

Hi all,

The reason why you are receiving this e-mail is to provide you with a bit of feedback (my observations) from the matches earlier today against Basel and Zurich, which took place in Winterthur. If you were not there, but a part of the U15 or U13 squad, I believe it is still useful to get a bit of exposure of what happened as well as to learn some lessons from the others. The purpose of the matches was to give the players a bit of a go on an outdoor pitch before we head off to Zuoz for the Swiss National Championships. I am writing this document solely on my observations (without any guidance from the score sheet, etc).

Firstly, we took the train as a team (reserved seats and travelled together), which was very nice. Also the boys were very well behaved when circumstances out of our control forced us to take an alternative route to Winterthur, and we arrived about 40 minutes after we had planned. Often in life there are things you do not plan for that occur, and it is how you handle yourself in these situations that really make the difference. Well done.

Also for a number of the boys, it was the first time they had an opportunity to play together in a match representing Gingins Cricket Club. It was great to see the camaraderie and spirit of the GCC coming through each boy and the encouragement they each gave one another. As a parent (and an official of the club) it is a wonderful thing to see, thank you.

The GCC team comprised of:

- Max Miller (U15) - captain
- John Cumberland (U15) - Wicket keeper in the second match
- George Colville (U15)
- Alex Bucheli (U13)
- Dylan Cleaveley (U13) – Wicket keeper in the first match
- Leo Clairs (U13)
- Kieren McConville (U13)
- Archer Martin (U13)

The view from the middle: Matches in Winterthur against Basel and against Zurich (U13 / U15) - 17 May 2014

Observations from the matches in Winterthur. These observations are mine about what the boys did collectively well, and could work on for future matches. Before the first match it was decided that the match will be played as 15 overs a side, with 11 players (each team picking up extra players from Zurich to make up the difference). Also after the long journey, we asked if we could forego a coin toss and start straight away in the field to give the players a chance to run a bit. Before the second match we agreed that the match would be 20 overs a side, and we picked up three extra players from Zurich to make up the numbers.

Result 1: GCC lost the match to Basel.

Result 2: GCC lost the match to Zurich.

I do not know the final scores, but for these purposes (for me) this is not the important aspect of these matches. What was important on the day was that the boys had a chance to play and through this opportunity can identify areas of their own performance that they did well and areas where they

could improve. It is said 'catches win matches', and we gave the opposition more opportunities to make catches than they gave us.

Overall: Our players all moved into fielding/bowling positions quickly, and that kept the innings moving along at a nice pace. This was very good, and Max let his bowlers know in advance when it was their turn to bowl so they warmed up before needing to bowl. [Please note: In Zuoz teams will get penalised runs for not keeping to a time schedule. This could be a loss of runs, or fewer overs to face.] It is also important to keep constant pressure on the opposing batsmen to reduce their run scoring, and to get wickets.

Fielding: I think the fielding overall was good, there were a few opportunities to save runs in the field and to put more pressure on the batsmen – but, in general, a very good performance over the two matches. The fielders ran towards the ball to pick it up quickly, and threw it in nicely. There were a number of runs saved in the field, and a few run out chances, some taken and others close. This good fielding keeps pressure on opposing batsmen. 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. There were a couple of nice catches from Kieren (unfortunately, one off a no-ball). In the second match John organised the field nicely from behind the stumps.

Thing to remember:

- 1) Walking in with the bowler. You have to remember to stay active in the field, you cannot let your mind wander during the match (often easier said than done).
- 2) Start a bit further away from the batsmen to avoid the ball from being hit past you – but come in to make the catches and throws to the stumps as required.
- 3) The backing up in the field was good. I do not recall our team giving away any over-throws. Once the ball is hit, everyone has a job to do to attempt to get the batsman out, or at least keep the scoring down to one.

Bowling: For the team as a whole, this area has to be one that can continue to be improved. There were a number of wides and a few no-balls in both matches, and these need to be reduced. I would like to ask the players to help with suggestion for improving this.

Things to work on and think about:

- 1) Regarding wides and no-balls – please relax and think about what you want to do with each delivery: where you want the ball to pitch (line and length).
- 2) Are your fielders ready for you to deliver your next ball? Are they where you want them to be? 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. Have a plan for each ball – where do you want to bowl it, who is the batsman facing you.

Batting: I thought that the boys generally batted very well. There were some really good shots, and some less than good shot selections. The batsmen need to know where the fielders are, and not always try to hit over the top of them. When the field moves back, tap and go runs are in order. When the fielders move in, then try to go aerial.

Things to work on:

- 1) If the ball is bowled well, maybe the best shot is a defensive one. It is not easy for anyone else tell you what to do with each delivery, you need to figure this out as each ball is bowled.
- 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.
- 3) The strip was new, and the bounce and pace a little slower, which might account for some of the shots in the air. However, the players need to figure out how to adjust and the in batsman needs to help the coming with what to expect in the middle.

Calling and running between wickets: Other than in the first over (first ball we faced), the calling was reasonably loud and clear. I think there may have been some runs left on the field, but the batsmen need to be comfortable to make the journey to the other end. As we progressed in our two matches, this aspect of the game also seemed to improve. There were still some runs left on the field. Backing up by the non-striking batsman was okay, but could have been better.

One thing to remember:

- 1) There are two batsmen on the field, and you need to work together to score runs.
- 2) 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.
- 3) If you are the non-striking batsman, back-up as the bowler delivers the ball, but also come back into the crease if there is not a run on. Very often the non-strike bowler was very relaxed when coming back to his ground. You do not want to get run out this way.

Arnold Bucheli

Gingins, 17 May 2014