

### **Strathclyde Shield shambles!** 😞 [posted 03/09/10]

Some early evening and late night 'phone calls, text messages and emails from WDCU officials yesterday let us know that, due to more admin' boo-boos than can be entered into at the time of posting [1.20am!], the Academy boys will not be playing in the Strathclyde Shield this weekend. The short story seems to be that a late result submitted for a Queen's Park match, allied to a miscalculation of points awarded for cancellations and abandonments, has resulted in the Academy's points totalling falling by 1 point, and Queen's Park's increasing by 6 points. The net result is Queen's Park leap-frog *the 'Locsters* into second to take on ALC in the shield final. The match was due to be played at Shawholm, but will now be moved. The Strathclyde League hierarchy's expressed their apologies to the club, and Academy boys in particular, for the mix up, and for misleading both into thinking they had qualified for the match some time ago. I guess the guys'll just have to content themselves with an unbeaten league campaign,.....again. 😊 Watch this space for what'll hopefully be alternative Sunday afternoon cricket at Shawholm. Single Wicket anyone?!?

### **Game off** [posted 22/08/10]

The Academy's final Strathclyde League divisional match was beaten by a combo' of the weather and an inability to reach agreement. The weather factor was that overnight rain had gotten under the covers and there was a large wet patch at the scoreboard end. Umpires McGregor and Gilliland correctly adjudged the wicket not suitable for play at 2pm, and with *the 'Loc* groundstaff and Academy players working on the ground and a drying wind there'd maybe have been a chance of some kind of game - remembering that Strathclyde League matches can go as low as sixteen overs-a-side with both Captains' agreement. However the oppo' skipper wasn't keen on anything less than 30 overs-a-side and with that not going to be possible the captains shook hands - match off. The two sides meet again however in the Strathclyde Shield to determine who wins the Strathclyde League in a couple of weeks time.

### **Academy restart league campaign in style** [posted 08/08/10]

GU Staff were visitors to Shawholm in the Strathclyde League today, and glorious weather greeted them. Unbelievably the day started with something as rare as *Halley's Comet* - *Youngy* didn't - we repeat did *not* - win the toss! Wow. The only other time that's happened was against,.....GU Staff! As it was though visiting skipper Shinde invited the Academy to bat first. So at least that record remains intact: 21 games skippered by *Youngy* in season 2010 and his sides' batted first on all bar one occasion: the last Strathclyde League match against GU Staff! Astonishing. Anyway, back to the cric'. At 2 for 1, with *Muscles* cleaned up by Frank Johnstone and back in the hutch, it looked like a decent decision by Mr Shinde. However at 173 for 1, some 30-odd overs later perhaps the decision looked less convincing. Dani' (97) and *Pasty* (68) had batted sensibly and with no little application and ability to accumulate runs at a healthy rate, ignoring - along the way - the temptation for too many *big* shots, especially off what always appears at first glance the inviting slow bowling of the GU Staff attack. But bat sensibly they did. *Pasty* got a life around half way through his innings, and Dani' was unlucky in getting stumped on 97 when he lost his footing and ended up prostrate and bat'less as Kharwar neatly removed the bails. After these two's mammoth 171-run partnership there was still time for a cameo 16 from *JP* and Josh's 13 not out (off just twelve balls). The oppo' were also extremely generous in the extras department: 24 wides and 2 no balls were bowled, giving - as is the case - a further four overs to *the 'Locster* batters to bat. Criminal.

In the reply, chasing 233 to win, the GU Staff batters never really got going. After Bell and Kharwar were dismissed LBW off the first two balls of the innings (bowled by *the Professor*) the reply always looked on difficult ground. Then it was 5 for 3 as Shinde holed out to Dani' at cover. The only partnership - 67 - of the innings then took place, with opener Singh (33) and Nidhin (25) stabilising their side a little. But they were always behind the run-rate, and with *Bil'y*

and Hari' coming into the attack after 16 overs had been bowled a real stranglehold was gained on the game by the Academy. Wickets also started to fall at regular intervals after the fourth wicket partnership was broken, *Pasty* grabbing a couple, and *Bil'y* and Hari' taking three between them. Proceedings were wrapped up when Usman caught number nine Talegadnkar off *Bil'y* for 4. 112 - in effect with Johnstone not batting through injury - all out. A convincing win in the final analysis.

