

Zuoz Junior Cricket Tournament - Zurich Crickets U11

4 & 5 June 2016

The Zuoz Junior Cricket Tournament is the highlight of the Swiss junior cricket summer. Hosted by the Lyceum Alpium on four pitches in the valley below Zuoz, it offers the main opportunity for outdoor cricket.

This year, Zurich U11s had two teams entered: Zurich Crickets and Zurich Grasshoppers. The Crickets was made up of the older or more experienced players, with five Swiss U11 players in the squad.

Match 1: Basel Nightfuries

Zurich Crickets 92-1 (Owen 14; George 1-4) beat Basel Nightfuries 37-4 (Quirjin 2*, Sasha 1-8, Vadim 1-10)*



Saturday began with the rain coming down and every weather app and website being consulted. The opening match against Basel's younger team, the Nightfuries was pushed back before a slight easing in the weather had the players dashing for the ground. The match was played on pitch 4, which was a plastic matting laid on the ground. Inconsistent bounce meant some balls ended up rolling and accounted for an unusually high no-ball count.

The Crickets batted first and **Vadim** was bowled by George early on. **Owen** was untroubled working the ball around and running well with **Sasha** in the slippery conditions. Owen finished on 14*, including one boundary. The conditions quickly worsened, with heavy rain making going difficult for players, umpires and spectators alike. The pitch didn't help matters for the young bowlers, and the extras mounted. Zurich finished on 92-1 at the end of a shortened (12 over) innings.

With limited respite from the rain, Zurich got off to a good start with Sasha bowling George with this fourth ball, and Vadim following suit with this third. Quirjin batted well to make 2*, before his brother Mattijs ended up run out by **Ben**, behind the stumps in his first competitive game back with Zurich since the Basel indoors. The older players also found the conditions difficult to bowl in, with more no balls and wides than usual. Ben ran out Greg after a mix up, but the Nightfuries batted out the twelve overs and finished on 37-4.

Match 2: Zurich Grasshoppers

Zurich Crickets 131-2 (Owen 28, Vadim 14*; Andreas 2-21) beat Zurich Grasshoppers 39-5 (Shankar 3, Alexander 2; Vadim 2-7, Maxwell 1-0)*

With conditions declared as unplayable, the teams moved indoors to the Lyceum's sports hall for the rest of the Saturday. The matches were 10 overs a side and played with an adjusted indoor scoring rules.

The Crickets' next game was against their "brother" team, the Grasshoppers. The Crickets batted first, and Andreas struck immediately bowling **Aman** with his off-spin. Paolo (5*), Maxwell (6*) and Ben (3*) all scored quickly before retiring before Andreas had **Matty** caught by Austin for 9. Sasha (13*), Owen (28*) and Vadim (14*) all showed their experience, quickly racking up the score.

In reply, the Grasshoppers found it tough going with sharp fielding, and accurate bowling. Maxwell opened his first match with the Crickets with a maiden, and then followed it with a wicket-maiden, bowling Andreas for 1. His addition to the team made for the unusual sight of three consecutive overs of left arm seam bowling (with Sasha and **Paolo**). Owen into the wickets, bowling the dangerous Shankar for 3 before Vadim took Alexander and Rafferty. Owen ran Ryan out to finish the innings off after 10 overs.

Match 3: Gingins

Zurich Crickets 59-6 (Owen 10; Ethan 1-5) beat Gingins 43-6 (Thomas A 6; Paolo 1-1, Maxwell 1-2)

With sun poking through blue patches taunting the teams at dinner, hopes were high for returning outside for the remaining matches. The next morning was overcast, but critically dry for The Crickets' first match against a senior team. Gingins were missing two of their Swiss U11 players to the U13s, but would pose a stiffer test than the previous day.

The Crickets lost the toss and were put in, and again Vadim and Owen got things off to a great start until Vadim was run out by Aarit for 4. Aarit then bowled Sasha for 0. Maxwell and Owen combined well, and ran hard for the next 8 overs before Muushar bowled Owen for 10. Bron followed up bowling Maxwell for 4. Ben and Shankar fell in the last over looking to get a few more runs leaving **Matty** and **Paolo** see see out the innings.

