

Hi all,

The reason why you are receiving this e-mail is to provide you with a bit of feedback (my observations) from the indoor tournament which took place over the weekend 22&23 March in Basel. If you were not there, but a part of the U11 squad, I believe it is still useful to learn some lessons from the others. The matches were 10 overs each, and each team fielded 8 players.

Observations from the weekend's tournament are mine; and are about what the boys did collectively well, and could work on for future matches. Because we were not able to bring a full team of 8 players, we had to borrow players from other teams to make up the numbers. I am not going to provide comments on these other players only the registered players from GCC.

The GCC team comprised of:

- Ricky Bucheli
- Wilf Chisolm
- Arjun Gill
- Gianni St Hilaire
- Oliver Steele
- Gregor Wellard – wicket-keeper
- Botham - mascot

Match 1: against the Basel Dragons. Result: Basel won the match by 17 runs (61/4 to 45/3). GCC won the toss and elected to field first. The bowlers and fielders did a very good job restricting Basel to a score of just 61; both Wilf and Ricky claimed a wicket. Gregor kept wicket for the first time in a match and saved a lot of extra runs. In reply, GCC did well, with the highlights being Arjun retiring on a score of 21, Gianni adding 6 runs and Gregor was 4 not out at the close of the match. The first match against a tough opponent, it was good for the boys to have something to work on from there.

Match 2: against GRYCC. Result: GCC won the match by 6 wickets (50/4 to 51/2). Again GCC won the toss and elected to field. The bowlers did an excellent job, we conceding only 5 (five) wides and no-balls, compared to 10 (ten) against Basel, and restricted GRYCC to just 50 runs. Wilf, again, featured in the wickets. In reply, GCC chased the runs down in 7.2 overs (with 16 balls to spare). Arjun again led the scoring with 10 runs, and Ricky (6) and Gregor (4) scored the winning runs. This was the first win recorded by the U11 squad of 2013-4. Well done to the boys.

Match 3: against Zurich Crickets. Result: Zurich won by 5 runs (56/3 to 51/6). Again GCC won the toss and elected to field. Unfortunately over night the boys lost a bit of their bowling direction, and conceded 9 wides and no-balls. Even though Wilf took a wicket in the first over of the match and Ricky took two in the last over, Zurich's total was just too far for the boys to chase down. In reply the boys began to run out of overs and had to take risky singles, and were run-out due to some good Zurich fielding. Gianni top-scored with 18, Ricky (6) and Arjun (4) were also major contributors with the bat. This match was effectively a quarter final, with the winner progressing to the semi-finals.

Overall: Our players all played the matches in excellent spirit and it was great to see the friendships developing further among the boys. They all had a very good idea of what to do and moved into fielding/bowling positions quickly, and that kept the innings moving along at a nice pace. There was also excellent backing up in the field, and this prevented the other teams from getting easy runs on over throws.

Bowling: For the team as a whole, this area has been one of the biggest improvements over the past several months. Other than a few overs, there was a lot of discipline shown in bowling. However, this is still an area we need to focus on. I will single out Wilf for bowling no wides, and only one no-ball in the six overs he bowled.

Remember these things to work on and think about:

- 1) Other than Wilf, there were still one or two wides or no-balls bowled during of each over – please relax and think about what you want to do with each delivery: where you want the ball to pitch (hit the floor).
- 2) Are your fielders ready for you to deliver your next ball? Some ran in very quickly one after another, and fielders were not back in their positions.
- 3) If you bowled a bad ball, put it behind you: there is nothing you can do about it and focus on getting the next ball where you want it.

Fielding: The fielders ran towards the ball to pick it up quickly, and threw it in nicely. I think Gianni caused a run-out in the match against GRYCC. There were other chances that were not taken, but overall the fielding was very good; and it kept the pressure on their batsmen. The other teams did not give us many opportunities to make catches. Only Gregor (as wicket-keeper) was able to a catch (off Ricky's bowling). However, there were a couple of chances that did not stick (I can still see Gianni diving to his right and getting a hand onto the ball that did not stay in). The energy in the field was good, and the fielders stayed focused. It might sound strange at first, but you want the other team to hit the ball to you; this way you can get them out. Oliver moved nicely to the ball and got rid of it quickly.

I think everyone did an excellent job to prevent the ball from hitting the wall, well done to Arjun, Oliver, Gianni and Gregor for saving a number of runs by sliding and preventing the ball from hitting the wall.

Batting: I thought that the boys generally batted very well. The batsmen tended to hit more balls, rather than leaving or playing and missing. Cossonay have some very good bowlers, and it was correct to respect the good deliveries and try to take advantage of the loose ones. Ricky faced one of their better spin bowlers and got out to a delivery that spun and jumped, and although he tried to get out of the way, the ball hit his bat on the way through. The nice thing about facing several deliveries is that each player gets a chance to have a go, and if it doesn't work, the player can try again a few balls later.

Things to work on:

- 1) There were a number of 'easier' runs on offer ones and twos in the corner, instead of trying for a 4 or 6.
- 2) A few of our shots were hit into the air, and as a result players were caught out. If the ball is hit along the ground, you cannot be caught. The difference in the end result was probably the four, or so, catches we gave up at inopportune times.

Calling and running between wickets: The calling has improved; and came out reasonably loud and clear. The batsmen are getting used to running with the pads on. Backing up by the non-striking batsman was getting better, as it makes the journey to the other end a bit shorter. Gregor was probably the best at getting furthest down the pitch.

As mentioned before:

- 1) If the fielder has to turn and run towards the ball, his back is generally to the wicket. It would require him time to set himself, get his balance, aim and make a good throw. He also needs to determine which end to throw the ball. It is in these situations, that one can look for runs, because the ball was hit through a gap in the field.

Our next tournament is the Swiss National Championship to be played outdoors in Zuoz at the end of May. Please sign up for it on TeamSnap. Gregor, Ricky and Charlie Martin would all have fond memories of the tournament from the past years. Let's keep working on these different aspects of the game. Improvement has come and it will continue to do so.

I have captured the stats provided to us onto TeamSnap. This will help you follow your own progress.

Arnold Bucheli

Gingins, 26 March 2014