

Quick review of quick game [posted 05/09/11]

Cricket as it's meant to be. No rain. No phaffing about. Pleasant oppo'. And, from our perspective at least: a win! We're talking here about the 15s' win over West tonight at Shawholm. The match saw Cameron Scott's competitive league debut, and Kess Sajjad coming in as a late replacement. West were batting first and *the 'Locster* bowlers immediately made their presence felt, Haider being unlucky not to see the ump' raise his finger after a smart stumping, and appeal, by *Rosco*. But Sandy McCallum survived. Well, at least 'til the first wicket fell with the score on 9. And 9 proved a good number for the 15s as wickets two and three both also fell on this score. 9 for 3 all of a sudden. Connor Ewing, Sandy McCallum's opening partner was still there though and he went on to top-score with 16. He got decent support from Johnny Sim (14) batting at five too, as 9 for 3 was pushed up to 39 for 4.

After Thornhill then came and went, run out by Hasan, it was none other than *the 'Locsters* nemesis himself who came in to bat. Enter the field of dreams young Robbie McCallum Esq. After stealing the show for his side in the Under 11 title decider last Friday at Hamilton Crescent, he strode out to bat tonight, a Lilliputian amongst a team of Gullivers, and calmly smacked his first delivery through extra cover for 4! *Simples!* [Ed: surely it's a school night, why wasn't the young man at home?!?] But, and luckily for the 15s, it wouldn't be Robbie's night this time - after a heave at an Elliott delivery he was coolly stumped by *Rosco*. The West innings then meandered its way to its completion, Matthew Day finishing 11 not out, the team score reaching 63 for 8. But spare a thought though for Cameron on debut. Thrown the ball by the skipper for his first bowl and the first two balls produce catching chances that are *both* put down. Unlucky!

The run-chase was routine it's fair to say. 64 for 0 in 7.1 overs. Ross unbeaten on 32, Saif 19 not out. And proceedings were ended with a nice maximum over long on by the former. A good win then, and good to get playing again. Hopefully the weather allows a few more games.....

11s' big win secures divisional title [posted 01/09/11]

The Under 11s completed the divisional league campaign with a comprehensive win over East Kilbride at Torrance House tonight. In a good game, played in exactly the right spirit at an East Kilbride ground that was buzzing activity, *the 'Locsters* ran out eventual winners by 103 runs. The win was set up by a tight bowling display that restricted the home side to just net 2 runs (42 for 8). And the tone was set right from the first over when Kess found the edge of Naeem's bat and Calum safely pouched the "regulation" 'keeper's catch being the timbers. 0 for 1. It was 2 for 3 after the second over as Aliyan claimed two wickets, Naeem again, and opening partner Banks. And really from this point on, every time the home batters appeared to be getting close to parity, the 11s would sneak another wicket. Come the end of the sixteenth over - it was sixteen overs-a-side - East Kilbride's youngsters had just crept over into positive runs territory at 42 for 8. Aliyan had followed up his first over in which he took two wickets with two maidens to finish with figures of 3-2-2-2, between them *the 'Locster* bowlers bowling an impressive total of six maidens in the first innings. Only four wides were bowled too, again emphasising the quality of bowling. In fact the only bowler who took a bit of punishment was Ahmed-Raza in his first over that went for 11. But to his credit, he came back and bowled two overs for just 3 runs.

Net 3 doesn't seem much of a target, but as important as getting past the home side's first innings total would be how the 11s batted. Sixteen overs later we knew the answer. Pretty well. There were still a couple of careless late wickets that fell which in other games could cost the side, but - overall - it was a strong batting display. Calum set the tone with an unbeaten 26 opening with Lewis Mac'. And Lewis - though being run out by a great stop and direct hit from Naeem - showed just what an improved and technically mature batter he has become in stroking 12. Rorie and Joe in the second pairing added 17, Rorie finishing unbeaten on that score. Then the third pairing of Ahmed-Raza and Abrar gave nothing away, wickets-wise, in adding a further 17, leaving Kess and Aliyan to bring up the rear. *The*

'Locsters' final double act put on 32, losing those two wickets mentioned earlier. Aliyan, though out once, finished net 16. And the final over of the *EK* bowling performance went for no fewer than 23. The run-chase saw both good running between the wickets in general, as well as a flurry of boundaries. Fifteen 4s and a 6 were hit as the 11s' batters punished anything wayward.

So a good end to a successful divisional campaign - tomorrow sees the 11s travel to West of Scotland to take on the winners of the north division, the winners of this play-off being crowned WDJCU Under 11 champions.

Dot-gate! [posted 29/08/11]

Unavailability is the biggest pain in the [insert as appropriate] for almost every cricket club, and we know that many times teams will win when missing key players. *We've* even done it before. Sometimes it actually brings out the best in fighting spirit. But tonight was a new level of challenge to the club's junior selectors as it seemed **everyone** was bloomin' not available. From work commitments, through Ramadhan and Eid, and guys just being "somewhere else", it was the *Poloc Nine* that took to the paddock to take on Prestwick at Shawholm. And the nine did fine in the first half,.....of the first half. Haider and Ashar were bowling really well, their combined ten overs costing'em just 36 as over ten closed. Ideal! Patterson had just been joined by Scott with Rodger having been bowled by Haider, and everything looked hunky-dory. Eh, not so fast! The next eight overs, bowled by Messrs. Raine, Armour and Millen [Ed: did he *actually* get a licence after his SNCL bowling escapade?], went for a combined 76! Throw in a sprinkling of extras and, *hey-presto*, it was 113 for 5 on the 'board! Where did *that* come from? Cammy's figures of 2-0-27-0, in particular, were gruesome and seemed to carry on from his strife at Whitehaugh a week previously. So 114 to win.

114 to win in eighteen overs needed a decent start. No panic, but beware the dots! 3 for 1 after two. Ouch! *Rosco* gone for 1 having faced nine balls. Beware the dots! *Pasty* and *Stiffy* were now together and started to swing the pendulum back towards *the 'Locsters*. By over ten the score was 65 for 1 and the two were doing their best to mix singles with boundaries as well as steering well clear of those nasty dots. By over twelve it 82 for 1 and 32 were needed from six overs - less than a run-a-ball. Perfect. Then all change: over thirteen, although yielding 7 runs courtesy of a Scotty Millen 6 after he'd come in for *Pasty*, also saw two wickets. The first had been Craig, out for 53 from just 41 deliveries, the second Scotty himself who'd hit 6 from three. So over fourteen starting: five overs to come - 30 balls - and 25 needed to win. *Toffee!* Nick was in as the new batter, with Elliott still there and scoring well. Beware the dots!

Over fourteen: four dots! Over fifteen: five dots!! Over sixteen: three dots! Eighteen balls, twelve dots. Beware the dots!! What's that old adage: "Get on with it, or get out". But it seemed we couldn't. Nick took ten balls to get off the mark, and WD40 was nearly needed for the scoreboard. Suddenly it was tight, very tight. Two overs to go and still 21 to find. Over nineteen: three more dots!!! Beware the dots! 17 needed off the last over. And despite - finally - avoiding those nasty small black round scorebook entries, the over would only yield 9 to leave Prestwick the winners by 3 runs. Elliott was 37 not out (from 34 deliveries, and impressively only ten dots), Nick not out 6 (from sixteen balls, but including a horrible eleven dots). In fact the only thing that *was* out was the team, out cold!

How on earth did that one get away? We lose by 3, and we're only three wickets down - criminal. But let's not forget the first half's second half - certainly didn't help matters. Nor, for that matter, does only get nine willing bodies when, apparently, we've dozens to pick from. Much to ponder, as ever, on juniors night.

How did we lose this one? [posted 29/08/11]

After thumping Glasgow Accies' Under 13s first time round earlier in the season, maybe there was a complacency about the road-trip to New Anniesland tonight. Sure, injury has put paid

to Lewis James's season, and Kess Sajjad was one of the many unavailable on the night, but this will still go down as a shocker to have not won. Accies batted first, and from the off the 13s' bowlers weren't "on the money". 12 runs were collected without loss in the first three overs as Gilkison and Aston saw the home side off to a decent start. Eventually *the 'Locster* bowlers found some improved line and length, and eventually wickets started to come. 14 for 1. Then 30 for 2 became - it seemed almost immediately - 46 for 6 as the guys really got on top. But at this stage - and maybe it *was* complacency - the side let their grip on the game go. And we know how dangerous the game can be if you disrespect her! Everyone was getting a bowl, sometimes more than one over. The fielding became sloppy and runs were leaked. But it was fine, after all Accies' top order was gone and we were on top,.....weren't we?!? Eh, no. Suddenly it seemed the home side's total started with an eight and not a four. Hood, with 22, had held together the middle order and tail, and combined with *the 'Locsters'* bowling complacency, had managed to set 81 as the target.

And with Lewis on the sidelines, Kess elsewhere, and a gathering gloom, who thought this was chase'able? Not your scribe, that's for sure! And so it turned out. And in the process also turned from being dank end-of-season drudgery into a nail-biter of,.....well of Under 13s' proportions. The run-chase started really well: *CJ* and Akhil were pottering along at the required 4 runs-an-over. It was over twelve and 48 was already on the 'board. But then for some reason, Akhil had a big ol' swing at that most dangerous of deliveries: the *straight* ball. Bowled. Out for 16. Calum continued with Aliyan for company, but the latter found getting off strike stricky. *CJ* on the other hand was still rotating strike pretty well, and when he smacked Kakar over cow for a *maximum*, he'd reached 32 and retired. Karim now batting with Aliyan. It was now the rate started to rise as the two seemed to forget about rotating the strike, and how this is much easier if you actually hit the ball,.....then run! Four overs brought just 10 runs and it was advantage Accies. Eventually the guys got what was needed, but the now urgent urgency (!) saw Karim cleaned up swiping, and Aliyan run out attempting a single to short third man - tricky at the best of times, well-nigh impossible for *the 'Locs'* resident *Bambi* impersonator! Now it was Ayub and Adil. The former struggled to get bat on ball as others had done before him - made all the trickier when it was near pitch black, and your first movement's towards the square leg ump'! But connect he eventually did and a couple of singles were hit. The last over started and 5 were needed. Two dots made it odds-on Accies. Then a single, a 2 and a leg-bye made it 2 to win off the last ball. Ayub back on strike. Somehow in the darkness he connected with Aston's delivery and the ball raced towards the long leg boundary. Ayub and Adil set off. And as Ayub ran back to complete the second he was beaten to the stumps by the ball. Run out, but the single to tie the game secured.

Great finish. And just about seen from the boundary. But lessons to be learned: never assume a team can't win, don't get complacent, gifting extras and mis-fields *always* come back to bite you, and rotating the strike by simple "bat-on-ball" should never be underestimated! Time will tell whether anyone was paying attention.....

Win in a micro-climate [posted 26/08/11]

After afternoon driving rain had put paid to any hope [Ed: or indeed desire!] for junior cric' in the Big City, it was something of a shock to be told that Prestwick was perfectly playable. And this surprise was added to by tales of treacherous driving conditions on the roads to the *Ayrshire Riviera*. But travel in good faith was embarked upon, and - guess what - it *was* perfectly playable! As *Haggs* has always said: "It drains well at Prestwick". And it does. The outfield was damp, but the square was in good nick. After agreeing to hurry through a full twenty overs-a-side match, Kess decided to have a bat first after winning the toss.

CJ opened with Lewis and they gave the side a romping good start. Well, after a second-over run out shambles that is! I'm not sure there's such a thing a genuinely quick single in Under 11 league cricket, but the one that resulted in Lewis being run out would certainly be in no danger of being so categorised. Lob in the perennial forgetting to run a bat in and nine balls into their innings the guys found themselves in negative scoreboard territory. But this just

seemed to spur the pair on. Calum in particular became an offside bunter *extraordinaire*. Over three from Cole was caned for 13 as *CJ* smacked three 4s through the covers. And more followed. By the time the fifth over was done he'd hit six boundaries on his way to an unbeaten 29. And the pair had posted a net 30. The second pairing were *the Batter formerly known as McBride* and *the Batter still known as McWilliam*. Net 5 were added by this pair as - unluckily - fielders were hit with unerring accuracy to reduce the runs off the bat, whilst - unforgiveably 🤔 - *Master McWilliam* was cleaned up twice. The first time he was looking to hit one of those straight balls through square leg, whilst - to be fair - the second delivery *scooted* a bit.

