



ZCCC U15 in Zuoz Festival

11 & 12 June 2022

Beautiful weather greeted over 130 players from U9 to U15 age groups to the stunning mountains in Zuoz, Graubünden. The U15 tournament was played as 10-a-side with each of the four teams facing each other in a round robin before qualifying for the final or 3rd/4th play off.

Match 1: Gingins

ZCCC 89-4 (Avneet 20*, Abid 20*; Hugo 1-11, Michael 1-13) bt Gingins 85-4 (Alex 21*, Harris 10; Lav 2-11, Zac 1-10) by 5 wickets



The Crickets were asked to field first and set an aggressive 6-2 field to start. The outfield proved quicker than it looked with Harris and Alex both scoring boundaries square of the wicket off George and Arya. A change to spin brought the breakthrough with Zac trapping Harris in front. After tight overs from Shankar and Andreas, Lav had Hugo caught and bowled and then bowled Owen. With Gingins requiring runs, a run out was on and Shankar combined with Zac to remove Michael, with Gingins posting a total of 85-4 - more than it should

have been given some uncharacteristic fielding errors.

The reply didn't get started well with a dubious call combining with a slip and a direct hit, leaving Sasha (0) some way short. Avneet and Shankar found the bouncy pitch difficult to score off and Shankar (2) was trapped in front soon after. Austin (2) saw his middle stump pinned back, bringing in Abid. He and Avneet were in the very unusual situation of having a strike rate of 40, but started to find their timing and finding the boundary. Both went on to retire. Arya (7) found the boundary once before nicking off. Zac (20*) seemed unperturbed by the pitch and brought up the winning runs with a big six!



Match 2: Swiss Romande (Cossonay, GRYCC, ZCCC)

ZCCC 59-1 (Sasha 21*, Shankar 20*; Isa 1-0, Lasse 0-9) bt Swiss Romande 58-7 (Lasse 12, Subhanullah 7; Arya 2-6, Lav 1-2) by 9 wickets

The Crickets lost the toss again and were again asked to field. Arya struck immediately, having Ryan caught behind. He did it again a couple of overs later, George then enticed an edge but, after a juggle, Abid couldn't hold on. The next ball, the same thing, but this time Abid managed to keep the ball after the second attempt! Zac and Andreas got through the middle overs quickly and economically, but Lav was the next to strike, bowling Badri. Tanish was caught behind off Austin. Lasse damaged Zac's figures with some late hitting, but some sharp fielding by George and Zac saw him run out. A similar fate befell Subhanullah off the last ball by a direct hit from Abid, leaving Swiss Romande on 58-7.

Austin (2) was promoted to open as he was in need of a bat, but the tactic didn't work with him being bowled. Sasha and Shankar combined to run hard, finding it difficult to score boundaries. Both retired with hard run twos. Avneet (5*) and Zac (1*) finished the game off, this time milking singles!

Match 3: Basel Dragons

ZCCC 157-4 (Shankar 18*, Arya 17*; Lasse 2-7, Connor 1-20) bt BDJCC 92-4 (Lasse 16*, Sai 16*; Avneet 1-5, Zac 1-10) by 65 runs



With Basel also having won both of their games on the Saturday, the final match in the round-robin was a dead rubber. However, there was an opportunity to make a statement. The Crickets won the toss (for the only time in the tournament) and chose to bat first (ditto!). Due to a late start, the game was shortened to 16 overs. Sasha and Avneet got started aggressively, with Avneet (14) hitting three boundaries and looked set to retire off only 8 balls but edged behind. Shankar hit a big six of Pratyush, showing his intent. The usual "accumulator" Sasha (17*), retired off 11 balls but

that only brought Abid (15*) to the crease who hit three boundaries and retired in only 6! Arya also took no prisoners and hit three fours too. Austin (17*) got his run scoring going and was there at the end. Zac (16*), unusually, couldn't find the boundary but instead scored off every ball he faced! The next wicket only fell with the score on 137 when Andreas (6) tried to launch Neil over mid on, but was only able to get it to Sai. George's (5) innings got off to a great start with a quickly ran single was turned into 5 with overthrows. He fell a few balls later, edging Lasse behind, and Lav (0) chipped the same bowler to Connor. Sasha came back out with Austin for the last over and the pair helped to push the score onto 157-4.

The Crickets went for an attacking field, and the Dragons went at the ball, with George in particular bearing the brunt. Arya however bowled a tight line and the scoring rate wasn't what was required. A switch to spin saw the first wickets with Zac having Vignesh caught at mid-on by Sasha. Andreas then had Neil caught by Zac. Two enterprising innings from Pratyush and George were brought to an end in two balls with Avneet running out the former and then bowling the latter. Aaron and Siddhartha saw out the remaining two overs but couldn't get more than singles to finish on 92-4.