**Proper cricket!** [posted 01/08/10]

Every so often you remember why you play cric'. Today was such a day. Road-trip to the back-of-beyond, to play guys who love the game and are trying hard to get cric' established in said back-of-beyond, superb hospitality, no rubbish on-field chat,.....and a carry out from the *chippy* in Inveraray! Carradale away - a great, if long, trip. We recommend it readers.

This was the return fixture after the Carradale boys made the trip to Shawholm early on this season. On that occasion a one-sided affair saw *the 'Locsters* run out easy winners. This time the result was the same, though the margin of victory was less. *The 'Locsters* again batted first as *Youngy's* remarkable run of coin-toss-guessing continued. Saif and *Bil'y* opened with 14 being put on before Saif *nicked off* behind. Hari' and *Bil'y* then added 49 before the latter holed out to McGeachy. This brought Josh to the middle, but he'd only scored 6 when he tamely chipped a catch back to Stockdale. This resulted in Sajjad #3 coming out to bat. No, not *the Mex* but Kess. In at five. Kess batted patiently and added 17 with Hari' before getting bowled by Fox. 91 for 4. It was pretty quickly then 94 for 5 as Hari' departed for 32, coincidentally the same total *Bil'y* had managed. *Muscles* and *Pasty* were together now, and as openers they'd have been acquainted with the job in hand, i.e. start again. 27 had been added when their partnership was broken by home skipper Keogh. Keogh then struck again and *the 'Locsters* were suddenly 129 for 7. Tinus then came and went for 1 [Ed: saving *Youngy* from streaking round the boundary, something he'd promised to do if *T-bags* "gets a duck out there"] and things weren't looking too clever. Matt and Carl together now. Safe hands. Eh, nope. Matt run out for 4. Still twelve of the 40 overs left to bat. Hmm. *Carly* and *Youngy* then as last pair. 144 for 9 the score. Luckily both batters were wearing sensible caps and they batted conservatively, batting the overs and adding 61 in the process. Carl finished with 44\*, *Youngy* 21\*. 205 for 9. Likely enough.

And then tea! And how!! Truly magnificent. Everything from freshly baked scones with clotted cream and blackcurrant jam, through hot chicken drumsticks and sandwiches, to tea/coffee/confectionaries, and *other* chilled "beverages". Better than curled up two-sandwich packs popular at certain more metropolitan clubs! You know who we're talking about people.

The run-chase never really got going. *Bil'y* tore through the Carradale top order in his first over - a "3-for" right there-and-then. This proved a near fatal blow as none of the batters following could get to double figures bar Currie. With wickets falling *Youngy* turned to *Clan Sajjad* to complete the job. Kess bowled five overs and duly delivered the scalp of Currie. Saif got a "3-for", including two "caught and bowled's". Well bowled guys. And then things were wrapped up when Carradale number eleven, young Master Mahoney, was dismissed courtesy of a genuinely good low-down, one-handed, right-hand catch by Hari' at silly mid-off. Unlucky young sir. Well held Hari'.

So good fun - a good trip, with good guys, playing cric' with nice people, with no-one with a southern hemisphere [Ed: or even east coast!] accent, abusing you out in the middle before then pretending to be nice to you in the bar later! Sound familiar anyone? Oh, and one final thing, ask *Muscles* about his umpiring conscience next time you see him. 🤔 If you don't know *Muscles*, he's the one with the very long, tree-branch-like nose.....

**Still unbeaten** [posted 18/07/10]

The headline says it all. "All" as in pretty much "all" that was much good in this match. Okay, okay, as ever dear reader I'm exaggerating for effect! There was more than just the result to write home about. Here goes with a few game highlights:

1. the oppo' were good company, well-mannered and sporting - *hallelujah!*
2. *Blacky* bowled "good areas" [Ed: WARNING! cricketing cliché!] - but, honestly, they were *good* areas!
3. *The Professor* took a great grab at point to get rid of GU Staff's Ahmed - great catch *Uzy!*
4. *Nichty's* 72-ball 120 was great to watch - well batted!
5. *Trophy Head* entertained his team-mates with - arguably - the drop of the - maybe *any* - season!