After the two Mc's it was Abrar and Ahmed-Raza in a right/left combo'. These two added 34 in their five overs, with Ahmed-Raza getting to 9 not out amidst some wayward bowling that accrued a bountiful harvest of wides for the guys. Always gratefully received! And, crucially, only the one wicket fell to leave the side well placed at net 69 going into the last block of five overs. And this allotment would see Kess and Aliyan in together. As Calum had done before him, Kess found the boundary rope [Ed: imaginary of course!] with regularity, and scored an unbeaten season-high 20 to help push the total past net 100. Aliyan was playing his part too. That is until with two balls to go the diddy had a slash at a straight one and found his stumps rearranged behind him. Diddy. 105 net though was still posted. 106 to win.

In the gathering gloom, what was needed was straight bowling - no freebies in extras. Doh! The guys proceeded to bowl 23 wide deliveries, costing them a whopping 49! They also needed to keep things tight in the field. Doh! Three dropped "dolly" catches and two or three straight-forward run outs missed! Luckily however wickets did fall. And, bizarrely given the simple run outs missed, Calum managed to run out a batter with a direct hit to the bowler's end, throwing the ball with his 'keeping glove on! Only in the Under 11s people, only in the Under 11s! There was also a smart catch - in the dark! - by Joe, and Lewis, like *CJ*, *did* managed a run out. In the end seven home side wickets fell, the last two in the last over,.....on the extra deliveries after Ahmed-Raza had bowled three wides!

So a win, and good fun game. Good to get a game at all in fact! Next week sees two more 11s league matches with rescheduled clashes against EK and Prestwick again. Now, question, did I remember to steal that micro-climate??.....

15Bs lose in the *to the Dark!* [posted 23/08/11]

It was another case of dot balls killing the club in a match tonight as a sluggish first innings saw too low a score posted in the evening's 16-over-a-side Under 15/16 league match with Clydesdale. 85 for 5 was all that was posted on a decent deck. And so it was no surprise when, with plenty overs to go, the *Crossmyloof Crusaders* strolled across the finish line. For *the Dark Side* Calum Stout bunted his way to an unbeaten 47, whilst Haider'll likely look back on his dolly-drop of big Ilan Selby before he'd got off the mark. Match [scorecards](#) and updated [stat's](#) online now.

Wins over Hillhead and Kelburne in Monday-night junior matches [posted 22/08/11]

After three defeats for the club over the weekend in senior league games, the juniors cheered everyone up tonight with wins over Hillhead (Under 13) and Kelburne (Under 18). Akhil Ahmed led from the front in the 13s' win, retiring after getting to 30 with the bat before getting rid of Hillhead's opening bat to set up a successful defence of his side's first innings score. At Whitehaugh, meanwhile, the 18s lurched over the finishing line in a low-scoring game against Kelburne. Ashar Mirza returned bowling figures of 5-3-3-1 to help restrict Kelburne to 68 in their eighteen overs. But then in the run-chase it looked like the batters had never played the game before. Wickets fell faster than the gathering gloom, and the boys only sneaked home by two wickets in the final analysis. Top scorer was extras: says everything! Match [scorecards](#) and updated [stat's](#) online now.

15Bs match off [posted 15/08/11]

Irvine have contacted the club to say they'll not be able to fulfill this Thursday's scheduled Under 15B league match. On the plus side we've scheduled Under 13B and Under 15B matches with Clydesdale for the week commencing the 22nd, and Ayr have indicated they'd like a game at Under 13B too.

Double defeat for Monday juniors [posted 15/08/11]

It's not often there are two juniors matches played on the same night and both *Locster* XIs can't muster 100 runs with the bat,.....between them! Yikes. Tonight was, however, such a night. The 13s were hosting Ayr's strong 13s at Shawholm and mustered just 48 for 5 in their twenty overs, the visitors' bowling attack proving north of difficult to get away. Then in their reply the New Cambusdoon youngsters made short work of reaching their target, getting there for only one down. Meanwhile over at *Toytown* the 18s restricted *the Dale* batters to just 100-ish before then slumping to under half that as a Page-inspired 🤔 home bowling attack skittled the top order and the rest fell like nine-pins. A dark, damp and defeated Monday then. Match [scorecards](#) and updated [stat's](#) online.

As ever dear reader scribbling reports on games your reporter wasn't, in fact, at is tricky. But here goes. At Shawholm as noted it was a dominant Ayr side that romped to victory. The 13s were missing Lewis James through injury, and Kess Sajjad wasn't available either. Batting first and Akhil and *CJ* being dismissed early then added to the side's disadvantage and left the rest to try and post a decent total. With all Ayr's bowlers bowling well, and on a slow and low deck, the 13s' middle order just couldn't score quickly enough and, though wickets weren't given up cheaply, an eventual total of 48 for 5 in the full twenty-over allotment never looked likely to be enough. And so it proved as the bigger and stronger - and let's be fair, technically superior - Ayr Under 13 batters romped to victory. Only the one visitors' wicket fell as the youngsters from Alloway past their target in just eleven overs, courtesy of Karim's catch off Akhil's bowling.

Lessons to be learned then. The 13s' performance was just "flat" with little energy shown in the field. And though defending 48 is never easy, the lack of *oomph* in the field was still disappointing. Also disappointing was the bowling which wasn't up to the standards of both earlier matches, nor indeed the standards expected. Lots of room for improvement, but congratulations to Ayr who look the dominant side at this age-group. And finally, for the Under 11s playing tonight - don't be overawed just because the other side's got "big guys" playing for them - technical skill will beat physical size every time!

Over at *Toytown*, meanwhile, the 18s were suffering a second-half slump of,.....well.....second half slump proportions. After restricting *the Dark Side* to just 104 in their twenty overs, the batters must've been confident of knocking off the runs in reasonable time. However the guys hadn't factored in a Page "6-for" [Ed: that's five for Sam, and one for Gary! 🤔], the result of which was the 18s being dismissed for a mere 51. How very disappointing methinks. But it just shows you: two poor batting displays this season and, in all probability, two titles lost. A collapse against *West* and it was *adios* to the Under 18 National Club Championship, and now another against *the Dale* and it's *hasta la vista* to the league. Just shows you that no matter how good a line-up looks on paper, and no matter previous performances, unless everyone digs in and shows the requisite bottle and skills, defeat follows. A game of two halves then and we only played for one of them! Just leaves the Frank Smith Trophy then we guess, and we know how good our record in *that* is!!

West well beaten [posted 08/08/11]

A week or so back, the 18s somehow contrived to get themselves dumped out of the national knockout cup by the city's second-best club. *West*'s top order batted really well that day, and combined with poor bowling by the 18s and the inability to chase a modest-enough total to win, the result was it was the northsiders who progressed to meet Carlton in the next round. [Ed: good luck to *West* this Sunday in Edinburgh.] So tonight was not just a chance to continue *that* unbeaten league run, it was a chance to erase the bad memories of *that*

game. And as last time, West batted first. This time though Chris Ross and West skipper Miro Ralston opened. Ata, who opened last time, dropped down the order.

The 'Locsters got the perfect start though, Ross nicking off to Hari', the catch being safely pouched by Saif. This brought Ata in in over two. He'd have been as well opening! 😊 Ross had scored a half century in the cup match and so getting him early was a bonus [Ed: it also meant his atrocious jibber wouldn't have to be listened to for another twenty overs. 😊] Ata didn't last too long either though as he became Haider's first under 18 scalp. Opening the bowling, if Haider continues to bowl as he did tonight Ata's wicket's going to be the first of *very* many. He bowled a five-over spell of really impressive off-spin bowling, returning figures of 5-0-13-1. Really well bowled. Great promise. Hari' added to his dismissal of Ross too, he'd clean up Iain Wheel batting at six, and the dangerous Gurjit Singh who top-scored with 27. Singh survived a tight run out chance just after arriving in the middle, but went on to score his 27 at nearly a run-a-ball. His dismissal came off the last ball of the innings, being caught by *Pasty* at long-off, the skipper's second catch of the night - his first was a good head-high grab at short-extra cover to get rid of Sandy McCallum. Saif also had a couple of catches, taking a smart catch standing up to give Haider his wicket. All-in-all it was a decent bowling and fielding display. Ollie bowled tidily, his only bad ball being despatched for a maximum by Singh, and Ashar's five overs cost just 18 runs. Only Cammy might be sitting at home wondering if he could've bowled a bit better - his wicket came courtesy of a horrible half-tracker being drained straight to Dani' on the mid-wicket boundary.

The net result was West posting 79 for 6. Scotty and *Pasty* opened for *the 'Locsters* as they looked to get 80 to win. Things started well too, the run-rate of 4-an-over being immediately achieved. The boundary rope was reached or carried on regular occasions as both openers scored 4s and 6s. Looking to stem the runs, West skipper Ralston rotated his bowlers. After opener Singh had taken a bit of stick he threw the ball to Lynne Dickson. You could see Scotty's body language change! Ball one: bolt straight. Scotty though had notions of hitting Ms. Dickson into the Police dog exercise area. Swing, miss, leather on stump. Out! 😊

Dani' joined *Pasty* after Scotty (18) departed, and he never looked in any particular bother in partnering Craig to the win. He finished unbeaten on 23, joining *Pasty* and Scott in the 6-hitting club in the process. The winning post was past in the twelfth over, 80 for 1. *Pasty* finished 32 not out, Dani' 23 not out as noted.

So a good win. An impressive bowling display with special credit to Haider. Next week it's off to *Toytown* to take on *the Dark Side* who're also unbeaten.

Nine-man under 15s in great run-chase! [posted 05/08/11]

The list of the unavailable was longer than ever for the 15s tonight with holidays, injuries and *Ramadhan* all taking their toll. That said, it could've only eight that travelled to Paisley to play Ferguslie had it not been for Haider's *better-than-the-coach* negotiating skills that saw him convince Hasan to play. And play Master Ahmad did, crucially bowling his five overs for just 18 runs, and then scoring a not out 14 to see his side home chasing 137 to win. Well done! 137 was the target after Ferguslie's 15s had posted 136 for 2 with Alitair Preston-Jones batting through and top-scoring with 59. He was given decent support from Dean Kennedy until he tamely chipped a Husnain delivery straight back to the bowler to depart caught and bowled for 36. Neil Sarode also scored a cameo 23 coming in at four. The other wicket to fall, aside Kennedy's, was Humza Tahir's who went for 6 early on with the score on just 9. Preston-Jones and Kennedy then put on 92 for the second wicket.

And, spookily, 92 was the 15s' *first* wicket partnership, Saif and *Rosco* batting really positively in getting their side off to the best possible start in the run-chase. *Rosco* in particular was in good nick and struck the ball cleanly. All the Ferguslie bowlers took stick, expect for Tahir whose slow left-arm spin was treated with respect. Around him though it was carnage: Kennedy went at 6.3-an-over, Preston-Jones's and Sarode's overs were going

at 10+, whilst Ahmed was going at 14-an-over! Ouch!! Compare with Tahir whose five overs were patted back in the main and yielded just 9 runs.

Saif was the first to go though with the score on 92, chipping a catch back to Tahir. Tahir then held on to a decent diving catch at mid-off to get rid of *Rosco* who'd moved past 50, albeit after having been given a life when he was dropped in the outfield. This left Akhil and Hasan together and these batted really positively too, taking their side to the win with twelve balls left. A win by eight wickets. After Ross's 55, the next best contribution was actually extras, Ferguslie bowling 21 in wides and no balls as part of this bumper haul.

So another, over a good side, and in difficult circumstances with only nine players on the park and some of the "stars" missing. Shows the strength in depth, and what application brings. Really well done to the *'Loc Nine!* Next week the guys travel to Prestwick.

11s do the double over the 'Dale [posted 05/08/11]

Played'em twice, beaten'em twice! "*Celebrate good times, com' on!*" And to the Under 11s reading this: go ask someone over 35 what that means! The bottom line though is that we're very, very happy to announce another win over *the 'Dale*. This time it even happened with the *Chief Darth* himself present. The venue was Shawholm, the winning team the 11s. Well done, the win continuing the side's really strong league showing, and carrying on the momentum of last week's win over Ayr. Tonight's match also saw Amaan Ali's Under 11 league debut, a hat-trick *and* a "7-for"! The latter two were both from Aliyan. Master Qureshi's second over started worryingly for *the 'Locsters* as its first two deliveries cost 4 each. Then a wicket. Make that two-in-two. Call in a hat-trick! Bingo!! And suddenly it was Clydesdale that worried. And seven wickets falling in the first seven overs was the kind of start most sides will struggle to recover from. And so it turned out. When the 11s came to bat they lost only seven wickets in their entire twenty-over allocation, this comparing to *the 'Dale's* loss of no fewer than seventeen wickets!

