

Hi all,

The reason why you are receiving this e-mail is to provide you with a bit of feedback (my observations) from the match yesterday against Cossonay. 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 view from the middle: Match against Cossonay (U11 / U13) - 16 March 2014

Observations from Sunday's match against Cossonay. These observations are mine about what the boys did collectively well, and could work on for future matches. Before the match it was decided that batting would happen in pairs, and that each pair would face four overs together, irrespective of if they get out, or score enough runs which would have them retire in any other format. Also this match was a mixed group match with U11 and U13 players representing both teams; and a decision was made that the players would bowl to batsmen who were in the same age group.

The purpose of the game was to give the U11 boys who will be travelling to the tournament in Basel (on the weekend of 22 March) a chance to experience game conditions, and to give the other players a chance to have a match. For some of the players, this was the first opportunity to have any cricket since the GCC tournament in November. Thomas Anderson gets a special mention – this was his first game for GCC, and he played really well. Well done Thomas!

The GCC team comprised of:

- Arjun Gill (U11)
- Ricky Bucheli (U11)
- Wilf Chisolm (U11)
- Gianni St Hilaire (U11)
- Oliver Steele (U11)
- Nikhilesh Acharya (U11 - wk)
- Ari Schlein (U11)
- Thomas Anderson (U9)
- Aidan Anderson (U13)
- Dylan Cleaveley (U13 - wk)
- Alex Bucheli (U13 – captain)

Result: GCC lost the match to Cossonay. I do not know the final score, but for these purposes (for me) that is not the important aspect. What was important on the day was that the boys had a chance to play and through this can identify areas of their own performance that they did well and areas where they could improve. But just like Minecraft, it takes time and perseverance to get it right.

Overall: Our players all moved into fielding/bowling positions quickly, and that kept the innings moving along at a nice pace. This is what we need to do in tournaments, where there is a lot of pressure to keep to the time schedule. It is important for the captain to get the players ready and in position, and for each player to know his responsibility in the field.

Bowling: For the team as a whole, this area has been one of the biggest improvements over the past several months. Even without regular practice sessions or matches, the boys keep improving their skills. [In the week leading up to this match, I know Wilf was skiing; maybe he practiced with

snowballs in the mountains?] The pace of the bowling, and the general line and length by the bowlers was very good.

Things to work on and think about:

- 1) 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 recall one run-out in the Cossonay innings by a direct hit by Ari. There might have been others, but overall the fielding was very good; and it kept the pressure on their batsmen. The Cossonay players did not give us many opportunities to make catches, but there were a couple of chances that did not stick. The energy in the field was good, thank you Aidan and Alex for keeping the players focused (it is important that everyone chimes in during the fielding innings). 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.

Thing to remember:

- 1) Prevent the ball from hitting the wall. Arjun, Oliver, Gianni (among others) saved a number of runs by sliding and preventing the ball from hitting the wall. These seem to be easy runs to save.

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) Too many 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 Cossonay made.

Calling and running between wickets: The calling was reasonably loud and clear, maybe too often when it was 'no' it was a little quieter. The batsmen are getting used to running with the pads on. Backing up by the non-striking batsman was okay, as it makes the journey to the other end a bit shorter. There were still some runs left on the field.

One thing to remember:

- 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.

As preparation for the indoor tournament in Basel, this was an excellent match. Nikhil and Dylan did very well as the wicketkeepers, our bowlers just need to try and make their job a bit easier by keeping the ball straighter.

Arnold Bucheli

Gingins, 17 March 2014