

# Swiss U11 Luxembourg Report



The Swiss U11 team were invited by Luxembourg to participate in a triangular competition with Belgium. Sadly the poor weather across Europe meant the outdoor pitch was unplayable, and so last minute arrangements were made to use the excellent indoor facility at the International School of Luxembourg.



## Match 1 – Luxembourg

Switzerland U11 142-3 (Vadim 23\*, Ross 20\*; Rebecca 1-12, Rahul 1-18) beat Luxembourg U11 107-6 (Fred 16\*, Sascha 15\*; Ross 2-12, Sasha 1-3)

Switzerland lost the toss, and were put in. Luxembourg struck early with **Owen** being bowled by Rahul for 5. However, **Ross** and **Gianni** found their stride (and the tactics of playing indoors) and both retired. With Switzerland looking secure, **Ali** was caught for 0. As the saying goes, one brings two and so it proved with **Aarit** run out without facing a ball. **Sasha** and Vadim calmed things down. Sasha benefited from a double mis-field to score the only boundary of the innings, and as it came to a close, Vadim accelerated and retired on 23\*. This brought in **Charlie** who quickly scored 6\*.



Ross struck with his first ball, bowling Charlie. After that Sascha and Fred dug in, and then got the scoreboard ticking over. Vadim's accurate leg spin earned him a maiden, but it wasn't until the 14<sup>th</sup> over with 74 on the board when Sasha's left arm seam bowling had Rahul caught by **Alistair**. That seemed to turn things as then a run out followed. Ross brought himself back on, and took a wicket with his first ball. Alistair's last over included a run out and then he had Malvina caught. The fielding however was scratchy and this was demonstrated with a comedy of errors that accompanied the last ball of the match. Three overthrows and poor backing up meant six runs were scored.

## Match 2 – Belgium

Switzerland U11 55-1 (Ross 14, Owen 12\*; Atharva 1-20) beat Belgium U11 54 (Aman 5, Mayank 5; Vadim 2-4, Owen 1-6)

After watching Belgium beat Luxembourg heavily, the Swiss team knew they had to up their game. Belgium demonstrated big hitting, quick bowling and fantastic fielding. Once again Switzerland lost the toss, but this time were asked to field.

After an expensive first over, Alistair's pace bowled Zain in his second. Gianni followed suit, taking Aman. Ross wasn't to be left out, and this time waited until his third ball to knock over Sarin's stumps. A suicidal run saw another wicket fall. An uncharacteristically profligate over from Ross provided some brief respite, but Vadim came back to turn the screw. With his leg spin inviting the batsman to drive, he had Arnav and Pawsha caught with consecutive deliveries. Owen then got into the act having Freddy caught. The change of keeper (Vadim in for Sasha) hardly seemed worth it with Atharva sacrificing himself. The level of fielding was night and day from the first match.

Switzerland didn't find runs easy to come by with some quick, accurate and swinging deliveries. When the ball was there to be hit, Ross and Owen worked the ball around skillfully. However, that didn't prevent the odd ball from flying past to keep them honest. Ross showed his usual hitting, with one boundary before he was bowled by Atharva for 14. Gianni and Owen combined for the next few overs, until Owen hit the winning three in the ninth for a comprehensive victory.

### Match 3 – Belgium

Switzerland U11 70-4 (Gianni 16\*, Aarit 11) beat Belgium U11 68-8 (Atharva 15\*, Aman 6; Aarit 1-2, Ali 1-8)

The next day saw a similar format, but with 15 overs per innings to allow a prompt departure. Ross won the toss and elected to field. Alistair almost had a wicket in the first over, but for a dropped catch. Ali made sure it wasn't expensive by running out Kjenao in the second over. The fast and accurate bowling meant the dots accumulated, and the score after 6 overs was 18-1. Vadim then bowled a few uncharacteristically wild balls, but had Sarim caught by Aarit on the boundary. After a quick change of keeper, Ali knocked over Marshall. With runs needed, run outs came into play and Gianni had two direct hits from long off to run out Aman and Arnav. After some work with the coach in the morning, Aarit sorted his run up and had Zain caught by Ross at mid-on. Vadim (now keeping) ran out Parshua to bring Atharva out of retirement, who promptly hit two fours off the last over, after a couple of mis-fields.

