

## Another strong performance by ZCCC U11 team at Zuoz Junior Cricket Festival

The nine strong U11 squad travelled to Zuoz for the Junior Cricket Festival, taking on Basel Dragons, Gingins, and two “wanderer” teams of West Leman (with players from CDL, GRYCC and La Chat) and Swiss Wanderers (with players from BDJCC and Gingins). Again they put in a very creditable performance coming joint third (with West Leman).

Still a new team with only three players (Matty and Paolo Patel and Aman ...) that had been at last year’s Zuoz Festival, and their first outdoor competition as a team - having limited experience of the extra space afforded and playing with a hard ball. Having had one tournament under their belt showed as they played as a team from the off, supporting each other as well as backing each other up in the field. The bowling performance was the highlight managing to get 19 of 21 wickets against West Leman, Gingins and Swiss Wanderers, particularly as they were without the star of last time, Kyle Seth. Kabir Khanna stepped up admirably and took the bowler of the competition prize with amazing figures of 3-1-4-4 against Gingins, and was a tiny overstep away from making a 5-for.

Their first game, against West Leman went down to the wire, with both teams getting the same score and with one wicket standing. As there was only one ball difference in when the runs were scored, both coaches shook on a tie, reflecting how tight the game was. Zurich put in a good effort in the field, taking four run outs (Ben Jackson showing his skills in the field with two) and Owen Thompson and Vadim Shafiallah taking a wicket each. With bat in hand, the team were clearly getting used to the switch from indoor to outdoor as well as not having the big hitting Kyle.

After the excitement of the first game, their second against Gingins provided even more (with broiling clouds and lightning providing a theatrical backdrop)! Owen and Kabir put on some runs at the top of the order, including their first boundary before Gingins fought back with quality bowling on an uneven pitch. Kyle came in at seven for this game and good running with Sasha Hall (who selflessly was run out last ball) to post a decent total. Kabir’s outstanding bowling (including a double-wicket maiden) was backed up by the other bowlers, with Matty taking a wicket. Gingins managed to get over the line with one wicket in hand.

An early start on the Sunday pitched Zurich against the eventual winners Basel Dragons. Zurich batted credibly against a fast and accurate attack, with Matty and Ben both top scoring. As expected, Basel batted well, only losing one wicket to Sasha.

Undeterred after defeat, Zurich then played back to back finishing their competition against an even younger Swiss Wanderers team. Kabir, Aman and Owen batted well and Ben and Matty ensured the other three weren’t required

to bat. Now in a good rhythm, a good all round bowling performance (with six bowled and 1 LBW) with two wickets from Owen and a wicket for most of the other bowlers. Of particular note was Paolo who bowled tightly and Vadim getting impressive turn. Zurich held their nerve to take their first win, bowling out Swiss Wanderers with a few runs in hand.

Kabir backed up his batting and bowling with his first time holding the captaincy with good bowling changes and innovative fielding positions. Aman supported the team behind the stumps – particularly with two of the games on a very uneven surface leading the ball to come off at very unusual angles. Andreas showed more of his promise, acting as a 9<sup>th</sup>-man fielder in two games with a notable diving stop.

Once again a very promising performance, with two very tight matches separating them from second overall. More experience with outdoor games, as well as playing as a team makes for an exciting future. Once again the team played with great spirit and humour.

A special note of thanks to Madhur who hands over the reigns as U11 coach – your tireless effort has been inspiring for us all. Thanks also to the organisers (especially for the weather!) and Juliet and Prakash Patel for taking on the tournament directorship for U11.

Michael Hall (ZH U11 assistant coach)

### **Batting Figures**

Aman 1.75  
Ben 1.25  
Kabir 3.50  
Matty 3.50  
Owen 5.67  
Paolo 0.50  
Sasha 2.00

### **Bowling Figures**

Ben 5-0-28-1  
Kabir 10-2-23-4  
Matty 7-0-29-2  
Owen 8.5-0-30-3  
Paolo 11-1-42-1  
Sasha 4-0-16-2  
Vadim 5.1-1-22-2