha had a return to form after breaking a finger over the winter. Shankar was the star of the show however, showing class whether he was attacking or accumulating. He finished the leading run scorer in the tournament by far with 104 runs (not out) at a strike rate of 120.

The bowling was perhaps the area where the team exerted the most control. There was not a weak link in the 10 players. The three U13s were in the top 11 wicket takers of the tournament. The U15s took 4 of the other places. Saurav (on loan from GRYCC) showed that accuracy counts and netted the joint most number of wickets with figures of 5-29. Avneet’s rhythm matched his batting, and half of his overs were maidens. The opening partnership was tough for the batters with the fastest bowler (Danyal) at one end, and wily off-spin at the other (Andreas). Arya continued his development as a fast bowler and bowled great line and length all tournament and finished with the tournament’s best figures of 5-24.

The fielding set the team apart however. With ZCCC U15s having trained with the senior 2nd XI during the spring, they displayed their skills in some of the most challenging fielding conditions. While not showing in the statistics, the number of balls that were converted from a boundary to a dot was incredible. The team communicated well and put pressure on the batting sides. Shankar, Danyal, Arya and Avneet all stood out with catches or stops. Behind the stumps, Sasha displayed great presence of mind and took full advantage of the excellent bowling and fielding to finish with an involvement in 12 of the team’s wickets.

Many thanks to Ravi, Bijit and the rest of GRYCC for organising a great tournament and making the perfect way to restart the season. Many thanks also to Adrian and Baljit for coaching the team. Zurich Crickets look forward to resuming the rivalry in Zuoz!

Final standings:

Position	Team
1	Zurich Crickets
2	Basel Dragons
3	GRYCC / Gingins

Michael
ZCCC U15 Coach

Statistics

Bowling

Bowler	Economy	Average	Strike Rate	Analysis
Alex	6.50	26.00	24.00	8-0-52-2
Andreas	3.13	12.50	24.00	8-1-25-2
Arya	3.43	4.80	8.40	7-1-24-5
Avneet	1.50	6.00	24.00	8-4-12-2
Danyal	4.75	38.00	48.00	8-0-38-1
Dhruv	4.15	9.00	13.00	6.3-0-27-3
George	5.88	15.67	16.00	8-0-47-3
Paarth	5.60	14.00	15.00	7.3-0-42-3
Saurav	4.14	5.80	8.40	7-1-29-5
Shankar	3.63	29.00	48.00	8-1-29-1

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	18.00	36	68
Andreas	1.50	3	43
Arya	17.50	35	78
Avneet	57.00	57	163
Danyal	30.00	30	67
Dhruv	4.33	13	33
George	5.00	10	53
Paarth	4.00	4	20
Sasha	43.00	43	80
Saurav	4.00	8	31
Shankar	-	104	120

Average: runs scored per times dismissed

Runs: runs scored

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

Fielding

Fielder	Catches	Stumpings	Run outs
Alex	1		
Andreas	1		
Arya	4		3
Avneet	4		
Danyal	2		1
Dhruv	1		1
Paarth			1
Sasha	3	2	7
Saurav			1
Shankar			1