But there were more than a few lowlights too:

1. where was Hari?
2. why did the boys bowl 36 wides??
3. methinks 53 - yes *fifty three* - in extras is taking playing the generous host too far!
4. the fielding display reiterated yet again just how much we struggle in this department as a club!
5. *Muscles* running under a catch at long-on which dropped for,.....4 🤔
6. two blobs in the Academy innings,

On balance: mixed bag bowling + average fielding + big knock from Matt + odds-and-sods from others = win. And we guess "a win's a win". And as *Blacky* said throughout: "I want to win!". And the side did. Wish granted *Jamesy!*

The first innings had started well for the visitors who'd elected to bat after skipper Singh won the toss. Bell and Johnstone proved a stubborn opening combo' with Johnstone playing the anchor to Bell's cruiser. [Ed: apologies, that's rubbish!] Bell was hitting the ball strongly, straight, whilst Johnstone nudged. It was the latter who went first courtesy of a nice catch from *Matty*, positioned superbly (!) at short cover by the skipper. He'd take another catch in the same *locale* later on, though, the first grab was the better of the two. But it wasn't the best catch on the day. Nope, *Uzy's* catch at point to send Ahmed back to the pavilion takes that accolade. And even *T-bags'* catch to get rid of Singh was in the high quality category. In the "could do better" category was, however, two other catching incidents. First *NJ* spilled the gentlest of caught-and-bowled opp's when Copeland chipped one back only for *Trophy Head* to grass the catch. Nope, he can't explain it either. With the catching chance went *Nicky's* safest-hands-in-the club rep' too! The second shambles starred *Muscles* at long-on. *Deep breath now*. Be reasonable here. Khan is in and has hacked across the line with success, to the extent he's on 20-odd. *Youngy's* in the attack and has already seen two edges flash through second slip area [Ed: and only ten fielders meant third man had left the building!] so was already feeling grumpy. But, then, a plan: stick *Muscles* back, bowl a slower ball, and see if Khan will hole out. Result: slower ball, it's in the slot, heave, airborne, down long-on's throat, *Muscles* on the move, rushing in, ball dropping, *Muscles* suddenly looking concerned, *Muscles* back-tracking, ball dropping, dropping, dropping, *over* Aamir's head,.....for 4! Luckily *Youngy* got over the disappointment almost immediately and couldn't possibly still be harbouring bitter thoughts!?! 🤔 Khan went on to top-score with 47. Think everything you coach Under 11s not to do whilst batting and you have in your mind Mr Khan's innings. Still 47 runs tell us he might've had the last laugh! Not pretty, but effective. Quite literally hit or miss. Khan's 47 allied to the gifted 53 in extras allowed GU Staff to post 188 when - honestly - 120-odd would've been a more likely total had *the Locsters* had eleven fielders, the bowling had been tighter and maybe a better plan for Khan had been devised.

189 to win. A good start needed. Amir going early with the score on 18 wasn't ideal therefore. A 97-run partnership between *Rosco* and *Matty* next up tho' *did* help. *Nichty* was in buntalicious mood and having promised *Nellie* he'd score him a ton if he rocked up to watch,.....duly did. Nice one. What are you doing next *Saturday* *Nellie*?? Around Matt there was a nice innings from *Rosco*, the young man stroking arguably two of the shots of the day. Then Tinus tidied things up nicely at the end, finishing with a sheriff along with *Uzy*.

The win takes *the 'Locsters* back to the top of the table we think, with League Convenor Frank Johnstone of the view that the win also guarantees the Academy a place in the Shield Final in September. It'd be good to get there, but better to get there, perform well *and* win! *Nichty's* ton, *The Professor's* grab and *Blacky's* bowling show the way. Let's hope the boys get back to practice this week, and work on their deficiencies as well as their strengths as they look to improve individually and collectively. Still, a win's a win.....

