

The view from the middle: Match against Geneva

Observations from Saturday's match against Geneva – 15 June '13. These observations are mine about what the boys did collectively well, and could work on for future matches.

Field setting: It seemed to me that often our batters hit the ball to where the fielders from the other team were standing; their batters seemed to miss our fielders by about a metre on either side. The ball tends to get hit into the same space time and again during the match. It was the first time our boys had played at that venue, and maybe they could improve on the field settings.

Fielding: Once the boys got the ball, I think they threw the ball in well. It may not have always gone to the correct end, and someone needs to ensure that it does, and that appropriate back up is at both ends for the throw to come in. I do not recall any over throws on Gingins fielding. Some of their more experienced runners also left for runs a bit quicker than we were able to get to the ball.

Batting: I thought that the boys generally batted very well. Some boys were unlucky to get out bowled to well delivered balls. For those straighter skidding deliveries, a straight bat would be a better option, and moving feet. The outs by being caught was probably just a bit early on shots and playing the ball too far out in front of the body.

Getting back into the crease after a delivery: Some boys were probably lucky that their wicket-keeper was not as alert as Mattia - because they did not get back into their crease after the ball was bowled and still 'live'.

Running between wickets: Other than calling, just getting to the other end seems to be taking a long time, and we may have been lucky that a few errant throws by Geneva did not result in any run outs. It is difficult to run with pads and a box.

Calling: I am aware that it was the first match for many, and that running between wickets is not always easy. The ball just seemed to be hit to fielders very often that running on many occasions was not really an option. From time to time, the boys called well, and there were very few mix ups, but I felt there were a few runs left on the field when the boys could have run. Backing up by the non-striking batter to make the journey to the other end a bit shorter.

Bowling: The biggest difference between the two sides was bowling and bowling accuracy. Without looking at the scorecard, I would imagine that the difference between the two sides came down to the number of wides bowled by our boys. With time, practice and patience, this area of the game will improve.

Overall: For this young Gingins team it was the first outing, the first time for boys to play on a 'real' surface. I think the team was very successful when considering some individual performances. Nikhil scored 11 not out, and worked well in partnership with Alex. Wilf took two wickets in his three overs bowled on debut, and as much as that is an achievement of itself he was only one of two bowlers from Gingins not to concede any wides or no-balls. Mattia did very well behind the stumps gathering in the balls to prevent further runs taken on byes, and got a stumping.