

Panthers lose narrowly in Alloway [posted 09/07/13]

It was back to Evening League action for the *Panthers* this evening, Ayr the hosts down in the sunshine on the coast. Another cracking evening for cricket after another scorcher of a day! And it was the home who batted first, "Overseas Amateur" Schofield opening with Mitchell. These two batted well and gave their side a good, quick, start - Mitchell going on to top-score with 41. Schofield made 18, but was first to go, caught by *Stouty* off *Disk's* bowling. To be fair, the home side's good start owed as much to the *Panthers'* wayward bowling as it did to the home side's batters' efforts. However the breakthrough was eventually made. Another 1st XI regular, Luke Speirs, was in at three for Ayr, and he - too - got into the teens before Shoaib picked up his wicket, bowling him for 14. Khan (32) then batted nicely with Mitchell as the run-rate continued to stay stubbornly high as far as the *Panthers* were concerned. Mitchell did eventually get out however, Shabir collecting his scalp, but the damage was done by then. The home total moved past 100 and was headed in the direction of 150 when "time" was called on the Ayr innings. 143 for 6. Only Matt Stout, whose three overs cost just 15, can likely be content with his bowling figures, the other bowlers used taking a bit of tap.

The *Panthers'* reply started with Shabir and Naveen Verma on debut. But it would be a debut to forget for Naveen as he holed out to Schofield off veteran Baird's bowling to record his first Poloc duck! Shabir fared little better as he was bowled by Taylor for 4. Throw in *Stouty* being bowled by Baird for 3, batting at four, and it wasn't the best start to a run-chase! *Disk* (36) and *Muscles* (32) stabilised things a bit however, with *Rosco* (20*) chipping in with a late cameo. However the guys were never really up with the required run-rate of nearly 7.5, and their innings would close on 126 for 7, 17 runs shy of Ayr's first innings' score.

Final appearance booked [posted 04/07/13]

The *Panthers* are in the final! Having gotten past BBC Scotland and Hillhead in earlier rounds, tonight saw them in Alexandria taking on Vale of Leven in the semi-final of this season's Greenwood Trophy. And the side fairly romped home. Posting 164 batting first - thanks to a half-century from Anjum and cameo 27s from each of *Stouty* and Hari' - meant that the home side would have to do something quite extraordinary if they were to win this one. And though Lawrence, like Anjum, got past 50, and was also not out, the *Panthers* eventually won comfortably. The best bowling on the night - by which we mean the most economical - was executed by Motassim and Hari', the latter adding a good three-over spell to his runs. In fact skipper Saqib used seven bowlers, only *The Professor* really taking any tap and going at 9s. Saqi' himself wasn't particularly mean on the runs conceded front, but did pick up as brace of wickets amongst the four that went down as Vale of Leven finished 114 for 4.

So a good win, and a cup final to look forward to. The oppo' look like being Renfrew, who defeated Victoria tonight in a match decided on which side had lost fewer wickets! The date for the final's next Thursday, at Meikleriggs. Anyone coming along?

Once is luck, twice.... [posted 27/06/13]

#BOOM Abid only went a did again! Not content with one T20 ton in a career, Abid decided he'd score another one,.....in the same calendar month! Last time it was 100 not out in the Glasgow Cup against Vale of Leven. This time he entertained home supporters, bunting 120 in under seventeen overs at Shawholm this evening in the Greenwood Trophy. Quite ridiculous. Thirteen 6s and seven 4s thank you very much. And all this after *Pasty* had won the toss and elected to bat first, and was standing down at the non-striker's end accumulating a pretty dreary-by-comparison 48. *Nae 6s mind!* 204 was eventually posted, Owais (8*) and Anjum (13) together as a Syed Clan combo when "Time" was called. 205 to win!

In reply Hillhead really never got close. Hardly surprising when, if you don't get 11 runs off the first over you're alrwyd behind the rate! They'd eventually finish on 93 for 9, only Richard Bond - with 26 in the middle order - making an individual score of any real note. The

wickets were shared around as seven bowlers were used, Owais picking up one which might've been two had his dad not been dozing at slip when a nick when between him and Abid! Wakey-wakey dad! There were also two run outs - *Pasty* and Mikey the executioners.

So a good win, and another good run out for some players on a glorious night. And, certainly, *that* knock will live long in the memory, the ball quite literally disappearing to all parts on a regular basis!