**Big score paves way for win,.....despite diddy bowling and fielding!** [posted 27/06/10]  
Posting 274 for 4 in a 40 over match usually results in a team's GPS being set for Easy Street. Sadly the bowlers' direction devices seemed switched off completely in the second half, and the fielders -well - they just switched off, full stop. Granted, the New Anniesland outfield's as bad as its square is good. Think moonscape with obstacles thrown in for fun - manhole cover, artificial wickets, net bay bowlers' ends, and drainage channels being but four that come quickly to this correspondent's mind. But this can't explain the horror show fielding - and shouldn't be used as an excuse. Accies steamed along at between 6 and 7-an-over from the off. None of the Academy bowlers seemed able to stem the tide, with Josh, in particular, being harshly treated. Wickets fell regularly enough mind you - but not the wicket of Raj Soman who played a near-chance'less knock, carrying his bat for an impressive 91. I say "near-chance'less" reader because when he was on not that many - maybe even 0 - he gloved a *Bill'y* delivery into his chest, the ball popped up and looped over his head, only to land with a gently bump about halfway between the stumps and *Rosco*! "*Catch it!*" was maybe called a little late, but what a chance! And this really was the only chance Soman gave, bar a leading edge off *Pasty's* bowling that landed in no-man's land. Bar Soman, only McCallum (23) and skipper Chris Hawkins (19) got into double figures. And in the end Accies finished over a 100 shy of their 275 target.

That target had been set courtesy of a splendid batting performance. Bar, that is, *Rosco's* blob. Oooopsy. Amir (32) and Joshy (27 not out), batting at one and five respectively, effectively bookended the engine room performances: Dani's 118 and Hari's 63. These [latter] two added 141 for the third wicket, and both batted - particularly running between the wickets - very well. Dani' eventually got run out by Accies' sub' fielder, whilst Hari' nicked off to Couotts in his second spell. *T-bags* and Josh were at the crease when time was called - 274 for 4 the scorebook total.

Today's win - though big in scorebook margin terms - again highlighted the shortcomings in the club's bowling and fielding. Fortunately the batting's firing. But it won't always, and there'll be tighter games than today's, and few will be won unless ground fielding and general *wakey-wakey'ness* improves, and bowlers learn to bowl better lines. Practice is the dull, but only, way things'll improve. Next up is West of Scotland at home next Sunday.

**Washed away...** [posted 13/06/10]

The Academy looked pretty well placed to keep their unbeaten league record intact at Shawholm this afternoon after racking up 261 in their 40 overs against Queen's Park. The Academy's big total owed much to the middle order and tail, after the top order had slumped to 58 for 4. *Muscles*, *NTB*, *Pasty* and *Joshy* had mustered just 33 between them and it looked like "posting a score" would fall to the engine room. This said, at least the run-rate was decent - some comfort as wickets fell. When the fourth wicket fell with the score on 58 it was just the thirteenth over. The engine room on the day comprised *Maddy*, *T-bags*, *Rosco* and *Bill'y* - the question was would

they turn out to be postmen or undertakers; would they deliver for their side, or bury them? A 105-run fifth wicket stand between *Maddy* and *T-bags* suggested they were posties! *Maddy's* good form of 24 hours previous continued as he reached his 50 off 60 balls. *T-bags* - as is now customary! - got off the mark with a maximum, before bunting his way to his half century in just 31 deliveries. Not bad given the first seven were dots! After these two departed and *Rosco* had got his name on the Academy's *Webbed Feet Award* board, *Bil'y* (15) and Carl (23) added important runs, the latter at a run-a-ball. But both succumbed to Anwar's bowling to give the same bowler a "3-for". This left *Nichty* - in at ten - and *Youngy* - last man - to see out the last four and a bit overs. 212 for 8. *Youngy* wandered to the middle unhappy to be having to bat as ever, with *Quartz's* encouragement from the top floor ringing in his ears; "This is what I've come to see!" was the cry. *Youngy* and *Nichty* duly turned out to be postal workers too; 49 were added in double quick time, Matt ending unbeaten on 34 from 22 balls, *Youngy* 14 from twelve balls. 261 for 9 the final total.

After tea the Academy boys made quick - and then regular - inroads to the *QP* batting line up. Din was adjudged LBW by umpire Russell, Kamran was cleaned up by *Bil'y*, and Dass nicked off to Carl, waiting to be given the dreaded finger by umpire Irvine. Note to self: money again well spent on neutral umpires. 😊

But with rain starting, and looking unlikely to be just a passing shower the covers came on and the teams retreated to the pavilion,.....from where they never re-emerged. Without any real debate the skippers and ump's agreed there was little chance of any more play and hands were shook. Match abandoned.

