

The view from the middle: GCC U13 tournament 23-4 November '13

These observations are mine about what the boys did collectively well, and could work on for future matches. This was the first time the GCC U13s played cricket together.

Squad Players:

Luca Poynton	Mattia Uras	Matthew Shaw
Alex Bucheli	Aidan Anderson	Leo Clairs
Archer Martin	Dylan Cleaveley	

Overall: For the tournament we fielded 8 players per match. But because Zurich and Luxembourg were short players, some boys got extra games for these teams. I thought that all the boys saw improvement in their skills and confidence during the course of the weekend. The team won one match, and lost two. I think each game was closer than what the final outcome would indicate. Without describing each match in detail, I will highlight on these points below.

These boys have known each other for a few years now, and have a very nice team spirit. They encourage and help one another, which is nice to see.

Fielding: The fielders all ran towards the ball to pick it up quickly, and throw it in nicely. There were a few run outs of opposing batters because of this. There were a number of diving stops which prevented the opposition from getting simple runs off the walls. I think each boy had done well to save runs, but more needs to be done inside to keep the pressure on the batsmen.

Things of note:

- 1) Although there were some nice catches made, there were also a few dropped, which could have been held. These might have been sharp tries, but could make a difference in a match.
- 2) All fielders were doing well to encourage each other in the field.
- 3) Glad to see good use of the long-barrier to stop the ball.
- 4) Good backing up from the fielders to avoid overthrows.

Bowling: Overall, this area keeps improving and I thought all boys bowled well and disciplined. It is important to keep the ball straight and onto the wickets, if the batsmen miss we can get wickets, or keep the pressure on them. Line and length. Against Luxembourg we conceded too many runs in the last 3-4 overs. The batsmen put pressure on our fielders and bowlers.

Things to work on:

- 1) It is important for the bowler to be happy that all fielders are ready for the next delivery. Please do not just keep rushing in to bowl when you have the ball in your hand.
- 2) Each bowler should have a plan of what he wants to do with the ball on each delivery.
- 3) To make things much easier on Dylan (as wicket-keeper) keep the ball straighter. We probably conceded too many wides, which then became four runs.

Batting: I thought that the boys generally batted very well, but we did not always take runs which were on offer. This put pressure on us when we were chasing.

Things to work on:

- 1) Wait on the ball and hit it along the ground. There were a number of catches we gave to the opponents. We need to work on this.
- 2) Have a look where the fielders are standing and try to hit the ball through the gaps – remember indoors by hitting the walls with the ball you can score runs.
- 3) **Calling and running between wickets:** The calling could have been better; there were a number of runs left on the field. The batsmen need to talk to each other and call loudly and clearly.
- 4) The non-strike batsmen did not always advance down the pitch to make the run easier.

Finally: It was a good team effort, well played boys. This the first time they played as an U13 team. There are some new boys, and others who did not get a chance at this tournament, hopefully we can get more games to play over the winter. I was impressed that CDL and La Chat had teams. Cossonay also mentioned that they had a number of U13 players. Let's get some practice matches in before the next tournaments.

Arnold Bucheli