

As the sun started to burn off the mist, Zürich Crickets U11 arrived at Bäumlhof, Basel for another friendly against Basel Dragons. The pairs format was used again, with each pair batting/bowling four overs and a five run penalty for each wicket. **Owen**, captaining Zürich, won the toss and elected to field, preferring to chase a total.

He made an immediate impact, bowling Ross with his second ball. However his normal accuracy deserted him and he bowled a number of beamers, which were no-balled. His opening partner, **Vadim**, got his line and length right, and bowled two overs with no extras and a number of dots. Very impressive for a young leg spinner! After the initial wicket, Ross and Euan batted well and put on 23 between them. **Rafferty** and **Ryan** were next up, bowling to Ali and Alex. Under pressure from the big hitting pair, they bowled well showing improvement and fewer extras bowled, but couldn't prevent a couple of boundaries. Ali ended up top scoring in the game with 18.

After a quick change out of wicket keeping gear, **Sasha** paired with **Willoughby**. Sasha seemed unflustered from the change, bowling Lewis with his first ball and was very economical, only conceding six runs from his two overs. Willoughby struggled a touch with his line, but bowled a number of dots, and only went for three from the bat. Charlie batted well for his seven, including taking a blow to the hip bone.

Andreas and Shivansh (on loan from Basel) were next up, and Andreas showed his ever improving bowling, only giving away two wides. He also continued his happy knack of getting a run out during his bowling with Quirjan being short of his crease to a throw from Sasha. He and George batted well making 12 apiece, with George hitting a glorious on-drive to the boundary. **Finn** and Kritik (also on loan) bowled the last scoring pair and Finn showed improvement with his bowling too. He and Andreas paired up for the last Basel pair and they let the accuracy slip a little. Matthias batted well to make 10.

After 20 overs, Basel had made 152-3, which meant that Zürich needed 138 at 6.9 runs / over.

Owen and Vadim opened the batting, facing Euan and Ross. The normally accurate Euan struggled with his line, and some opportunistic running meant Zürich started on target. Ross bowled accurately and quickly, conceding only eight runs from his two overs. Euan got his line better for his second over, but Owen and Vadim managed to score runs although Euan got his reward with Vadim driving a shot straight to Ross who took a great catch. Sasha and Willoughby were next in, and started well until a mix up resulted in Sasha being run out. He ended up top scoring for Zürich with 15 runs. Rafferty supported him well with (aside from the run out) good running even if the ball didn't come off the bat, although he was bowled by a straight one from Ali.

Ryan and Willoughby were next in, and Ryan found a way to make runs, finishing on eight. Willoughby had a tougher time, being bowled by Charlie and then getting caught off the bowling of George. Andreas and Finn paired up again and couldn't manage any runs from the bat, with Finn missing a ball from Charlie to be bowled by Mathias. The last pair of Shivansh and Kritik had an uphill task, needing to get more than 10 an over. Unfortunately

they ended up losing four wickets in their four overs, including two in two off Quirjan. One of which was an amazing diving catch by Privansh.

That left Zürich on 150-10, which meant they finished on 100. Once again, fielding was the big difference between the two teams, with Basel holding onto their catches to ensure the run rate kept rising. However, it was good to see the game-on-game improvement with the Zürich side - this time there were fewer extras bowled and running was much better. Thanks again to Basel for making us welcome, and we look forward to resuming the rivalry in the new year!

Michael
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