

ZCCC in U17 Basel Indoor Tournament

11 and 12 March 2023

The weekend of 11/12 March saw six teams (including a team from Stuttgart Cricket Verein, and Swiss U15) converge on Basel for the 2nd running of the Basel Dragons Indoor Tournament at U17 age group. The format had two pools with ZCCC in the same pool as Basel Dragons and Stuttgart CV. With only 16 overs allocated for the pool games, it promised to be quick fire cricket.



Match 1 - BDJCC

ZCCC 211-1 (Shankar 22*, Zac 21*; Aayush 0-16) bt BDJCC 99 a.o. (Danyal 2-6, Shafiullah 2-20) by 112 runs

A great start to the tournament saw all disciplines in top form, with batter after batter retiring on 20 runs, and the only dismissal from a direct hit run-out late on. In the field, the team exerted great control. After a study break, Danyal improved with every ball to finish with two wickets at a low economy. Shafiullah was a little more expensive but the pace was too much and he also netted two. Behind the stumps, Abid was a live wire and saw the dangerous Parth dismissed with a full-length of the pitch, direct-hit run out.

Match 2 - Stuttgart Cricket Verein

ZCCC 186-5 (Zac 48*, Hasmatullah 24*; Diyon 1-17, Jai 1-19) bt SCV 130 a.o. (Sachin 31*, Keshav 24; Zac 2-12, Hasmatullah 1-13) by 56 runs

Both ZCCC openers were disappointed to be dismissed in the first two overs trapped in front, but the depth in the batting was clear to see with Zac and Abid rebuilding at a good pace before retiring. The lower order kept their form from the first game and while not all were able to retire, they scored quickly. Naseer (22* off 6 balls!) and Shafiullah (24*) kept the scoring going and both retired, bringing Zac back who hit some big sixes to retire once more to post a competitive total.

The first 3 overs were cagey, with the openers not able to get away until Hasmatullah executed a run out. After that the wickets fell regularly. Zac in particular was economic and it paid off with two wickets. The ZCCC performance was too strong, not letting the scoring rate get near to the required rate and finished off the batters with two balls to go.

Topping the group, it was set up for the final against Swiss U15s on the following day.

Final - Swiss U15

ZCCC 191-3 (Zac 34*, Danyal 32*; Subhanullah 1-24, Avneet 1-17) bt Swiss U15 190 a.o. (Connor 41*, Lasse 31; Sasha 2-31, Danyal 2-26) by 6 wickets

The U15s batted first and Zurich struck almost immediately with Shafiullah having Avneet caught by Danyal. Another wicket fell to Hasmatullah soon after. The Basel trio of Connor, Lasse and Vignesh however took advantage of some slightly sloppy fielding to retire. Things moved quickly with good catches and direct hit run outs (even if one was slightly unlucky). The returning batters couldn't push on and both Lasse and Vignesh fell to Danyal off consecutive balls, with another 5 overs to bowl.

With a required rate of only 7.6, the ZCCCs kept calm and were ahead of the rate the whole game. Openers Sasha (30*) and Danyal set things up for some brutality from Zac, with all three retiring. Shankar and Abid put on useful runs before both being trapped in front but Hezbollah and Naseer saw the team home at strike rates of 200 with 6 overs to go, to retain the title!



Overall a professional outing for the team, with all players contributing. It was especially pleasing after a disappointing first game in the Gingins tournament to come out the blocks so well.

Top batting:

1. Zac 103 runs at a strike rate of 202, no dismissals
2. Danyal 58 runs at SR 121, one dismissal
3. Sasha 53 runs at SR 143, one dismissal

Top bowling:

1. Danyal 6.4-1-47-4
2. Shafiullah 6-0-55-4
3. Sasha 8-0-61-3

Zac was awarded the tournament best batter trophy and Abid the best fielder trophy. Thanks to Nic for coaching the team and now to the outdoor season!