In the first innings, Clydesdale batted. And aside from Aliyan's "7-for", there "3-fors" for both Ahmed-Raza and Lewis. The *Dark Side* posted a net 220 (305 for 17), a total that owed much to Walker's net 12, and 25 in extras. Then in the run-chase, *the 'Locsters* only lost those seven wickets, with *CJ* top-scoring with an unbeaten 17. Clydesdale also gifted 45 in extras. The end scoreboard total was net 269 to secure the 11s a win by 49 runs. Next week the guys are again at home, entertaining Prestwick.

11s gain revenge [posted 29/07/11]

After a week that had seen two *'Locster* sides lose it's good to report on a winning finish with the 11s thumping Ayr down at New Cambusdoon. Ayr had been the only side to beat the 11s when they snuck home thanks to their star batter batting twice earlier in the season, and so revenge was the order of the day as the team arrived in Alloway. Another beautiful night was the backdrop, New Cambusdoon looking a picture and healthy crowd there to see this top-of-the-table clash. *The 'Locsters*, too, had a good travelling support with parents and coaches there to cheer them on.

After the toss the 11s were batting. Openers *CJ* and Lewis did exactly what was required by giving the side a great platform to build on. Calum struck an impressive 17 not out, as the pair put on a net 28, losing only one wicket in their five-over allocation. Coming in as the second pair, Ahmed-Raza and Joe added 25 to take the net total on to 53 by the end of over ten. Neither had been dismissed and so, still, a great base had been set that could result in a big total being posted. What was needed now was for the second two pairs to follow suit. And they did. Rorie and Abrar were dismissed just the once, as were Aliyan and Kess. Kess finished with a top-scoring 18 not out, meaning he's still to be dismissed this season in the Under 11s. We like guys who put "a price" on their wicket! Well batted guys. 110, net, was the final score - 125 for 3 in *old money*. 111 net to win for Ayr.

With ten players, Ayr's batters would bat in four-over blocks, and Simpson and Baines were the first pair. But disaster struck for the Ayr boys almost immediately. Five balls in to their run-chase and the scoreboard showed 0 for 2! Kess had cleaned up Simpson second ball, before he was then run out by partner Baines. Yikes. And from this point on things didn't get much better for the home side. Wickets just kept on falling. Only Baines and Lomas [Ed: incidentally the son of former European Tour golfer [Jonathan Lomas!](#)] would keep their wicket intact, Lomas top-scoring with 11. But others fared much worse - spare a thought for Hutton who was dismissed four times in only nine balls faced. Ouch! Credit the bowlers though, and the fielding. No fewer than five *'Locster* bowlers took wickets, Ahmed-Raza and Kess taking "4-fors". And in the field, though a couple catches were grassed, there were good grabs held by Kess, Ahmed-Raza, Lewis and Abrar (two). Calum executed a smart stumping, and there were run outs from Aliyan (yet another direct hit!) and Lewis. Throw in some good ground fielding and it was a good all-round performance.

When the twentieth over of the second innings was complete, the scoreboard showed no fewer than fourteen home side wickets had been taken and the margin of victory was a whopping 91 runs! A big win! And a win that keeps the 11s right "in the mix" at the top of the table - next up is Prestwick on Tuesday.

***West* win and go through in the 18s cup** [posted 27/07/11]

The 18s lost tonight in the Under 18 Scottish Cup, falling at the second hurdle to West of Scotland. On another cracking night for cricket - with the sun shining, a magnificent arena prepared, fast outfield and hard deck - the club was again left bemused by the collective non-availability of so many players. Dani's excused in this as he's off representing "club and country" with Scotland Under 17s, but where's everyone else? We wait months for good weather, we get to the "business end" of the season and suddenly no-one's available. Deepest of deep sighs. Going into this game there were three frontline seamers unavailable, three of the usual top five batters, and a plethora of others - both genuine 18s and next-in-line Under 15s. And - you read it here first dear reader - if the unavailability doesn't get any better, we'll lose again,.....and again. Playing when *you* want to, or when it suits *you*, isn't what it's about. Rant over. To the game.

Winning the toss, *Pasty* inserted *West*. Chris Ross and Asad Ata opened for the visitors, but Ata wouldn't last as Hari' cleaned him up with just 16 on the 'board. This brought Miro Ralston to the crease, and he and Ross would put together what - likely in retrospect - would be the match-winning partnership. The two added 95, before Miro was caught by Lewis James to depart for 37. If we were being a little cheeky we'd suggest Ralston's score was actually 37 for 3, as he'd been dropped on 6, 26 and 27 before eventually seeing a catch held at backward point. "Catches win....." as they say.

Ralston's departure brought Gurjit Singh to the middle and - surprise, surprise - he swung from the hip in bunting a quick-fire 17. With the first innings coming to an end, and in an attempt to get on strike, Singh was run out by Joshy in the last over. Bizarrely this was a last over that featured not one, not two, but *three* run outs - in addition to Singh being sent back by Ross, Andrew Galloway and Lynn Dickson suffered a similar fate. A good finish for *the 'Locsters* after a generally mediocre rest of innings. On the bowling front, Hari's figures of 4-0-12-1 stand out a mile, and Cammy's 4-0-19-0 were also commendable given he came into the attack after Ralston and Ross were "in". The other bowlers went at rates best not mentioned before the watershed. 135 to win.

With Nicky, Dani' and Scotty not around, *Pasty* was looking for a new opening partner to start the run-chase. The short-straw if that's what it is was drawn - okay, handed! - to Elliott. What was needed was a positive start, and 18 from the first two overs was ideal therefore. But then trouble. *Pasty* picked the wrong night to record his first failure with the bat in this 18s season as an Ata delivery nipped back and clattered into his off stick, sending him packing to the pavilion having scored 9 from eleven balls. Elliott then followed - 7 from eighteen balls - another Ata victim, missing a straight ball. This brought Hari' and *Rosco*

together and their partnership started to look like it might just be one that could win this game. The two added 67 from just 57 deliveries, the fifteenth over starting with the side needed 44 from 36 balls. But then *Rosco* was dismissed. Frustrated by Lynn Dickson's dibly-dobbly little seamers, he poked at the fifth ball of the fifteenth over only to give Dickson the easiest of "caught and bowled" chances. She took it. *Rosco's* departure brought Joshy to the middle. And the game was still winnable if we could get bat on ball often enough. Joshy needing a runner made thing "interesting" too as the overs started to run out. Out for some time due to injury, and batting for the first time in over a month, Josh struggled to time the ball and would eventually depart run out (8 from fifteen balls). Saif replaced his big brother and managed 8 from four balls, and Cammy came in for two deliveries after Hari' was bowled in the last over when boundaries were needed. Hari's 39 came at very nearly a run-a-ball, as did Ross's 28. But, bottom line, there were likely too many dot balls when it really mattered. But, as was noted post-match, it's incredibly difficult for new batters coming to the crease to score "right from the get-go". The guys finished on 126.

So the 18s' interest in this season's national Under 18 cup competition ends. And, as ever, each player should ponder what *they* might've done better in future to make sure we win more of these close games than we lose. The simple fact is that it's the basics when done well that will win these games, or done poorly that loses them, rather than some extraordinary individual performance. Batting basics (bat-on-ball, quick singles and keeping the scoreboard moving), bowling basics (bowling straight and having the right field), and fielding basics (holding catches, anticipation and good athleticism to stop fast moving balls!) And this brings us back to the start - it'll only be when we *all* contribute that our chances of success increase. Note to selves: clear our diaries, weekday evenings and weekends 'til mid-September.....

Well done to West though, good luck in the next round, and particular commendation to Ross and Ralston with the bat, and Singh and Ata with the ball.

Drumpellier wide of the mark as 15s win [posted 26/07/11]

Batting first in this re-arranged under 15 league match, *Drumps* posted 119 for 5 batting first. This was due, in the main, to 52 from Qasim, and 43 from Sabri. And two more different knocks you'll never likely to see. Sabri's included a bundle of proper cricket shots, Qasim's by contrast was the proverbial "stand-and-deliver" buntathon. Qasim's knock included a bundle of maximums - being particularly harsh on Elliott's full-tosses and blasting *EJ* out of the attack - whereas Sabri's innings was a far batter compiled knock altogether. The two added 86 for the fourth wicket after their side had slumped to 18 for 3 with Hamilton, Pyne and Muir all dismissed cheaply. Haider had taken the early wickets, and he and opening partner Hasan, had bowled really well. Their combined ten overs cost just 37 runs, the first three wickets being taken along the way. After Qasim's arrival however, the bowling figures went bad. Elliott's two overs cost 25, Saif's five went for 38. Qasim eventually departed after his latest heave at a delivery failed to make contact and his stumps were re-arranged by *Saify*, Sabri going in a similar fashion [Ed: the bowled bit, as opposed to the "heave" reference!]. 119 for 5 then.

The required run-rate was easy for even the 15s to understand - 120 to win, a run-a-ball. Easy. And thanks to opening bowlers Muir and Qasim, *the 'Locsters* got off to a flyer. Both were all over the place as regards line. Their combined opening six-over burst included no fewer than 23 in wides, and the 15s were going at nearly ten-an-over. And spare a thought for Drumpellier 'keeper Nathan Allison who was diving all over the place behind the sticks to no avail as delivery after delivery sped past him. But instead of trying to change something Muir and Qasim just kept trying to bowl faster and fasrt. Eventually order was restored somewhat as the change bowlers came on. Sabri, again, showed Master Qasim how to play, his five-over spell costing just 18 runs. Jordan Pryde, too, bowled tidily. But by then the damage had really been done and the 15s were only needing under four-an-over to win the game. Elliott holed out along the way to achieving the win, and Saif departed, adjudged

LBW. This left Hasan and *Rosco* to see their side home, both ending not out and the win secured in the eighteenth over. 123 for 2.

13s' frailties cruelly exposed again [posted 25/07/11]

It was *deja vu* all over again as someone much funnier than your reporter once said! When *DJ* was boasting about the club's junior sides' long unbeaten run a week or so ago, he was made to eat pie labelled humble when the 13s went to Meikleriggs only to return with their tails between their legs having been well-and-truly-beaten. Tonight's match? Ferguslie at home, the return fixture. Hopes were high that a better batting performance could be put in, and the bowling might be more penetrating and get through the *Feegie* top order this time. But,.....no. On both counts.

Batting first this time, *the 'Locster* batters just couldn't avoid missing straight balls. Of the seven wickets to fall on the way to 78 for 7, all bar one were either bowled or LBW dismissals. Hmmm. Lewis James was the exception to the rule, chipping one to Darren Spence. He was at least, however, one of only three batters to get into double figures, his 11 being one less than *CJ* who pinch-hit a quick-fire 12 at the top of the order. Other opener Akhil was the other batter that got past 10, top-scoring with 23 before being bowled. Bar these three it was a sorry tail of winging and missing, and block, block, blocking away. Only really Rorie McWilliam batting at eight showed any real intent, scurrying between the wickets late on to add a few vital runs at the death. 78 then, 79 the target for the visitors.

At Meikleriggs, the *Feegie* top four of Ahmed, Spence, Khan and [Haroon] Tahir had done the damage, as *the 'Locsters* struggled in vain to dismiss them. Tonight?> You guessed it: Master Tahir retired after getting to 30, Ahmed scored 29, and Spence bunted a quick-fire 10 up-top. Same old, same old. The visitors needed just 16.1 overs to reach their target, and *the 'Locsters* managed to take only the two wickets. Well batted to the visitors.

Another defeat therefore, with - again - the over-reliance on the top order showing up the others' batting frailties when the top three or four don't fire. Back to practice,.....which is tomorrow! See you there guys.

EK swept aside on a carpet [posted 25/07/11]

Playing on a beautiful night, on a well-presented square, *the 'Locster* 18s found themselves only able to *look* at what seemed a decent deck.....alongside the astro-wicket they were told they were playing on tonight in their latest league match. Torrance House was the location, East Kilbride the opponents. [Ed: and here was silly old me thinking that clubs intending playing matches on carpets were obliged to tell their opponents?!?]

After the toss, *the 'Locsters* decided to insert their hosts. And with the skipper having only four available bowlers - by which we mean only four guys *didn't* have spikes! - it was hoped all would deliver. And deliver they did. Bar an unhelpfully large number of wides, wickets fell from the get-go. Openers Meikle and Manchip were both dismissed without scoring, Hari' doing the damage. Then, after batters three and four were both run out, Ollie decided it was time for a hat-trick to pretty much deal with the lower order single-handed. *Those* wides - all fifteen - added valuable runs, but were only sufficient to get the home side to 50. Kampmann top-scored with 19 and was the only East Kilbride batter into double-figures. 51 to win.

