

Match report Basel Season opener 26th April 2009

Fantastic weather and a good turn-out ensured that the day provided a wonderful start to the Basel Cricket Club outdoor season.

As for every year, the event was combined with the senior side and a joint barbecue to get everybody in the right frame of mind. The juniors started with a mixed match played in a 30Thirty format using the hard ball.

It was indeed heartening to see so many youngsters not only taking part, but clearly enjoying the cricket experience. This year we welcomed many new players and were able to play a total of 26 boys ranging in age from 8 to 15 years.

Our trusty coach, Gareth, organized two teams of 13 players and the game was afoot!

Basel Blue: David Bagshaw (coach), Theo Hall (captain), David Johnson, Mathew Benzies, Will Bayliss, Sukhraj Bajwa, Dominic Halliwell, Thomas Russell, Gabriel Bagshaw, Henry McKelvey, Ishan Ahuja, Arthur Beard and Anil Singh.

Basel Red: Andy Johnson (coach), Neil Creba-Wright (captain), Ethan Johnson, Max Williams, Fraser Stewart, Dylan Howarth, Shashank Aggarwal, Angus Murgatroyd-Wiles, Giorgio Ryser-Koniari, Manu Singh, Ruwan Jayakody, Connor Oakley and Josh Bayliss.

Neil won the toss and elected to field, hoping no doubt that the still damp grass would swallow the ball and keep the runs down. His tactic seemed to be working, when, after 12 overs, only 20 runs were on the board. Then enter Ishan and Thomas, who through a mixture of, skill, wayward bowling and luck, added 14 for their 4 over stand. A succession of batsmen including Gabriel, Henry and Arthur added a further 10 before Theo came in to finish with a true captains knock, high scoring with an unbeaten 14. Some tight bowling from Neil and Fraser together with a tremendous fielding effort from Ruwan stopped the score getting beyond reach. The final "Blues" score was 108.

The target was not beyond reach and the "Reds" started steadily but failed to find the boundary early on. Progress was then slow with many of the younger players having difficulty getting the ball away. Some excellent bowling from Anil, who from his 3 overs claimed 2 wickets and only conceded 3 runs was supported by Arthur and Theo who were both in fine form. The first 5 pairs went for a total of 49 runs, making the task for the final batting pair of Josh and Neil all but impossible. Both batsmen started well, but then Theo struck again taking 2 wickets in his final over to leave the "Reds" stranded on a total of 76.

The match was played in the true spirit of cricket, all players working hard for their team and having fun. As usual, there were some glum faces, but this all changed when they got stuck into the barbecue. Beef burgers, hot dogs, chicken and pork ably and expertly administered by the team of Pete Bayliss, Sharron Bagshaw and Andy Stewart (who were definitely having far too much fun behind all the smoke), soon dispelled any low spirits. As a fitting end, Yvonne treated us to her grandmother's carrot cake recipe - Jay I am envious!

Well done to ALL the players and a big thank you to everyone who turned out to help contributing to the overall success of a thoroughly enjoyable day. Special thanks go to our umpires for the day, Richard Beard and Andy Oakley, who endured the brilliant sunshine and our long suffering scorer – David Benzies, who seems to be the only person capable of adding up and drinking beer simultaneously!