

Zurich Crickets CC 2015 president's report

First of all, a word of thanks is due to all those who have been involved in the many activities of the club in the past year. Zurich Crickets remains a strong and healthy club that is able to offer cricket all the year round to a large group of cricketers aged between 7 and 18 years. Standards continue to be high and the coaching opportunities offered to the players enable them to train in a safe and friendly environment, and to become better cricketers. The club is well equipped, and enjoys excellent indoor and outdoor facilities in Zurich and Winterthur. The number of parents involved in the club, whether as coaches and managers or with the administration and catering, has grown, and this is what ensures the club will thrive.

Activities

Activities during the 2015 season (1st September 2014- 30th August 2015) were:

- On 25/26 October 2014 the Cricket Coaches Association of Switzerland (CCAS) ran two identical Cricket Coaching Workshops in Zurich at the Kantonsschule Hottingen and in Geneva at the La Châtaigneraie School Sports Hall. Six ZCCC coaches took part to improve their coaching skills.
- Even better was the Level 1 coaching course run at Hottingen in November 2015. No fewer than 9 new Zurich Crickets coaches completed the course. This was hugely important for the club and its future.
- In November 2014 additional training sessions on Fridays began. These regular sessions have been well attended by a group of 6-10 players, almost all of whom play for the national teams. These sessions will continue in the 2016 season.
- Manoj Parmar spent three days from 3rd-5th April with a group of ZCCC players who signed up for the sessions at the Hottingen gyms. This was his second successful visit in the past 6 months.
- The Hampshire coaches worked with our players in early November over a long weekend. As always huge strides were taken by the players.
- The Annual Awards were presented at the traditional Parents vs Players matches in December. In the past these events have usually been separate. However, the success of the occasion with so many attending, the excellent food, and the matches taking place both before and after the Awards and lunch, could mean we organize a similar event in 2016.

Some playing highlights

- In February the Zurich Crickets/Basel Dragons team caused a sensation by winning the **Under 15 Basel Indoor Tournament!**
- Zurich Crickets Under 14 team participated in the 9th **Bavaria Cup in Munich** on Saturday 14th & Sunday 15th March 2015, returning home deserved winners.
- The **Junior Zuoz Cricket Festival**, 5-7 June 2015, always the highlight of the junior season, was a success yet again, not least because of the efforts of John Millar and his team. This was the 10th edition of the tournament. Laurence Pariaug will be taking over from John for the 2016 Zuoz tournament and we wish him well. This is traditionally the tournament that ZCCC has always organised.

Tournaments and cricket tours would not be fun without the hard work and training sessions of our coaches. In the 2015 season hours and hours of work was put in by this group of parents, as was much time and effort by the managers to organise fixtures and ensure the smooth running of the age groups.

Cricket tours

The Swiss Under 11s toured UK from 14-17 May 2015. Highlights of their experience were a tour of the Lords Cricket Ground and matches against Surrey district teams.

The Swiss Under 13s, with Luke Specogna and Dayn Pariaug selected, travelled to the UK from 14-17 May 2015 and returned unbeaten. They played against opponents such as Deando Ruxley CC, Horsley and Send CC and Rokeby School first XI. The highlight of this tour was a sparkling hundred scored by Luke Specogna – the first time a Swiss Junior touring team member to the UK has scored a hundred!

Thereafter the Swiss 13s travelled to Luxembourg to play a 3 nations tournament vs Luxembourg and Belgium. 13/14 June 2015. Switzerland entered two teams for this tournament. The Swiss B team comprised mainly the 12 year olds who would form the core of the Swiss 13s in 2016 and included ZCCC's Aryan Luthra and Luca Patel. The Swiss A team finished the tournament as runners up to Belgium.

The Swiss Under 15s were active throughout the year. The team toured UK from 8-12 July 2015. A tough tour, with some strong opposition against Great and Little Tew CC, Kidlington CC and MP Academy Teams. Our youth held their head high, winning three games on tour. ZCCC was represented by Surya Chandra.

The Under 17s and 19s are mainly incorporated into the Swiss Colts, who play in the Swiss senior competitions in the Geneva area. Thus, in 2015, the Colts participated in the Cricket Switzerland Premier League and the Mr Pickwick T20 Cup. Always a challenge to take on senior teams, but our players did well and finished both competitions mid-table.

The Swiss 19s also travelled out to Belgium, to play a European 5 Nations Tournament from 11-15 August. This is the highlight of the Swiss junior cricketing calendar and the 19s did not disappoint. Victories against Luxembourg and Germany (eventual champions) were deserved and confirmed that Swiss Junior Cricket is fast maturing and can compete with the best European nations. We were delighted that Osama Mahmood, Callum Hirst, Ruan Kruger and Nic Henderson were all selected to play for the team.

Bob Barber Awards 2015

The junior season concludes by recognizing the outstanding junior players with the Bob Barber Awards. 2015's winners included ZCCC's U13 player Luke Specogna.

The 2016 season

The new season looks very promising. With a large group of Under 11 players keen to improve and a very active group of coaches, there have already been a number of fixtures with Basel Dragons where players have been honing their skills.

The smaller group of Under 13 players is a strong one and so is now training together with the Under 15 players. The Under 15s group is a large one, and still expanding, and they have been going from success to success so far this season beginning with the Lemman Cup.

Strong performances have meant that at the Lemman Cup at the beginning of the new season (September 2015) players from the East of Switzerland, which included a number of ZCCC members, won both the Under 11 and Under 15 matches. The Under 13s narrowly lost.

At the Basel Indoor tournaments in November the ZCCC Under 11 and Under 15 teams won their competitions. The Under 19 team also won the Geneva indoor tournament in December 2015.

At the Gingins Indoor Cup, which took place over two weekends in March ZCCC U15s continued their unbeaten run by winning the tournament. They have now won every tournament this season. The Under 11s finished in 3rd place as did the Under 13 team, too. The Under 17/19 team remain unbeaten and won both their T20 matches against Geneva teams.

Our older players will play for men's clubs in the 40-over League and T20 Cup throughout the summer of 2016 – Winterthur CC and Power Winterthur. We wish them all the best.

Highlights in 2016 promise to be the Under 15-19 Whitsun camp in May that will include a Bowling Workshop for the coaches with the 3 Hampshire tutors, the Zuoz Junior Championships in June, the Winterthur Golden Duck tournament in August for the ZCCC 1st VIII, and the various national Swiss tours in the summer which will no doubt include a number of ZCCC players at each age level.

Finally, a word of thanks to John Millar, who is stepping down from his role as Club Secretary: We are delighted to have found a worthy replacement in Anna Hall. Congratulations also to John for his Services to Swiss Cricket Award,

which was presented at the Cricket Switzerland AGM in February 2016. John served as Youth Development Officer 2013-14.