Final: Basel Dragons

ZCCC 89-1 (Shankar 24*, Sasha 21*; Connor 1-19) bt BDJCC 88-6 (Vignesh 20*, Lasse 13; Zac 2-9, Shankar 1-2) by 8 wickets

The Dragons won the toss for the repeat match, and chose to bat first. The Crickets took some learning from the previous game and went with an in-out field, as well as having Zac opening the bowling with Arya to make the Dragons force the pace. It worked immediately with Zac having Sai caught by Shankar and then bowling Connor. George and Andreas formed the next pace/spin combo, with George in particular bowling an excellent line and length. Andreas had the dangerous Lasse caught by a spectacular, running take by Austin over his shoulder. Subhanullah and Vignesh rebuilt, until Shankar bowled the former. Despite a dropped catch from the skipper, Avneet and George saw that the running in the last over wasn't costly by running out Pratyush and Aaron.



Basel went with a similar strategy, opening the bowling with Connor and Subhanullah. However, it wasn't quite as successful with runs coming at 7 an over. Sasha hit the spinner over extra cover for four to signal his intent. Avneet was again undone by Connor bowling across him. No such worries for Shankar, and with Sasha retired Abid joined him. Both Sai and George P chose a 'round the wicket' line to the right handers, but that played to Abid's strength in particular who brought up his 20 in all fours. Shankar brought his own retirement with a massive six off Sai. Arya (6*) finished off the game with a straight drive for four to win the trophy!

Conclusions

A full team performance saw a good win in Zuoz for the U15s! Despite struggling for timing with the bat at first, the bowling and fielding ensured there were no scares. The team also gelled well, supported each other and had a great time out there!

It is unusual not to have Avneet scoring boundaries at will, but he seemed to struggle with a too heavy bat, and so "only" scored 41 runs at a strike rate of 108 (perhaps indicative of his usual exploits that this is an under performance!). Abid took a bit of time to get up to speed after a month off cricket but was firing quickly by the end. With Arya and Zac in the middle order, there was never any fears about chasing and the only time the team batted first, they put on the highest total of the tournament (despite only having 16 overs to do it). Sasha had to rely on some hard running but also found the boundary a few times, and Shankar was in great touch hitting hard and hitting two sixes.



The bowling was of high standard with everyone picking up at least one wicket. The quicks of Arya and George found good pace and swing, and were backed up well by Avneet and Austin. Shankar was hardly required to bowl, but when he did it was miserly. Spin took most of the wickets with Lav's quick leg-breaks accurate and difficult to get away. Andreas struggled coming off the back of a viral infection (not COVID) and a leg strain, but still took two wickets and provided control in the middle overs. Zac's continued progress as a left-arm orthodox bowler saw him take 5 wickets in the tournament, with his quicker ball particularly deadly.

After a somewhat "sleepy" start, the fielding backed up the bowling. Abid was a live-wire behind the stumps and for his 4 catches and 2 run outs was awarded the keeper of the tournament award. Austin took the fielder award for his fantastic take in the final, which ensured the dangerous Lasse wasn't able to go on.

The last "weekend tournament" of the season is always a great event, with beautiful weather for the players. This year however, they have the rest of the Catterfly Cup fixtures to play. Other award winners were Lasse (best batter) and Connor (best bowler) and Alex (MVP) - congratulations to them.

Thanks also to Jack, Tanish and Vishesh who played for Swiss Romande.

Final standings:

Position	Team
1	Zurich Crickets
2	Basel Dragons
3	Gingins
4	Swiss Romande

Statistics

Bowling

Bowler	Economy	Average	Strike Rate	Extras per Over	Analysis
Andreas	5.00	22.50	27.00	0.9	9-0-45-2
Arya	4.91	27.00	33.00	1.4	11-1-54-2
Austin	6.40	32.00	30.00	2.0	5-0-32-1
Avneet	3.40	17.00	30.00	0.8	5-0-17-1
George	5.92	71.00	72.00	2.1	12-2-71-1
Jack	10.40	-	-	8.0	2.3-0-26-0
Lav	2.89	8.67	18.00	0.0	9-1-26-3
Shankar	2.57	18.00	42.00	0.3	7-0-18-1
Tanish	6.40	32.00	30.00	1.4	5-0-32-1
Vishesh	8.00	12.00	9.00	4.0	1.3-0-12-1
Zac	4.00	11.00	16.50	0.8	11-1-44-4

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
Abid	-	55	138
Andreas	8.0	8	114
Arya	30.0	30	130
Austin	10.5	21	72
Avneet	20.5	41	108
George	5.0	5	100
Jack	9.0	9	39
Lav	0.0	0	0
Sasha	59.0	59	89
Shankar	64.0	64	125
Tanish	3.7	11	33
Vishesh	1.0	2	29
Zac	-	37	137

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
Abid	4		1 (and 1 assist)
Austin	1		
Avneet			2
Lav	1		
Sasha	1		
Shankar	1		1 (and 1 assist)
Zac	1		