With the 18s missing a few regulars, [Ed: seven off the top of my head] the first innings had already shown something of the strength in depth the club enjoys, and it could be required to be evidenced again should the run-chase getting *sticky*. As it was the only sticky moment was *Pasty's* opening shot that went aerial and was dropped by mid-on over their head. After this he and opening partner *Rosco* simply sprinted to the finishing line. The latter finished 10 not out, *Pasty* 39 not out from just 22 deliveries. All done-and-dusted inside six overs.

Next up is Kelburne at home.

11s sneak home [posted 22/07/11]

The Under 15s had a bye week today, and so the 11s were the centre of club attention. Weirs were the visitors to Shawholm and there was hope that the 11s could "do the double" over their southside rivals. *The 'Locsters* had nine players, oddly one more than the usual eight-a-side, but one less than the sometimes-fielded-ten! So the first point of admin' was picking who'd bat twice. And being cognisant of *Ayr-gate* the choice of double-batter was given to Weirs' coach Neil Greenwood. Watch and learn Cambusdoon'ers, watch and learn. The lucky *'Locster* was Joe McBride, and so he'd bat twice. But there was still the first innings to get through first given the boys were bowling first.

Weirs eventually posted a net 40 as seven wickets were taken. Five saw stumps disturbed, two were courtesy of genuinely good grabs. And both of these were executed more than proficiently by Rorie McWilliam. The first was the more regulation catch, holding on to a grab at square leg. The second though was a genuinely good "c&b" - Rorie now knows that when the club's junior coaches tell the 11s at practice that if you catch a cricket ball correctly it doesn't hurt your hands they might've been telling *porky pies!* Well held Master McWilliam. Rorie'd end up with two wickets in the innings, a feat equalled by Aliyan - both returned figures of 2 for 10. In *CJ's* continuing holiday absence [Ed: sort that our James Gang!] Lewis Mac' continued behind the sticks and again kept perfectly satisfactorily. And elsewhere the fielding was keen and competent. To the run-chase then.

Needing a net 41 to win meant that - as ever in pairs cricket - not losing wickets was key. And playing straight might help this. And each of the five pairs batted sensibly, with only six wickets falling in the twenty overs. Top scoring pairings were Abrar and Ahmed-Raza, and Kess and Joe, both managing net 14. Kess was the individual top-scorer with an unbeaten 14 that included two boundaries, a third 4 was recorded against Aliyan's name on his way to a net 7. Extras as ever proved a bountiful source of runs, Weirs gifting 23 in wides and 4 as a result of no balls. The end of the match also proved exciting. At the start of the twentieth over the net score was net 49. 9 runs ahead of Weirs' total. The final over started with a couple of dots. No sweat. All calm. Then ball three Kess has a rush of blood to the head - huge swish, top edge, ball goes straight up. The Weirs' 'keeper's under it, regulation catch beckons. Grassed! A life. But wait, Joe's running, and Kess is still standing in his crease at the striker's end having watched - transfixed - as the catch was spilled. Now though, having been given a life, he's in danger of losing it again - the run out's on! Luckily for Kess the 'keeper's throw to the bowler's end goes sidey-ways. Phew. Drama over. Eh, nope. Ball five sees Joe cleaned up and so Kess still has to keep out the last ball to seal the win. And he did. In fact he stroked the final delivery to extra cover and nipped a single! A win by 6 runs. Good finish.

18s sneak through in the FST [posted 18/07/11]

Cricket's a team game. Sometimes we forget this. But sometimes, too, games come along that remind us. Tonight's Frank Smith Trophy win over Drumpellier at home was just such a match. Hari' and *Scotty* were unavailable and so it was less experienced side that was fielded. After the toss it was the Coatbridge youngsters who were batting first. And *the 'Locster* opening bowlers bowled well. *OJ's* four overs cost just 14, Ashar's four, three less, and *The Professor's* one less again. Combined figures of 12-1-35-4. Impressive bowling on, it has to be said, a helpful wicket after all the rain. But unfortunately the other bowlers used weren't as stingy. Saqi's three overs cost 22, Cammy's three went for 17, and Dani's two a hefty 24. Still, restricting *Drumps* to just 103 for 5 was a pretty good effort. And the boys were confident of chasing this down.

And the run-chase started brightly. 24 were put on in the first three overs. And though a wicket had fallen, the 'board showed 57 for 1 after nine overs. More than on track, apparently cruisin' down that street named easy. But when it was 60 for 3 after twelve overs with *Pasty*, Dani' and Nick all back in the changing room, the guys looked like they might've taken a wrong turning. Question was would it be a minor detour that ended up back at the

winning post, or had a wrong turn been taken into a *cul-de-sac*. Hmmm. Elliott and Saif firstly, then Saif and Usman, and finally Usman and *Rosco*, were the guys who'd determine the answer. *EJ* had batted really positively in his knock of 25, but it would be Saify and Usman who faced Sabri's final over, 8 runs being needed to win. Ball one was a bye. 7 needed from five. Then a wicket: Saif out. Now it was 7 from four. A single from the fifth ball by Usman after Ross had got 1 off his first ball and ball four had been a dot left *Rosco* on strike with 4 runs needed to win. With no fielding restrictions, getting a boundary would be tricky, all the *Drumps'* fielders being back. Sabri bowls the ball, Ross swings - **BOOM!** - 6! Forget piercing the ring of fielders on the boundary, just bunt it into the tress! *The 'Locsters* win! What a finish, Ross the hero.

But, of course, there were other heroes. Actually quite a lot. Remember those up-top bowling figures? And what about Nick Black's invaluable 23, and Elliott's key 25? So *Rosco* takes the plaudits, but this was a team win. And good to see. Next up are Ferguslie in the semi's....

Young 13s side takes the win points at Glenpark [posted 17/07/11]

With both clubs fielding youngsters in tonight's Under 13 match at Glenpark, it's all the more pleasing to report on a good game, full of good cricket. And, from a Poloc perspective, to report on a win to boot. Batting first in this Under 13 league, *the 'Locster* opens Akhil and Kess created a base for the batters coming after them. Kess, in particular, batted really well and would go on to retire having reached 32. Akhil looked set to follow him, until he became the first of five - yes, 5! - victims for Greenock's Bopari. Astonishingly Master Bopari's figures, bowling third change, were 4-1-8-5, with almost all the 13s' batters really struggling to play him. All five of his wickets came courtesy of catches, as batter-after-batter failed to time their shots, and - in particular - forgot that the easiest way to avoid being caught out is to hit the ball on the ground! Anyway, well done to Bopari who also took a catch. After Kess's 32 not out, the next best individual score was Akhil's 20. But aside these two, the next highest score was just 5, with 19 being gifted in extras. The total after twenty overs was 88. And eight wicketys had fallen. Would it be enough?

Greenock's reply started with their two most recognised batters: Stefan Armstrong and Harry Briggs. These two, as Kess and Akhil had done, started well. They'd added 27 before Briggs was bowled by Akhil. Armstrong though, batted on and he, like Kess in *the 'Locsters'* innings would play the dominant individual knock for side. He retired after reaching 33 and so the win would have to be secured by the middle order and - perhaps - tail. *The 'Locster* fielders were in good form though, with memorable stops from Abrar, and Aqib, to name just two. And summing up the good fielding display were the four run outs that were executed by the youngsters. Two for Akhil - who also grabbed a catch - and one each for *Roberto* and Abrar. The combination of young and inexperienced batters, with good tight bowling and committed fielding, would see the side home. 74 for 8 was the final Greenock total. A win by 14 runs for *the 'Locsters*.

And tomorrow we do it all again as Greenock make the trip to Shawholm to play the previously postponed first league between the teams.

15s win on chilly night at *the 'Loc* [posted 15/07/11]

With the Under 11s having a night off, the focus of junior cric' was the 15s hosting of Paisley side Kelburne. With rain in the air, and the covers on, the start was delayed until 6.30pm. When it was decided to start, skipper Saif Sajjad won the toss and decided to bat. This seemed an odd decision given the weather forecast, and the fact the Kelburne side only had seven players in it. Fingers-crossed the rain stayed away.

Elliott and Said opened for the side, with three fielders being given to the Kelburne skipper. The two *'Locster* openers started cautiously, playing Millken in particular with care. But as their eyes got it, the run-rate increased. Saify had reached 27 and the total 89 when he was adjudged LBW to Kelburne skipper Bryson. The first wicket. Hasan Ahmad replaced Saif in the middle and he and Elliott continued to score at a good rate. Elliott passed 50 and then

played an injudicious offside slap that saw him hole out to that man Bryson again, at mid-off. Hasan took on the main role after Elliott's departure, scoring at comfortably more than a run-a-ball to push the total on to 142 with Husnain Mansoor for company. Hasan ended up 30 not out, and Husnain 2 not out. A good total, with three really good contributions. The other batter to get in was Akhil, and he was unlucky to hole out for just 4 to a great catch by Saif at extra cover who was on as a sub' fielder at the time.

143 to win. Kelburne opened with Jak O'Connell and Marc Geddes, the former having notched up a half century on his last visit to Shawholm with his club's 18s recently. But it wouldn't be his night tonight as he departed for just 2 when Elliott hung on to a genuinely good low grab at short extra cover. Geddes followed a few runs later as 5 for 1 became 19 for 2, Geddes being run out attempting a second to Elliott on the mid-wicket boundary. This brought Stobo and Milliken together and these two added 49 for the third wicket. Stobo was that third wicket, leaving Milliken to chaperone the rest of the *Kelburne Seven*. This he did, riding his luck at times, but remaining undefeated on 48 when time was called. By this point the total had moved on to just seventeen behind *the 'Locsters'* total. Well batted Grant. Pleasingly too, the 15s had managed to give an over to Ayub and Ahmed-Raza, the latter being robbed of his first Under 15 wicket when Hasan Ahmad dropped a "dolly" at mid-on. Boo.

Still, a win. And good to see some momentum taken from last Friday's match with Ayr.

Lessons not learned [posted 13/07/11]

The 13s escaped - just - nine days ago at *Toytown* against Clydesdale. That night they were chasing less than 50 and so the batting frailties, though cruelly exposed, weren't fatal. Tonight, chasing 98 to win against Ferguslie in the guys' rearranged league match, they were both exposed, again, and did produce a defeat. A 4-run defeat. Sigh. And, worse still, the home side only had eight players, and to their credit poo-poo'd the offer of fielders before proceeding to not need them despite small boundaries and a genuinely quick outfield. And credit, too, to the Ferguslie bowlers - all bowled well, and only nine wides were bowled. And, finally, credit the home side fielders - only one bye and Darren Spence held three catches. All-in-all the 13s were well beaten - don't let the closeness of the final result fool you.

To the start: Ferguslie won the toss and decided to bat. And they batted effectively, if not brilliantly. Their 97 for 4 was built on Taimoor Ahmed's careful 28 (from 55 balls). His knock proved to be one his teammates could bat around. And he got the necessary support from Spence (14), Shoaib Khan (13) and Haroon Tahir (19). And he got support from *the 'Locster'* fielders. Edges weren't taken, ground fielding was poor - two balls through legs cost 6 runs alone - and there were seven byes leaked. Way more than the eventual 4-run margin of defeat presented on a plate to the Ferguslie guys. We gotta do better people. And what had we practised yesterday at Under 13 practice: you guessed it, an hour and a half of fielding! You can't script it!!

In the second half, in summary, the guys came up short, 5 runs short of the win. Lewis can hold his head up though, as he retired after getting to 30. Most of the other batters who got to the middle maybe can't though. Despite the chat at the break centering on keeping the ball on the ground and using the gaps in the fast outfield - remembering Ferguslie only had eight bodies! - a procession of batters chipped the ball to Darren Spence who took three outfield catches. Amazing. And the other four wickets to fall? They'll be all clean bowled then. Carl assured your scribe that Aliyan got a good ball, but the others don't have that excuse. And what was Kess doing sweeping the sixth ball he faced?!?

Never mind, still lots of games to come - lets get down to practice everyone and work on the basics some more: playing straight, bowling straight, fielding properly, catching and diving in the outfield. Not rocket science, so let's work on it.

A final comment: good to see Jonathan Brady making his debut after this season's wet weather had delayed this. He for one, like Lewis with his batting, can hold his head high after a virtually flawless fielding performance. He showed a few of his more experienced teammates exactly how to do it. Well done.

Midges likely the real winners! [posted 11/07/11]

The 18s were at Glenpark tonight, back in league action. Dani' was away with the Jock Under 17s, and Hari' had cried off with a footy injury. In were Ollie back from his hol's, and Saqib. The Glenpark policies were in great nick upon arrival, though the big black clouds that were overhead did look kinda threatening. Fingers were crossed the rain wouldn't come. But they were big, and they *were* black. Anyway, to the game. Winning the toss, *Pasty* decided to have a bat on what look a decent track. And it turned out to be pretty good too, if a little dry. And the policies themselves turned out to play as well as they looked, with a lightning fast outfield.