#### **Academy game off** [posted 30/05/10]

Sunday's Academy match with Active Life Club in the Strathclyde League was postponed after overnight rain added to the water that had fallen on the square yesterday and resulted in an unplayable wicket. Active Life Club are keen to play the match - as are the Academy boys - and so it will be rescheduled.

#### **Academy records second win,.....this time by actually playing** 😊 [posted 24/05/10]

Sunday was another cracker of a day. The *Walton-Young Temperature Test* was comfortably passed again and so play was possible! Strathclyde League opponents West of Scotland arrived with a pretty strong side to take on *the 'Loc* Academy. Messrs. Watson, Robertson, Luthra and Brown are regular first-teamers, and Andrew Umeed is one the northsiders' brightest hopes. *The 'Loc* also had a strong side, with the Huyser Boys in tandem for the first time. In fact the Academy featured three family duos with Young x 2, and Chaudhry x 2 as well. Youngy chose to bat first [Ed: it was very hot after all!] and *Pasty* opened with the FA Cup. 25 were added before the former was caught behind down the legside, the first of four victims for West's [unregistered 🐾] opening bowler Sutherland. And *NJ* followed shortly thereafter as he was cleaned up by the same unregistered Mr Sutherland. 29 for 2. Ooops, sorry, make that 31 for 3, as Scotty Millen came-and-went without troubling the scorers. Another unregistered wicket! Yikes 41 for 4 then - Dani' nicking one behind to Greg Watson at first slip. This time Howgate was the West bowler. Then 53 for 5 as the top order simply caved in - *T-bags* out for ten after opening his *'Loc* account with a mid-wicket maximum! Buntalicious! Could any Academy batting pair survive more than an over or two? Answer - thankfully - yes. Step forward Mr Sajjad and Mr Huyser Snr. *Joshy* and Carl added 73 for the sixth wicket before the former was bowled for 35 by Watson. An important knock from the big man. After Josh's dismissal *Bil'y* played a key supporting act to Carl - making 12 - in a partnership of 45. And slowly a respectable total was being accumulated. 175 was passed in the 39th over and after *Rosco* had clipped a 2, then scrambled a single in the final over, 192 was on the 'board.

A reasonable 40-over total to post. And in order to defend this the Academy would have to bowl and field well. West opened with Tony Lewis and Singh. Tony played his usual attacking game, with one square cut being superbly struck and racing to the boundary. The visitors' openers put on 47 for the first wicket - Lewis bowled by Tinus. Then two wickets quickly: Singh, also bowled by *T-bags*, followed by Umeed who completed a miserable afternoon after going for 31 in his four overs by chipping his second ball back to *T-bags*. Ouchay. Anjan Luthra then found himself with a third partner in an over - West 'keeper Chris Ross. These two added 42 for the fourth wicket before - in slightly unusual circumstances - Ross was retired out. It was now Luthra with his skipper, Brown. But only 1 was added before the second caught-and-bowled of the innings - Anjan out to *NJ*. Then Brown went too - a great catch by *Rosco*, standing up, off *Pasty's* bowling. 101 for 6. The West batters with the job to do were now Greg Watson and Scott Robertson, both experienced campaigners and good players. They set about the rest of the run-chase. 34 were added and though the run-rate required was climbing with good, tight bowling and fielding, there was still the chance with them in the middle that the win points could end up at Hamilton Crescent. That is until Carl bowled Robertson who had charged him. 135 for 7. Sutherland then came-and-went without troubling the scorers, bowled by *Pasty*. Howgate made 8 before being run out courtesy of a great recovery from a mis-field by Hari'. 166 for 9. There were just over two overs to go, and with his number eleven for company now Greg Watson was keen to keep the strike. On the second-last ball of Carl's fifth over he decided "drop-and-run" was the best bet. The race was on: Carl versus last man Bell. There wasn't time to scoop up the wee red cherry and so Carl simply right-footed the ball,.....straight into middle stump! "Howzat?!?" Answer: OUT! *Loc* win.

A good game in great weather, keenly fought and with not a bad word between the two teams - ideal! "Cricket's the winner!"