Gianni and Aarit opened. Gianni played watchfully, with some solid strokes going straight to a fielder. Aarit showed his hitting and quickly got to 11 before being bowled. Ross came and went, hitting his first ball in the air for an easy catch. This brought together "little" (Sasha) and "large" (Gianni). Sasha found it hard to get the ball away, but ran well with Gianni. After making 6, Sasha heard he had one ball before retirement and went for a 6. Sadly it fell into the hands of the fielder on the boundary. Gianni retired on 16\* and this brought Alistair and Ali together. Ali was unlucky to end up run out for 2. Charlie (6\*) and Alistair (6\*) finished off the game, working the ball square for easy runs off the wall.

### Match 4 – Luxembourg

Switzerland U11 49-3 (Vadim 15\*, Charlie 5; Freddie 1-6, Sascha 1-10) beat Luxembourg U11 46 (Stanley 4, Sascha 3; Charlie 2-2, Ross 2-12)

Ross again won the toss, and elected to field. This time everyone was given one over. Aarit ran out Frederick with a direct hit from long off. Ross struggled with his line to the left-

handed Freddy and conceded a number of wides. Freddy didn't last long, with Aarit bowling him. Sasha bowled Rebecca, and Owen then trapped Sascha for 3. Charlie had Stanley LBW before bowling Emma for his first wickets. With everyone having bowled their over, Ross brought himself back on and after a wide, bowled Malvina and Fazim with consecutive deliveries to finish the innings.

The batting order was adjusted to give those who hadn't had a decent bat an opportunity. Vadim and Ali opened. Ali was again unlucky to be run out after some good fielding.. Charlie came in and made 5 before being trapped by the left-handed Freddy, bringing his brother George to the crease (making up the 10<sup>th</sup> player in the match). Sadly he didn't last long, chipping the ball back to Sascha. At the other end, Vadim batted serenely, making 15\* before retiring. Owen scored the winning runs in the 7<sup>th</sup> over to make it four wins from four.

## Summary



Switzerland adapted well to the indoor setup, getting into groove quickly after an erratic start. There were strong performances from everyone, with runs, wickets, catches and run outs from the whole team.

The tournament's batting award went to Gianni who made 40 without getting out once. Ross took 5 wickets, and scored 34 (at 17.0) as well as captaining the side well. Vadim also batted well making 35 (without getting out) and took 3 wickets. Charlie was like a wall in the field, stopping a number of runs and chipping in with two wickets at the end.

Like in England, the depth of the bowling surprised with Alistair, Gianni, Ross and Aarit all bowling quickly. Ali, Charlie and Sasha bowled accurately and once again Vadim's leg spin foxed most that faced it.

With both of the team's wicket keepers unavailable, the gloves were shared around with Sasha keeping most of the time (including to the quickest bowlers). Vadim, Gianni and Owen also showed their prowess behind the stumps.

Huge thanks to Pavel and Pete for all the work to build the squad over the year, and handing me and Grant a well grooved team. Thank you to Vanessa for scoring, and to Roger and the whole of Luxembourg Cricket for putting on a great weekend in very trying circumstances. This was the last time this year's Swiss U11 team played together and we wish those who are graduating to U13 cricket the best of luck. I'm sure we'll see the rest at the next selection weekend, and probably before then!

Michael

## Statistics

Bowler	Econ	Avg	SR	Ex/Ov	Analysis
<b>Aarit</b>	5.80	14.5	15.0	4.20	5-0-29-2
<b>Ali</b>	4.40	22.0	30.0	0.80	5-0-22-1
<b>Alistair</b>	3.78	17.0	27.0	1.67	9-1-34-2
<b>Charlie</b>	4.00	4.0	6.0	1.00	2-0-8-2
<b>Gianni</b>	5.13	-	-	2.95	9.1-0-47-0
<b>Owen</b>	5.60	14.0	15.0	1.60	5-0-28-2
<b>Ross</b>	4.94	8.4	10.2	3.29	8.3-1-42-5
<b>Sasha</b>	2.67	4.0	9.0	1.67	3-0-8-2
<b>Vadim</b>	3.57	8.3	14.0	1.71	7-1-25-3

Batter	Average	Runs	SR
<b>Aarit</b>	5.5	11	122
<b>Ali</b>	0.7	2	50
<b>Alistair</b>	-	6	120
<b>Charlie</b>	17.0	17	120
<b>Gianni</b>	-	40	69
<b>Owen</b>	20.0	20	80
<b>Ross</b>	17.0	34	110
<b>Sasha</b>	17.0	17	61
<b>Vadim</b>	-	35	113