Opening for the 18s were *Pasty* and *Rosco*. The latter had found form in the last week and his elevation to opening saw Nick slide down to four, with the other in-form batter Scotty Millen at three. The plan was to use the wide open spaces and quick outfield, and build a platform for the later order. So when the dinky wee scoreboard showed 10 for 2 with *Rosco* and Scotty both "back in the hutch" with 4 each things, you might say dear reader, had *not* gone to plan. The former had nicked off to Armstrong, the latter was caught by the same player off Briggs' bowling. *Pasty* and *NTB* then rebuilt and put on exactly 100 for the third wicket, this before the skipper holed out to a good catch at long off by Wylie for 69 from just 34 deliveries. 110 for 3. Nick then succumbed, and Saif came and went, and it was 115 for 5. Elliott and Cammy continued unfazed though, and *Stiffy's* unbeaten 30 would be the main reason the total was pushed up to 172. There were also cameos from Ollie (11) and Cammy (13*). 172 for 6.

A big score. And that black cloud was still hovering. As were the midges. And how! They were everywhere - it's not often you see umpires with their caps pulled down and their jumpers pulled up trying to fend off midge attacks!! Rain, hail and snow even, in Scotland, sure - but midges?!? Poor *Carly*. The Greenock reply started with Flack and Briggs, Ashar and Usman bowling. Wickets fell steadily, interspersed with a few good shots. Young Briggs looked unpreturbed by the relatively quick bowling on show, whilst Flack showed his promise with some nice strokeplay. But wickets did fall. 17 for 1 was the breakthrough, 28 for then preceded 30 for 3, 40 for 4, etc. In the end it was 60 all out, a brace of wickets for Saqib and *Pasty*, and even one for JSD Millen Esq. Were even the midges heard to giggle?

So a win, another big one, and it never did rain. Though in hindsight maybe that big black cloud wasn't rain at all, maybe it was simply a second wave of the *Midgewaffe* coming in over the Clyde!

T20 Friday fun sees Ayr defeated in under 15 thriller [posted 08/07/11]

Ayr and the 15s both had bye weeks tonight in the WDJCU league. What to do? Answer: play each other! And thanks to Dougie Johnstone for bringing his talented youngsters up to Shawholm. In their league encounter earlier in the season *the 'Locsters* had fallen a few runs short in a run-chase and so revenge was in their minds. And to make things more interesting - and a little different - the decision was taken to play full T20 rules. Inner fielding circle, four-over bowling restrictions, tight wides, power plays and free hits! Love it!!

To the game. The Ayr skipper Luke Johnstone won the toss and elected to bat. Opening was Robbie Henderson and Muhammed Azeem. Well, actually, not the latter as the Azeem calvalcade didn't arrive until well into the game. So, instead, it was skipper Johnstone who partnered Henderson. Both would be hoping to give their side a solid start, and not make a mess of things out in the middle. And what a start. The 50 partnership was passed, and the two powered on, Johnstone playing the cautious, anchor, role, Henderson bunting away to his heart's content. *The 'Locsters* weren't too sure where to bowl to Henderson, Saify in

particular taking a bit of stick as his opening over went for 20. Only really Haider, who returned figures of 4-0-13-0, managed to contain the Ayr opener. Then with the score on 82, and Henderson having passed 50, Johnstone played around a delivery from Elliott and was bowled for a patient 17. Sean McCrone then came out to the middle and he quickly got into his stride, running well between the wickets and helping a tiring Henderson keep going. 40 were added between the pair before Haider held on to a mis-hit legside shot from Henderson to dismiss him for a very creditable 77. And thank goodness Haider held on, as earlier drops by Ayub, Elliott, Umair and *Rosco*, and a missed stumping by *Rosco*, had given Henderson multiple lives on the way to his big score. McCrone was then joined by the late arrived Azeem, and the two added 9 runs before "time" was called. 131 for 2. A pretty decent total.

To chase this down the 15s needed to get off to good start. And so when Elliott was cleaned up by Azeem with the score on just 9 things didn't look too good. The Ayr opening bowlers were bowling well, Azeem in particular bowling with decent pace and creditably full. In fact his bowling was a bit like his batting: dot, dot, dot, dot,..... 😊 Difficult to get away. With *Stiffy's* departure, *Rosco* came out to play. *Armour the Youngest* has been on a poor trot with the bat and was in need of a bit of luck, and a decent knock. As you'll find out dear reader, tonight's 15s friendly might just have been what he needed. After starting a little nervously, and riding his luck at times, *Rosco* grew into his innings and the confidence visibly returned. Feet started to move, and with real positive intent he played the dominant part in what would be a winning partnership. With Saif playing his part - he smacked 24 off one Luke Johnstone over - *Rosco* spearheaded the run-chase and ended up 71 not out when the winning post was past on the last ball of the nineteenth over. Saif had batted through for 47. Well batted guys.

So what had looked like being a damp squib of Friday without any junior cricket in fact turned out to be a genuinely competitive evening's cricket with three really positive innings. Thanks again to Dougie and the Ayr guys for coming up - much appreciated.

Bizarre game sees *the 'Locster 13s* complete the southside double [posted 04/07/11]

Clydesdale's 13s were smarting for revenge after their defeat in week one of the league campaign back in late April. Titwood was the venue. And, for fairness, it would only be fair to say that *Toytown's* boundaries were on the "normal" scale this evening! Honestly, they were. Still long in front and behind the wicket, but sensibly-sized square. The game started with *the Dark Side* batting. Akhil and Kess opened the bowling for the 13s. And it was the former who set the tone. Akhil tore the heart [Ed: if Clydesdale youngsters have hearts, do they?] out of the home side's top order, cleaning up Messrs. Sher, Dhami and Haider to leave them reeling at 16 for 3. What a start! Owain Taylor, *the Dark Side's* skipper, was in and he would, over the next fourteen-odd overs, bat with each of the remaining seven 'Dale batters. Carrying his bat for just 10, from 28 deliveries, Taylor would, nevertheless, be his side's top-scorer, and comfortably so, Haider's 7 being the next best. Clydesdale wickets just kept on falling [Ed: is there anything better?] - something your scribe will never fail to enjoy typing! - and they'd end up all out in the seventeenth over for just 44. Only six extras had been leaked which was really good, and seven home batters had made 3 or less. 45 to win.

Chat in *the 'Locster* dressing room at half-time was of ten-wicket wins. Coaches meanwhile warned of complacency, poor technique and a failure to "management" the run-chase. At 18 for 4 with Akhil, Lewis, Adil and Calum all "back in the hutch", Clydesdale's 16 for 3 looked like a great start! What was going on?!? Answer: brainless batting, that's what. Batters not moving their feet, batters moving their feet all over the place - mainly to square leg - and generally poor shot selection with an apparent inability to understand the state of the game. And as in the first innings, the wickets kept a-tumbling! 25 for 5. 30 for 6. Hmmmm..... Luckily though the "old heads" [sic!] of Aliyan and Ahmed-Raza came together at the crease and the remaining 15 runs needed were found, with little cause for concern. Aliyan would end up the second batter into double figures with 13 not out, Ahmed-Raza 3 not out. What was all the fuss about, eh!

So a win, but certainly a game of two halves: the first innings a pretty flawless display with the ball, and some good ground fielding to boot. Again Aliyan and Ahmed-Raza showed the way as effective boundary runners, and Rorie McWilliam doing well in the crucial square-leg position, completing a smart run out with *CJ* to get rid of Ameer. But, oh, that second half!

A double. A derby double at that! How very - very - nice. p.s to *the 'Dale* spectator bench boo-boys: he never touched it! 🤔

18s stroll to big win [posted 04/07/11]

This'll be a short report. The 18s played Ayr. They scored 157 for 5, and they won by 60 runs. That should do. Oh, okay then, a bit more. Scotty Millen continued his glorious run of form with another *buntalicious* knock in this one, racking up 86 out of the total. The only other meaningful contribution was *Pasty's* 36, with Nick going early for 1, Hari' getting run out for the same score, and Elliott holing out to Henderson off Azeem's bowling for 8. 157 for 5. Big score. For Ayr, all the bowlers took a bit of tap, Azeem's 5-0-28-2 being the best of a [bad] bunch. And let's pause a bit to consider Master Millen's last seven days of cricket. A week ago he was collecting a duck against Uddingston in the 18s league. Then, since, he's had knocks - in all cricket - of 22*, 68*, 40*, 91 and 86. And it all started with one big 6 against *Uddy* in the Rowan Cup! 307 runs in seven days - that's some people's career runs!! Long may it continue!

In their reply the Ayr boys never really got going with Azeem apparently having misunderstood that this wasn't day one of a test match. He'd top-score, but his 18 must've come off a number of deliveries that are an anagram of his score! The talented Speirs brothers made just 10 and 9, and when Gordon holed out to a genuinely good grab in the deep by *Rosco* the Ayr top order had cumulatively mustered just 42 between them. *The 'Loc* bowlers didn't bowl badly, though the wide count was extraordinary - Gopi alone managed double figures in this category in his two (yes, 2!) overs, one a fourteen-baller that included a wicket, went for 15, none coming off the bat. Extraordinary indeed.

Another win then, and *that* unbeaten record remains intact.

Sunday afternoon win in the sunshine [posted 03/07/11]

Let's hope it's a good omen: actually two good omen. Cricket in the sunshine, and winning! The 18s finished off a week in which they'd three matches by recording a third win. The opposition at Shawholm today was Uddingston, and the comp' was the Under 18 Scottish Cup. Batting first, skipper Scotty Millen sent in Nick Black and Saif Sajjad as openers. But it wouldn't be this pair's day as they each came and went with a pair of runs each. A couple making a couple. *NTB's* and *Saif's* departures resulted in Scotty and Hari' batting together, and the runs started to flow. And flow quickly. Only really Dennis Eyles, who'd captured both the early wickets, managed to stem the flow of *'Locster* runs bowling his four overs for just 18 runs. The other Uddingston bowlers were put to the sword. Scotty bunted his way to a 39-ball 91, before missing one and getting stumped, and - spookily - Hari', too, faced 39 deliveries for his 60 before he also went stumped. This left time for Elliott, just off the 'plane for NYC, to hit a fifteen-ball, unbeaten 22, ending the innings alongside *The Beast* who was making his 18s debut. Lewis finished 2 not out. The only other *'Locster* to get in was *Rosco* but his bad trot continued as he was run out for 3. 204 for 5 was the final - and large - total.

Only the most myopic and ardent *Uddy* man [Ed: was *The Barometer* there?] would've felt that their side could chase down this score, but credit to their skipper Eyles who, after returning figures of 4-0-18-2, then scored 65 out of his side's 91 all out. An impressive effort in a losing cause, and well done to him. The wickets in the second half were spread around the five **bowlers** used,.....and Scotty! Taking crude advantage of the skipper's armband being given to him for the day, Scotty selfishly bowled himself when no other skipper would consider this, and somehow managed to sneak out two opposition batters. Extraordinary! "Cricket's the loser Matt, cricket's the loser"! But mention, too, of Lewis's first Under 18s'

wicket to add to his sheriff. Easy game *Lou*, easy game. Next up it's West of Scotland or Glasgow Accies, again at home.

11s' and 15s' wins bring a winning week to an encouraging end [posted 01/07/11]

The 11s and 15s brought an unbeaten week of cric' at the club to an end! After wins on each day of the week leading up to juniors Friday, the Under 11s saw off the challenge of Kilmarnock down the M77, and in some style. Meanwhile at Shawholm, the Under 15s beat table-topping Greenock in a low-scoring affair. 50 all out was chased for the loss of five wickets. So two good wins, ending a good week of winning cricket here at *The Mighty!* There are reports coming on the [Juniors](#) page, and the match [scorecards](#) and updated [stat's](#) are also online already.

Ton up [posted 01/07/11]

Dani' Chaudhry and Craig Young were in action for the Western Cricket Academy today at Shawholm. Playing the touring King's School from Paramatta, in NSW, Australia, the guys put on 87 for the third wicket. Craig top-scored for the academy with 111 from 92 balls, whilst Dani's 63 from just 51 deliveries added real impetus to the latter stages of the innings. The academy won the game by 145 runs.

Frank Smith Trophy cup campaign starts with a win [posted 29/06/11]

Scotty Millen continued on from his rapid-fire 22 from ten balls last night to win the Rowan Cup clash with Uddingston, by thumping an unbeaten 68 from just 35 deliveries tonight as the 18s defeated Kelburne in the Frank Smith Trophy. Great stuff. Scotty's innings featured no fewer than fifteen 4s and a 6 as 106 for 3 was passed inside eleven overs. Two *'Locster* batters did, however, lose their wickets at the other endL an out-of-sorts *Pasty* who went for 14 from fifteen balls, and Dani' who perished, bowled by Humphries, for 11 from fifteen balls. Hari' was left to nudge a single as he and Scotty saw their side home.