Gingins struggled to get runs against Vadim and Owen and then Sasha struck bowling Muushar. Left arm bowling continued to be successful with Paolo having Josh caught, and then Maxwell bowled Thomas A (who had hit a 4 off Shankar). Owen then got into the act running out the dangerous Ethan and then bowling Thomas G. With a deeper bowling order, Zurich gave away fewer extras – Maxwell bowling two maidens – and Gingins looked behind the run rate. Shankar completed a strong performance in the field running out Bron, leaving Harry and Ben to face the last few balls.

Match 4: Basel Dragons

Basel Dragons 51-4 (Ross 16, Euan 11; Shankar 2-10) beat Zurich Crickets 49 all out (Vadim 14*, Owen 7, Maxwell 6; Euan 4-13)*

With neither the Crickets nor Dragons having dropped a game, it was a perfect finish to the competition with a winner takes all match set up. Both sides played 7 a-side as Basel had both their teams playing at the same time, and Zurich lost Paolo to a hand injury.

Basel won the toss and asked Zurich to bat. Zurich got off to a spritely start with both Vadim and Owen running hard, and Owen finding the boundary. Euan however intervened in his second

over trapping first Owen LBW and then Sasha first ball. Maxwell and Vadim consolidated but the weather intervened with the rain worsening to the point that the players were taken off. After 10 minutes the rain slackened and play resumed, but only 1.5 overs were managed before the next downpour. Fortunately the rain eased and play resumed with the sun starting to poke through with a shortened 12 overs. Sadly that was the only bright spot, with Maxwell holing out to Euan, Matty being bowled by Euan and Ross then knocking over Shankar to finish the innings early.

Conditions were better for the Basel innings, although the pitch was still very soggy and the ball was skidding on. Owen opened the bowling and Ross latched onto his first ball for 4. Vadim struggled with the slippery ball, bowling two no balls and the ball didn't grip on the surface at all giving Ross and Euan some easy shots. Maxwell reined things in with a tight over before Shankar's pace bowled Euan and Charlie in the same over. With the pitch drying, Vadim managed to get some turn and troubled the batsmen before getting Finlay c&b. However it was too little too late, and even with Ross retiring on 16* there were too many overs to defend. Owen took the match's final wicket but couldn't prevent Basel taking the winning runs in the 10th over.



Summary

The Crickets were left deflated after having had a fantastic tournament in some extremely difficult conditions over the two days. Ultimately they were undone by Ross' hitting and Euan's bowling, but all can feel proud of their achievements. Owen's batting earned him the batting award of the tournament, and Vadim's bowling continued to be excellent with 4 wickets. Ben had his first match keeping on the Saturday and immediately impressed and took a number of run outs, as well as stopping byes and wides. Maxwell immediately contributed in his second weekend with the team, taking wickets, bowling accurately (only one extra, 4 maidens and only 5 runs conceded) and making runs.

Ethan of Gingins was awarded the bowling prize and Euan of Basel the all-rounder award. Congratulations to them and all the players for the level of cricket played in very difficult conditions. Dragons won the tournament, with Zurich Crickets second. Gingins finished third having lost to both. Basel Nightfuries came fourth and Zurich Grasshoppers rounded out the table.

Huge thanks to Laurence for an almost impossible job of directing the tournament with horrible weather and Juliet and Prakash organising the U11s. Also to Vanessa for scoring and Grant for encouragement, coaching, warm ups and a spot of umpiring. Last but no means least to Shafi for coaching the team in his last Zuoz with the U11s.

Michael
ZCCC U11 Coach

Statistics

Bowling

Bowler	Economy	Average	Strike Rate	Extras per Over	Analysis
Aman	8.00	-	-	8.00	1-0-8-0
Ben	3.00	-	-	2.00	1-0-3-0
Matty	5.33	-	-	4.33	3-0-16-0
Maxwell	0.83	2.5	18.0	0.33	6-4-5-2
Owen	3.50	9.33	16.0	1.75	8-1-28-3
Paolo	3.60	18.00	30.00	2.80	5-0-18-1
Sasha	4.71	16.50	21.00	3.57	7-0-33-2
Shankar	3.83	11.50	18.00	1.67	6-0-23-2
Vadim	4.30	10.75	15.00	2.60	10-0-43-4

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
Aman	0	0	0
Ben	2.5	5	56
Matty	5.5	11	110
Maxwell	8.0	16	52
Owen	29.5	59	87
Paolo	-	5	83
Sasha	7.0	14	78
Shankar	0.5	1	20.0
Vadim	16.0	32	76.2

Average: runs scored per times dismissed

Runs: runs scored

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