

Basel Dragons visited Zurich Crickets at Hottingen in a bid to put the result of the indoor tournament behind them. Both sides had 11 players (with a couple of U13s in the mix per side) and the successful pairs format was used again. Each batting/bowling pair had four overs, and five runs lost for a wicket

Sam (ZH U13s) won the toss and elected to bat. He and **Aman** opened the batting, facing Ross and Henry (Basel U13s). Sam batted well, using the walls as well as hitting a couple of fours to make 17*. Aman found it more difficult to reproduce his form from the Basel indoors, and made four runs but lost his wicket twice (bowled and run out, both times by Ross).

The next pair to the crease were **Vadim** and **Sasha** who faced George (Basel U13s) and Alex. They found it difficult to get runs with sharp fielding and bowling. Vadim made 4* and Sasha was run out on 3. **Ed** and **Andreas** were in next facing Finlay and Charlie. Finlay bowled excellently, ending with two maidens (one of which he got Ed caught by Charlie). Charlie was a little more expensive but conceded no runs off the bat. **Riley** and **Austin** came in next and faced Lewis and George. Riley worked the ball off the walls to make 3* and Austin batted carefully but couldn't get a run (but didn't lose his wicket). **Fynn** and (due to arriving late) an out of order **Kabir** (ZH U13s) came in next. Kabir took advantage of the younger bowling of Mathias and Quirijn to hit two sixes and a four. Fynn also got in on the action to make 5 before being run out. Ross was brought back for an over to exert some control, and only conceded two. The pressure told and Kabir ended up also run out.

As the eleventh player, Raiyan came in last with a non-batting partner and managed to score five runs off the bat with some good hits off the bowling of Mathias and Ryan. He rode his luck however (or maybe his partner did) and could have been run out on a number of occasions. However, it only happened once, and that left Zurich with 132-8, which meant a score of 92 for Basel to beat.

Ross and Henry came in as the first pair, and faced the bowling of Sam and Sasha. Sam bowled quickly but struggled with this line getting swing with the indoor ball. Sasha's first over went well, Henry managed to get one run off him before holing out to Sam. Sam's second over went better. Sasha then had Ross on strike, who took a liking to his bowling, hitting a six and then a ran 4 (two from the wall and two ran). Sasha bowled Henry, which unfortunately brought Ross back on strike who hit another six to finish on 20*. Henry ended with 2.

A pace and spin combination of Kabir and Vadim were the next pair, bowling to Alex and Finlay. Kabir struggled to get his length right. Vadim again provided tricky to bowl to, and his first over went for one and taking a wicket when Finlay clipped the bails with his bat looking to pull. Alex batted sensibly and used Kabir's pace to hit a four to finish on 8*, while Finlay finished on 4. Vadim's second over only went for three, making him the most economical of the Zurich bowlers.

George and Mathias made the next batting pair and they faced Ed and Andreas. Ed also struggled with his line and length. Andreas made the perfect start by bowling Mathias, but sadly couldn't keep it up and was taken for two sixes, one for each batter, in addition a

number of wides. Riley and Austin managed a bit more control to Quirjn and Charlie, although Charlie hit Riley for a six before coming down the track to Austin, missing the ball and getting stumped by Sasha. Aman and Fynn were next up with the ball, against Lewis and Ryan. Aman, who is usually behind the stumps, took his first over to get into the groove, but the next one had two caught (one by Sam and one by Ed) in two balls. Only one more came from the over.

Last up was George (again with a non-batting partner) to face the last two overs and he hit a four off Raiyan and also took four from a returning Aman. This meant that Basel finished on 157-7 resulting in a total of 122, a comfortable and well deserved win by 30 runs! In the end they produced a better all round performance - not losing a wicket to a run out demonstrating their good running and calling in a small hall.

Many thanks to the all the players and parents for making the journey and for a good game. We look forward to the next one!

Michael
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