The target of 107 to win had been set by Kelburne batting first. Their 106 for 3 in turn owed much to Jak o'Connell's 50 from 53 deliveries. He was ably assisted by his skipper Andrew Miller who played a more cautious supporting innings in reaching 39 from 56 balls. For *the 'Locsters* Hari' was the standout bowler as he returned figures of 5-0-10-0. Hari's opening five-over burst was complemented at the other end by Ashar Mirza's 5-1-18-1 figures. The first ten overs cost less than 40 including extras. So what happened in the second half? Well, as well as O'Connell playing well, the change bowlers were poor. *Pasty* grabbed two wickets but his five overs went for 25, whilst the combined efforts of Dani' and Gopi saw five overs going for 49. The bowlers kept feeding O'Connell's strong straight driving, and leg-side shot-making, whilst the skipper might've adapted his thinking on some field placings. As it was though it maybe didn't matter.....in this game. But there'll be other games and these little things *will* matter in those games. Let's hope the lessons are learned. Next up in this comp' are Drumpellier, in a home quarter-final.

13s cruise to win over Accies [posted 27/06/11]

With a few 13s away on holiday, it was a new-looking eleven that took to the policies this evening. Making his debut was Rorie McWilliam, fresh from his MOTM performance for the 11s on Friday night. And there were welcome returns to the side for Kess Sajjad and Aqib Mahmood. The Under 13s' opponents were Glasgow Accies, the northsiders only actually having eight players.

Batting first the openers put on 30 for the first wicket, Akhil Ahmed holing out to Khan, off Hepburn's bowling. He'd scored 10. This brought Lewis James to the middle to join his wee brother Calum. These two then entertained the crowd by both reaching retirement-inducing 30s. *CJ* bunted sixes boundaries as he reached the big 3-0 for the first time, a feat that Lewis matched with six 4s of his own as he, too, got to 32 before departing to applause. This left Adil Shahid and Kess Sajjad to see out the innings. And this they did, the latter getting run out off the last ball of the innings looking to get as many runs as possible. 135 was the total on the 'board when "time" was called. 136 to win.

The run-chase - at 5 for 3 - looked pretty doomed right from the off as Akhil and Kess, opening for the 13s, tore the heart out of the Accies' top order. In fact only one visiting batter - Khan - would get into double figures. Khan's innings - he'd reached 16 - ended when Karim Mansoor rearranged his stumps. Kess was the most successful bowler on the night with a "3-for", pleasingly all ten of *the 'Locster* 13s' outfielders getting a bowl. The Accies innings would close with only 53 scored. A big win.

Next up it's Clydesdale away, as the second half of the league starts next Monday.

Dani' hundred sets up big win [posted 27/06/11]

A second hundred by an Under 18 batter in June set up a big - 89-run - win over Uddingston at Bothwell Castle Policies. This time the centurion was Dani' Chaudhry, and his unbeaten ton - he retired after reaching 100 - was the central plank of a total of 182 for 2 posted by the guys batting first. The other major contribution was from Hari' who scored an unbeaten 35. The other batters getting in on the night were *NTB* (18), Scotty (a blob!) and *Pasty* (11 not out). 183 was always going to be pretty tough to chase, and the challenge was even stiffer for a home side with only eight players after a some late call offs. To the Uddingston boys' credits though, everyone tried their best to make a fist of the reply, with four getting into double figures and Hassan Saleem remaining unbeaten on 26 when he ran out of partners.

Gopi Nair, returning to his old stomping ground, was the main wicket-taker in the second innings, his "3-for" sneaking him ahead of *Pasty* and Saqib who each grabbed themselves a brace. Having posted such a big total, the skipper was also able to give a few guys who might otherwise not get to roll their arms over a bowl. In all six bowlers were used: in addition to the three noted, *The Professor*, Usman Minhas and Ashar all bowled. The win means the 18s remain unbeaten in the league this season.

This week also sees the side in cup action: Wednesday against Kelburne in the Frank Smith Trophy, and Sunday against Uddingston - again - in the Under 18 Scottish Cup. Then it's Ayr at home next Monday in the league.

18s stroll to win over Ferguslie [posted 20/06/11]

This game's scorecard has a funny look to it. Batting first a strong visiting Ferguslie outfit posted 104 for 1. That's an odd score for a side batting first. 🤔 Stuart Darroch had batted through for an unberaten 58 and had been given support, after he'd lost opening partner Michael English (11), by Alistair Preston-Jones (21 not out). A funny scoreline. The plan had been to contain Darroch and it had worked, with field placings and bowling plans working as planned. Only two boundaries were leaked in the twenty overs, with no fewer than 43 singles being run. Plan worked. The bowlers had largely done as instructed too. Hari's 5-0-13-1 were the standout figures, but all bowled to plan. Dani' Chaudhry rolled his arm over effectively on the evening too: his figures of 5-0-28-0 being perfectly acceptable. Not sure what the view would've been in the away dressing room at halftime, but the home guys were happy with the state-of-play with their innings to come. It should be noted Ferguslie were missing the talents of Gregor Preston-Jones and Josh' Rutnagur, but take nothing away from the first half's efforts by *the 'Locster* bowlers and fielders.

As there were plans for the Ferguslie innings, so were there plans for the run-chase. These centred on not letting the *Feeegie* bowlers settle. And - after Scotty had been dropped ball one, and then *Pasty* had played and missed at his first couple - the carnage started. It was 26 for 0 after the first two overs as Friel's and Mapplebeck's opening overs were despatched to all parts. 53 for 0 after four wasn't much better as Scotty and *Pasty* made hay. This prompted a change of bowler, and Michael English duly obliged, inviting Alistair Preston-Jones and Humza Tahir to have a go. But they fared little better: though the run-rate slowed a bit, it was still 73 for 0 after eight overs. Then a wicket. Scotty holed out to Michael English off Preston-Jones' bowling. Dani' Chaudhry joined *Pasty* in the middle but departed

quickly after giving a catch to Dean Kennedy off Tahir's bowling. This left Hari' to see out the run-chase with Craig, the target of 105 being passed in the fourteenth over. An eight-wicket win, and in good time too. Craig's 55 not out had included three 6s and the same number of 4s. Despite the scale of the win, against a good side that likely didn't play to its potential on the night, it was as pleasing to see pre-match plans made, stuck to and prove successful. Next up it's Uddingston away.

Under 13s in another tight one on the northside [posted 20/06/11]

Last season it ended in a tie. This season, the 13s clash with Hillhead over on the northside nearly did exactly the same! Needing 15 runs from their last five overs, the home side's batter just couldn't find that elusive boundary or two that would likely have sealed the win for them, instead relying on scrambled singles to end up close - but not close enough - to *the 'Locsters'* score of 69 for 9 in their innings. Defending 69 was as much down to the wicket as it was the bowling and fielding it has to be admitted too. The wicket (?) at Balgray is "interesting" to say the least. Actually dear reader, I'd say it was unfit for play. Both sides' innings started shambolically as a result of said deck: *the 'Locsters'* were 5 for 3, whilst Hillhead started by reaching 0 for 2! onkers. Balls scotting along the deck, then another leaping past a chin! Throw in long grass on the outfield and 69 for 9 batting first - in effect "all out" after Kess's late call off - was likely a whole lot more on a better ground.

And it would eventually prove enough. Akhil Ahmed had top-scored with 29 in the first innings, and only Adil Ghaffar with 27 would get close in Hillhead's reply. Ghaffar also took a "3-for" in the first dig, whilst Lewis James - his skipper counterpart - took a "3-for" for *the 'Locsters'*. Lewis also took two catches - one a caught and bowled - to lead from the front. And talking of good grabs, mention *must* be made of Karim Mansoor's two wonder catches. The first, an over the head one-hander to get rid of Ghaffar, was a stunner. Then he dived forwards full-length at mid-on to take a second great catch, hanging on to a catch an inch above the turf. Genuinely good catches Master Mansoor! Well done.

The game eventually came down to the Hillhead tail, and whether they could scramble the runs needed as overs ran out. 15 runs had been needed from the last five overs, and as time ticked by this became 7 needed from six balls. And *the 'Locster'* guys kept their cool, and nerve. Akhil Ahmed bowled the last over, and did so successfully. Only 1 run was scored off it, resulting a 5-run win for the 13s. Good stuff. Next week the 13s entertain Glasgow Accies at Shawholm.

15Bs cruise to the win at Old Anniesland [posted 15/06/11]

The Under 15Bs' league opener's taken a little time to happen. Two cancellations - to Ayr and GHK - were aborted starts to season 2011 for the guys, but they got started tonight. That said it wasn't on time, as there was a queue for the grass wicket at Old Anniesland, with the 15Bs waiting for an XL Club match against the High School of School still in progress when everyone rocked up. And, spookily, as one over 40 mob left the paddock just before 6.30pm, another went on: the GHK 15Bs posting just "over 40" batting first! [Ed: is that the most contrived, long-winded intro' leading to a desperately poor "joke" yet?] Anyway, back to the cric'. Batting first the home did indeed just get past XL, actually they made L,.....exactly. And they were all out, so that'll be L for X. Top score for GHK [Ed: what do these letters amount to in Roman numerals I wonder?!?] was just IV, Messrs. Watt and Fraser getting to this lofty height. But, likely, the standout knock on the night was played by GHK's Stubing; batting at four he made 3 from a whopping 36 deliveries! Now that's proper batting - take a bow! What would the *'Loc'* coaches give for a few juniors who'd value *their* wickets as highly.

The other highlight - lowlight? - of the GHK innings was the ridiculous number of wides bowled. XXVII to be exact. Wow! Oh, and IV in no balls into the bargain, one of which was bowled by Hasan Ahmad and cleaned up the batter and would've given him a hat-trick opportunity having executed a nifty caught and bowled the ball before. We wonder if Master Ahmad will learn from this? Odds at Ladbrokes are 8-1,.....guess which way! Best bowling

on the night was Haider's "3-for" , taking the last wicket - courtesy of a good stumping from Saif - he finished with figures of 4.3-3-5-3. Well bowled. There was also a nice run out executed by Husnain to get rid of Fraser. 50 all out it was.

Idrees and Ehsan opened for the guys in the run-chase. And, after Idrees went caught and bowled to Stubing, it proved pretty plain sailing for Ehsan (19 not out) and Saif (28 not out) as they successfully chased down the target of 51 inside nine overs.

So league campaign up-and-running, and the 15Bs start with a win. In short, the 15Bs trip to Old Anniesland can be summed up as "Veni, Vidi, Vici". 🤔

13s come up way short [posted 13/06/11]

Restricting their hosts Ayr to just 93 for 8 in their innings seemed a good effort by the 13s at half-time. Kess Sajjad's two-in-two with the last two deliveries of that innings leaves him on a hat-trick come next Monday, and concluded what had been - in the main - a reasonable bowling and fielding display. The only real downsides were a few dropped catches, but that can happen and all the players made good attempts - sometimes they stick, sometimes they don't. A couple of fielding errors, too, made an appearance towards the end of the Ayr innings, tiredness likely resulting in the youngsters forgetting some of the basics,.....like using your hands! There are maybe a few who could do with some speed training too as ball chases appeared to be in slow motion at times. Notwithstanding the grassed chances, there were good catches held: Lewis James's and Ayub Ahmed's snatches both being good. And then there was a nifty run out executed by Qureshi to get rid of home skipper Jake Johnstone. For Ayr, their 93 owed much to Shuja Khan's 30 (retired), as well as odds-and-sods from others. But, maybe, and on balance, 93 was 15 or 20 more than Ayr might've been restricted to.

94 to win was only 4-an-over or so and the chat before going out to bat was that playing straight, taking time, keeping wickets in hands, watching the scoreboard, etc. were the keys. All the basics. Sadly when all was done-and-dusted and 56 all out was the score, the "basics" appeared to have been beyond the guys. No-one got past 7 (!) as Ayr donated 30 plus in extras to prevent the total being *really* embarrassing. Yikes. No fewer than seven Poloc batters were bowled - what does this say about bat swing-paths dear reader? Think IPL not Test Match. Horrible to watch,.....and I was there! Hard to find any positives in the second innings, only to say the sun was out and it was really quite warm! But what could've been. With 32 being given in extras, the guys only needed to score 62 between them - that's less 6 runs each! But we could only muster about 2 each!! Depressing. Luckily Tuesdays are Under 13 practice night - looks like it'll be back to forward-defensives!

18s thrash seven-man Accies [posted 13/06/11]

Only seven players rocked up for Accies tro Shawholm this evening and the predictable haapened. The 18s won, and easily. Batting first the guys racked up 162 as only two wickets fell. *Pasty* and *NTB* went for twenty-odd each, before Dani' made an unbeaten 74. Hari' was the other batter who got in, making 20 not out. *The 'Locsters* have their visitors four fielders to try and even things up a bit. 163 to win. Unlikely. And it didn't happen. 52 all out was what the magnificent (?) seven managed - Ollie grabbed a brace of wickets, as did *Pasty* who tuirned his arm over for a couple of overs for the first time this season. Other bowlers used were Hari', Ashar and *Disk*. But with six wickets down it was all over; a win by 110 runs.

All-in-all a bit disatisfying - no fun for the Accies' players, and not much really for the 18s. Thanks to those who played and didn't manage to get a bat or bowl - frustrating we know, but sometimes unavoidable when things are outwith our control. Like when the oppo' turn up minus four bodies! 😞

11s romp to win at *Toytown* [posted 10/06/11]

Batting first the Under 11s scored 309 for 4 against their *'Dale* rivals at *Totwood* tonight. For the 11s there were runs for *CJ* who made a net 16 that included five boundaries - a 6 included! How very pleasing! The other bat to get into double figures was Ahmed-Raza who made 10. But the real success of the batting was the guys' abilities to preserve their wickets - only four wickets being lost reflects well on the boys' technique. For the home side all ten players bowled.

In the run chase *the 'Dale* guys never really got started as wickets fell throughout their innings. And the wickets fell courtesy of a combination of good bowling, good catching and good fielding. There were three run outs on the night, two for Aliyan, and *CJ* followed up his first innings bunting with a couple of stumpings. In all fourteen Clydesdale wickets fell. Fraser Scott was the main wicket-taker for *the 'Locsters*, taking a "3-for". For Clydesdale, Ashraf can hold his head up despite his side's defeat as he made an unbeaten 19.

Thriller at Shawholm sees tie in the 15s' derby [posted 10/06/11]

At half time in this one the money was on an away win. 87 for 9 was hardly a score to write home about on a decent deck with smallish boundaries. Only Elliott with 27 had really managed to make any kind of impression on the scoreboard, as wickets kept on falling. And when Elliott holed out to Griffiths in the deep, the chances of a big score likely went too, this despite some late order hitting and scurrying from Husnain and the tail. Credit to the visiting bowlers though who bowled pretty well,.....except when they were gifting extras. And this they did with gay abandon. As the second-top scorer on the evening - 23 in extras would prove absolutely vital. And without these gift-wrapped presents *the 'Locster* 15s' total might've been a tad embarrassing. So "only" 88 to win.

But the Clydesdale reply started shakily. Wickets started to fall, and the nerves started to appear. Tight bowling added to good catching - Elliott's grab to get rid of Sheryar Awan at short cover was a genuinely good catch - saw batters come and go. And the running between the wickets started to become chaotic too. Three batters would find themselves run out, with good work from Messrs. Rousen, James and Shahid being the contributing causes. Elliott's direct hit to get rid of Ilyas Rehman probably best reflects what was going on as the second innings progressed and the nerves materialised. Running on a mis-field, he was run out having stopped short of his ground with his bat in the air! Bonkers. Credit to Elliott for the direct hit though. But it wasn't all good stuff from *the 'Locsters* - just as the Clydesdale bowlers had been frivolous in their bowling of wides, so *the 'Locster* fielders gifted runs to their southside rivals. Balls were shuffled over boundaries, and allowed to go through legs. And in the 87 that Clydesdale's 15s would eventually - also - make, there were no fewer than 30 runs scored in singles as *'Loc* fielders did statue impersonations as balls were hit to them. Pity. But back to the end - so to speak. 12 needed to win off Elliott's last over. A couple of early deliveries dragged down and bunted for 4s, and a run 2, meant only 2 were needed off the last two balls though. Then a dot. 2 from one. Elliott's ball was mis-fit down the leg side and the race was on. The Clydesdale batters scurried the first run, and turned for the winning run. But Akbar Shahid had the ball in his hand and *Rosco* was at the stumps awaiting the throw. Ball in the air, to glove, to stump. Out! A tie.

Phew..... Both sides likely think this was one that got away.

Heads we're in, tails we're out [posted 07/06/11]

The Under 15s were knocked out of the national knockout cup tonight in freak'ish circumstances - a toss of a coin. The game started okay, but was soon abandoned as a heavy shower washed away both play, *and* any chance of a resumption. And so under the playing conditions, and with previous wash-outs and a deadline for the match to have been played by long past, it was a toss of a coin that would decide who went through. Iain Wheel the West of Scotland skipper called "tails", and tails it was - West through, *'Locsters* out. 😞

Renfrew swept aside [posted 06/06/11]

On a very chilly night in Renfrew, the 18s cruised to a 159-run win as they posted 189 for 5 before skittling their hosts out for 30. Highlights on the evening, bar the win, were Scotty's brisk 29 at the start, Dani's cameo 33, *Pasty's* ton from just 51 balls, and Ashar's "3-for".

Also picking up wickets were Ollie, Cammy, Usman and,.....wait for it.....Scotty Millen! 🤪 And there was a run out to boot. One of Mr Millen's wickets - the final Renfrew wicket to fall - was a stumping, courtesy of Dani' Chaudhry who was 'keeping in *Rosco's* absence and Scotty's indifference! Mention too - and are you reading this *Flanners?* - there were no byes. Easy job that wicket-keeping.

Mention of *Pasty's* 100: coming off just those 51 balls, it included nine 4s and four 6s. In the first innings mention should also be made of three genuinely good outfield catches held by the Renfrew guys: skipper Ryan Murray held two absolute steepers at the deepest of deep mid-ons to get rid of Dani' and Nick, whilst Fasih Sultan made a good grab at "cow" to send Scotty on his way.

A comprehensive win then on a - *brrrrr* - very chilly night. Here's hoping for some sunshine,.....please! And soon.

13s win in a thriller! [posted 06/06/11]

A win! And a last-ball win at that! The 13s were back in league action and looking to maintain their 100% record. And they did,.....just. This wasn't a T20 a-la the IPL, but it certainly had all the thrills of any of the smash-bang-wallop you might've witnessed on your tele' recently.

Batting first the northside boys from Hamilton Crescent posted 76 for 4, thanks in the main to good tight bowling from most of *the 'Locster* bowlers. And starring with the ball, with a "3-for" was Lewis James who returned figures of 4-0-10-3. His three-wicket haul included West's dangermen McCallum (3) and Ewing (18). These two's early departures allowed Williams to show what he could do however, and scored an unbeaten 30 batting at five. 76 for 4 represented a pretty modest first innings, but the home side batters would still have to bat sensibly - and well - against a good bowling attack to secure the win.

And when the second innings started it was clear the run-chase would be no formality. Robbie McCallum bowled his four overs really tightly, leaking only 5 runs, and Guy grabbed the wickets of *the 'Locster* top three as 43 for no wicket slumped to 52 for 3. And with memories of the weekend's senior team batting collapses fresh in everyone's minds the fear was we might be about to witness another one. But no. Stability was restored, and *the 'Loc* youngsters sneaked home off the last ball. Karim Mansoor was not out 11, and was with Robert Cathcart at the death. There was also an important knock of 17 from Adil Shahid on debut who opened the batting with Lewis who also made 17.

So a thriller, and as importantly a match when everyone contributed. No fewer than nine *'Loc* bowlers bowling, and seven batters getting to the middle. Still unbeaten in the league too.

Ayr do the double [posted 03/06/11]

The Under 11s were at home tonight, and were entertaining their Ayr counterparts in their second league fixture. Batting first the guys got off to a good start with only three wickets falling in the first half of their innings. Lewis Macdonald was top-scorer with an unbeaten 6, as extras proved bountiful - the Ayr bowlers would eventually donate 41 in wides and no balls. Yikes. The second half wasn't as productive, as net 37 increased by only 22 to leave the 'board showing net 59 at the innings break. Kess Sajjad, batting with Aliyan Qureshi in the final pairing top-scored overall with 14 not out, whilst Aliyan too preserved his wicket, finishing unbeaten on 3. A wee flurry of wickets in the third quarter of their twenty-over allocation cost the guys dear, a five-over spell that saw only 1 run added, net. In the end then net 59 was posted.

And this looked a decent target as Ayr lost wickets at regular intervals in their reply, and the *'Locster* bowlers bowled far more tightly than the visitors had done. At the halfway point Ayr's 11s were net 23, and had lost seven wickets in getting to this score. There'd been some good catches - from Aliyan and *CJ* - and an impressive stumping. And the third five-over section saw Ayr only progress to net 35. The last pairing would need to put on 25 to win it. This seemed improbable given what had transpired in the first fifteen overs, and taking into account that the visitors' biggest hitter had been in and out already. But.....

But, here's the rub: Ayr only had seven players. In the first innings they'd obviously fielded with the assistance of a *'Locster* fielder, in fact Kess had even taken a catch to claim a *'Loc* wicket! 🤔 But to complete their innings someone had to bat with young Master Lynch. Their choice: Master Davidson, a.k.a. "Big Hitter". Hmm. Maybe it's really important to win? As it was, said "Big Hitter" smote an unbeaten 23 including three 4s to see his side home, ultimately by 11 runs. Credit Master Lynch too though, as he rose to the occasion with Davidson and hit 17 not out into the bargain.

So defeat. But not despair. It's a funny thing that the team taking most wickets (nine to seven), and bowling fewer extras (22 to 41), ends up on the losing side. But in this instance the scorebook doesn't lie: Ayr scored 11 more than *the 'Locsters*, Davidson scoring 34 of their net 70 runs.

Meanwhile down on the coast..... the Under 15s were also playing Ayr, also in the league. And again it was the home side batters who had first use of the track. Their 109 for 7 owed much to the west district's youngest gun for hire, young Azeem (erstwhile of Kilmarnock CC and Prestwick CC). His 46 included nine 4s as he used his over-sized bat to good effect. And he only missed his half century when he was dismissed courtesy of a caught and bowled from Saif Sajjad. Around Azeem no-one else really got in, the next highest score in the innings being Shuja Khan's 18 not out. No other batter got past 8. 109 for 7 as we say. 110 to win.

Saif and *Rosco* opened for the *'Locsters*, the former going before reaching double figures, bowled by Craig. Ross was then joined by Elliott Rousen who'd grabbed a "3-for" in the Ayr innings. Elliott went on to top-score with an unbeaten 39, after Ross departed, again to Craig, batting with [first] Akhil Ahmed and [then] Lewis James. But with the Ayr field spread - all bar one was on the boundary from pretty early on - Elliott and his partners found it hard to keep up with the required rate. 40 were needed off the last five overs, but despite having wickets in hand and so being able to "have a go", the boys fell agonisingly short. 6 runs the margin of defeat.

And talk of the field being spread, here's a "compare & contrast" for you dear reader: at Shawholm a seven-player Ayr side benefited from a *'Locster* fielder to help them out, whilst at New Cambusdoon the ten-player *'Locster* 15s weren't offered the same courtesy. Tough school that. 😞 Maybe - again - if you really, really, want to win.....

So defeat. But heads shouldn't be down as there were positives on the night. Again it was *the 'Locsters* who'd lost fewer wickets, and leaked fewer extras, yet ended up on the losing side. But as said, heads can't drop as there's a cup match with West of Scotland coming up, and a league match with the *Dark Side* next Friday. And of course Ayr's match-winner Master Azeem - he also bowled 5-0-18-1 - doesn't play for those two clubs,.....at least not yet! 🤔

Win first up for 18s [posted 30/05/11]

After the disappointment of their aborted season start on Friday, the Under 18s travelled to deepest, darkest - and as it would turn out, wettest! - Lanarkshire for their league opener against *Drumps* at Langloan. Arriving to find the wicket still pretty wet after sporadic heavy showers, the decision was taken to play on the new astro-turf wicket. And, after the toss, *the 'Locsters* were batting, with Drumpellier's skipper Darren Pryde deciding to bowl first.

The 18s openers were Pasty and NTB, the latter wearing Disk's shoes. And, for the record, Cammy has *huge* feet! As ever what's needed batting first is a steady start. *The 'Locster* openers duly delivered this. And more. Nick and *Pasty* put on 108 for the first wicket, the skipper leading by example with 62 from 41 balls. He'd be first out, holing out to a decent grab by Nathan Allison, off Darren Pryde, at extra cover. He'd hit three 6s and six 4s in his knock. Nick continued on with Dani' who was in at three, these two adding a further 24 for the second wicket, Nick bowled by Joel Muir for 44. Hari' joined Dani' and the run-rate continued unabated. Dani' would stroke a cameo 21 from just thirteen deliveries, before becoming Muir's second victim. This left the middle order to scurry around for a few overs and take the score past 150. Ollie and Usman were the not out batters when the boys' twenty-over allocation was complete. 158 for 5.

But on astro' who knows what's a decent score. The bowlers would still have to bowl tightly, and the plan was to strangle the home side batters from the start of their dig if at all possible. Hari' and Ashar opened the bowling and both bowled the right lines and lengths, and the *Drumps* batters struggled to get the scoreboard ticking over. They never got near the run-rate as the 18s' change bowlers continued Hari's and Ashar's good work. In all seven *'Locster* bowlers would be used - all bowled to order. In the field things were far from easy, as the temperature dropped and a heavy shower sent the players scurrying for cover. After a ten-minute break in play though, the game was back on. Home side umpire Stephen Allison also took the chance of the break to "delegate" responsibility for completing a now soggy scorebook, and get some crisps inside him. Shrewd Stevie, shrewd! Fielding was tricky with a wet ball now, though arguably sliding stops were easier! And bar two or three instances, the guys fielded well given the conditions. The only really bloopers on the night were Ashar's two drops. But as said: slippy red sphere. On the plus side were *Pasty's* smart thinking to run out Sabri as he over-backed up at the non-strikers end, the same player's smart slip catch, and Saif's nifty glove work to stump Drumpellier skipper Pryde. The "spin twins" - Elliott and Frankie - cleaned up the home side lower order with five wickets between them, the former finishing with a "3-for". No mean feat from the duo given the bar of soap that was masquerading as a cricket ball.

55 for 8 was the Drumpellier score when they finished their twenty overs: a *'Locster* win by 103 runs. Next week it's Renfrew away.

Rep' selections [posted 23/05/11]

Notwithstanding a number of the games concerned being postponed, it's still pleasing to note a number of *'Loc* players gaining selection for rep' squads and matches. Ross Armour, a member of the West Regional Development Centre was selected on Sunday for the Western Cricket Academy side, for its match against Weirs. Along with academy players Dani' Chaudhry and Craig Young, Ross missed out on the game as rain washed out any chance of play. Dani' and Craig have also both been selected to play in a Scotland Under 17 trial this Sunday coming, whilst Bilal Chaudhry's selected for the Scotland Under 19 side's game against Scotland Universities in Edinburgh tomorrow, the 24th. Congratulations to these guys.

Mixed fortune Friday [posted 20/05/11]

The Under 11s secured a win for the club in junior action this evening over at Albert Park. After a few weeks waiting to get their league season underway, it was good just to get a match on. But it was also good for the guys to record the win. There were also *'Loc* debuts for Fraser Scott, Rorie McWilliam and Abrar Bhatti, and all three contributed on the night. "Old hands" Lewis Macdonald and *CJ* top-scored with 13 a-piece, whilst Ahmed-Raza ran amok with the ball, grabbing a "4-for". Fraser and Rorie both took their first *'Loc* wickets in the second innings too. The "scores-on-the-doors" were net 263 (under the adapted Under 11s pairs cricket scoring system), and net 256, *the 'Loc* winning by net seven runs.

Meanwhile at Shawholm there was a cup match with the 13s entertaining Stirling County in the first round of the national knockout cup. Batting first the guys got off to a great start:

Lewis and Akhil started at a great pace, and 31 was put on at nearly a run-a-ball before Akhil was bowled by Duthie. This dragged the run-rate down, and when Lewis departed, stumped for 21 off Duthie's bowling too, the whole complexion changed. And the complexion would be entirely coloured by Mr Dawtrey, the Stirling 'keeper. After stumping Lewis, he'd claim three more home side victims in the same mode, and take two smart catches into the bargain. Six of the ten wickets to fall had "E. Dawtrey" in the dismissal line. Impressive. Then, in the run-chase, said Dawtrey, this time in the guise of "B. Guy" [Ed; that's "B" for "Big"] proceeded to score a retiral-inducing, buntalicious, 32. MoTM indeed.

The target of 66 was passed by Stirling without much ado, less than fourteen overs being needed. 17 extras didn't help much, but in truth the bowling wasn't too bad - it was that first innings batting performance that was the problem.....

Baltic! [posted 18/05/11]

Carl reliably informed this reporter that he's never - and he means **never!** - played cricket in temperatures as cold as tonight at Whitehaugh. Brrrrrrr..... 🍌 A comfortable fail of the *Walton:Young Temperature Test* it has to be said! Throw in a green-top, a heavy outfield, a wind-chill factor and a rain break, and it was "Cricket in Scotland" as we're coming to expect it. Where has April's weather gone???

To the game. After a couple of aborted attempts this cup match finally got played, so there's a positive. And being at Whitehaugh, and playing the guys from Kelburne, is never unpleasant - there's a second plus. And, after a few weeks of inactivity, notwithstanding the weather, it was maybe no harm the 15s getting a game in. Losing the toss, Saif found his side in the field. Jak O'Connell started positively on a difficult wicket and got to 15 off just ten balls faced before holing out to Saif, caught and bowled. 16 for 1, and Kelburne's other opener - Gilmour - still to get off the mark,.....which he failed to do as 16 for 1, became "for 2". And then "for 3". Gilmour became Saif's second scalp of the evening and number three, Woods, was cleaned up by Haider Akram. Haider bowled well, his figures of 4-2-5-1 reflecting the control his off-spin achieved. Not easy on a night it was tricky feeling your digits, far less bowling finger spin!

With more wickets falling, and the score on 37 for 5, the home side looked in some trouble. But debutant De Jonckheere would change this with a composed 17 from 25 balls batting at seven. His innings, allied to some careless bowling and sloppy 'keeping - that included that rarest of scorebook entries, the 5-run helmet-hitting penalty! - helped propel Kelburne to 83 for 6 by the close. On a difficult deck, slow and large outfield, this wouldn't be "regulation" to chase down.

And so it proved. Saif and Ross Armour opened and put on 34 for the first wicket before Saif was bowled. Ross and Elliott Rousen then added 13 before the former mis-timed a leg-side shot and skied one to Woods, and the all the time the run-rate was falling. Ishrith Shetty joined Elliott in the middle and, as he'd done a year previously against the same side at the same location, he steadied the ship and batted with the required degree of caution. He'd add 31 with Elliott before departing, bowled by Stobo, letting Ayub Ahmed to come in. As arguably the smallest two-legged creature on the ground, Ayub showed no little composure to calmly rock back and pull Gilmour's first ball through square leg for 4 and the win! Toffee!

So progress in the cup; West await in the next round. This reporter - and *Carly* - just **really** want it to warm up a bit,.....well, a lot actually!

Under 13s make it back-to-back wins [posted 09/05/11]

Sometimes in some seasons matches are won by a genuine team effort, and often when, individually, players struggle a bit. On a cold night at Langloan this is a reasonable summary of events. Ten of eleven players batted, and ten of ten eligible players bowled. The result

was the 13s recording their second win of their new season: 95 for 8 being enough to see off 78 for 5. Winning when not playing your best is - hopefully - a sign of a decent team.

The evening started with a horror-show downpour just before 5pm, but credit to the Drumpellier groundstaff who managed to get the match on and started on time. But it was cold! After the mandatory toss the 'Locsters were batting and the successful batting of seven days previously was retained. A good start from Lewis James and Akhil Ahmed was again hoped for. And it was delivered as early overs were going for double-digit run totals. But it didn't last - Dominic Boon and Grant Russell dragged the run rate back with economical change spells - their eight overs costing just 27, Russell picking up two wickets into the bargain. And talk of wickets brings us to the demise of the 'Locster openers: Lewis holed out to Boon off Harry Javidan's bowling, whilst Akhil ran himself out on 29, courtesy of a Humza Sabri direct hit. 42 for 1, then 71 for 2 in the thirteenth over. From here the run-rate continued to fall and what had for a while looked like being a big score, suddenly didn't look like getting into three figures. And so it transpired as 'Locster batters came and went at regular intervals, many to injudicious shots [Ed: look it up dear reader!]. 71 for 2 became 95 for 8 as the twentieth over finished, only Kess Sajjad (11) joining Akhil and Lewis in reaching double figures. 96 to win.

And it was getting colder! Drumps reply started cautiously, but soon picked up momentum. Sabri was batting well, and bunting bad balls to the boundary. Throw in some timid fielding, mix this with poor fielding and throw in a dollop of wayward bowling and - hey presto - it was game on. The home side managing to keep things going along at 5-an-over. Sabri would eventually retire having correctly counted his score to 27 and then hitting a 6, and Boon stroking a few boundaries and progressing into double figures. When Boon was eventually bowled by Lewis it was 61 for 4 in the fourteenth and a Drumps win was still a possibility. Then the pendulum swung *the 'Locsters'* way as rotation of the bowlers paid off and the run-rate fell. In the end Drumpellier finished 18 runs short of their target and Lewis, Akhil, Karim, Ross and Kess had each bagged a wicket.

A good win that sees the 13s stay unbeaten - next week it's Greenock that are the opponents.

13s defeat *the Dark Side* in season opener [posted 02/05/11]

It was warm and sunny this evening, but - strangely - as the Under 13s ran out winners against their counterparts from *Toytown*, the sun's warmth seemed,....well,.....a little warmer yet! 🤔 102 for no wicket defeated 91 for 9. Yup, you read it correctly dear reader, "no wickets". Two retirals and two not out batters was the count as Lewis James (32 not out) and Akhil Ahmed (31 not out) showed no little technical skill, as well as patience, in providing their teammates with the base from which a defendable total could be posted. Both Lewis and Akhil selected which balls to score from, and which to defend. And when they'd retired, Kess Sajjad (11 not out) and Ayub Ahmed (2 not out) carried on in the same vein. Well batted all.

But 102 for 0 would only really prove to be a *really* good score if *the 'Locster* bowlers and fielders then did their jobs. And they did. All seven bowlers bowled well, four taking wickets. Ross Overdijking, on his Poloc debut, bowled really well and returned figures of 2-0-3-0! What a very nice start to your career! And another debutant, Sab' Khan, took a good high catch at mid on to get rid of Clydesdale's number four, Malik, for a duck. And Malik wasn't the only *Dark Side* batter to record a nought - no fewer than seven 'dale batters failed to trouble the scorers. Astonishing.

But, oddly maybe when you look at the bare bones of the scorecard, the game was so much closer than it first appears. Not until the *Dark Side's* skipper, Owain Taylor, holed out to a good caught and bowled to *the 'Locsters'* skipper, Lewis James, for 22, was the game really out of reach for the youngsters from *Toytown*. And talk of *Toytown* makes this scribe

wonder whether the 'dale boys maybe underestimated how big a score of 102 was on a bigger ground? Maybe that's nonsense though.....

A good win though, and a game that had no little good cricket played in it too. Good weather, and a close game played in good spirits between two competitive sides - cricket's the winner! Next up it's a trip to Coatbridge for the 13s.

Under 15s start with a win [posted 29/04/11]

Forget Kate and Wills, today'll be remembered at Shawholm for Hasan and Saif. 😊 The two '*Locster* Under 15s put on an unbeaten 117-run partnership to steer their side to a 156 for 2 first innings total in tonight's league opener against Renfrew. And this total turned out to be more than was required to secure the win points as the visitors from along the M8 posted just 80 for 9 in reply. The Renfrew wickets were shared around by the Poloc bowlers with only Gopi Nair getting more than the one to his name. There were also three run outs of Renfrew batters, Akhil Ahmed getting two of these. Akhil's first victim - David Graham can, however, feel a little unlucky as his partner's straight drive was struck back at Akhil who, in his follow through, managed only to deflect the returning wee red sphere,.....onto the stumps at the non-striker's end. Exit Master Graham. Unlucky indeed.

In the first innings, Hasan's and Saif's partnership had dug the side out of a little bit of bother after Ross Armour had got without a run on the 'board - cleaned up by the Renfrew skipper Ahmed Javid - and Elliott Rousen had gone in similar fashion - this time the bowler was Sultan. Saif and Hasan both batted nicely - Saif's eventual 81 not out came off just 61 balls and included elevens 4s and a couple of 6s. Hasan's knock was lower-key, his unbeaten 35 featuring just the five 4s. Well batted to both. For Ross and Elliott there will be other chances, but both will have to work on their foot movement to avoid hearing the dreaded sound of leather on timber behind them at fairly regular intervals. 😊

A good win therefore, a good to see Gopi Nair take a couple of wickets on debut for *the 'Locsters*. There's a free Friday next week, so the next match for the Under 15s is likely their Scottish Cup against Kelburne.