The tenants are seen off [posted 25/06/13]

Langside College, *a.k.a.* the tenants, were beaten tonight in the first Evening League game to get successfully completed in season 2013. For some reason, every other Tuesday that a league game's been scheduled has seen it rain, whereas there've been plenty of cup games played. Anyway, enough wittering. To the game itself. The *Panthers* batted first, and Shabir and Abid opened. The usual brisk start then ensued, but with the score having reached 31, the breakthrough for Langside. Abid bowled. Shabir would be next out after sharing in a 24-run partnership with *Mushy* who was batting up the order. He'd eventually be the second batter bowled, for a cameo 20. This left the middle order to post a decent total and *NJ* - top-scoring with 47 - secured said defendable score. Batting with Yash (14 not out) Nicky kept the scoreboard ticking over, hitting four 4s along the way, as well as a cheeky maximum. Yash then briefly had *Muscles* for company, both batters finishing with sheriffs. 132 for 4 posted; certainly defendable - even against the notoriously big-hitting collegians.

And the bowlers would do their jobs, "3-fors" from Motassim and Shoaib (in his first home match since a junior!) were the standout bowling figures as the tenants finished shy of their target, though *Mushy's* 3-0-10-2 deserve a mention too.

Over and done double-quick [posted 13/06/13]

Forget "Kwik" cricket, think "Quick" cricket - tonight saw another rapid conclusion to a cricket match involving a *Loc* side in four days! After Monday's Under 18 win over Victoria was done-and-dusted in a flash, this evening's Greenwood Trophy match between the *Panthers* and the BBC was nearly as short. The visitors batted first on a beautifully warm evening, but mustered just 79 as they were bundled out inside seventeen overs. Clearly having fun irrespective of what the scoreboard said, the batters came and went with gay-abandon, only four getting in to double figures, Jose top-scoring with 22. For the *Panthers* there were two pleasing sights: only 3 runs gifted in wides, and wickets falling at regular intervals. *Disk* - so often now the "finisher" with his bat - took a "3-for" with the ball, the other seven wickets being shared around four of the six bowlers used.

80 to win then. And here's where the speed really picked up. Shabir Baig on debut (43*) and Hassan Akram (33*) on his return, despatched the BBC bowling to all parts [Ed: mainly wooded parts!] as 80 for 0 was racked up inside seven overs. Thank you, and goodnight. Actually a very *good* night - the BBC boys were good fun, hopefully enjoying their day out in the park, but it's the *Panthers* who progress to the next round.

Panthers win in Glasgow Cup [posted 04/06/13]



Though the scorecard's still to be actually seen in the flesh - so to speak - the news from Alexandria tonight is that the *Panthers* eased past Vale of Leven in the Glasgow Cup, winning by 31 runs in a high-scoring T20. Highlight of the night was Abid's ton, as the *Panthers* posted 151 for 5 batting first. The guys then defended this as Vale of Leven finished 32 shy of what they needed for the win, Stuart taking a "3-for". We'll have [updated stat's](#) and the [scorecard](#) of the game just as soon as *that*'book makes its way into our possession. Well batted Abi!

Glasgow Cup defeat first up [posted 21/05/13]

The *Panthers* finally got their 2013 season underway tonight in glorious warm sunshine. Victoria were the visitors in a Glasgow Cup group stage T20 match. The visitors won the toss and Saqib found his charges were asked to bat first. Openers *Muscles* and Abid - on debut - strode to the middle purposefully, and got the side a decent-enough start. 16 for 0 in three overs was an entirely satisfactory start, against a bowling attack that by that stage already demonstrated a propensity to spraying the ball around. Three wides in three overs. An omen? Indeed. *Muscles* was first out, bowled by Zakir for 2. Abid then had just enough time to introduce himself to Hari' who was in at three before the latter was sent back to the clubhouse courtesy of an LBW decision. 16 for 0 had become 16 for 2. And this would then become the pattern - batters coming and going at regular intervals, their arrivals and departures being interspersed, in the main, only by umpires holding their arms out sideways, parallel to the ground! 52 for 5 came and went around the midpoint of the innings, and in the end 86 for 9 was what the scoreboard was showing, including - quite remarkably - 32 in wides, and 40 in total extras. Bizarre. But just as bloomin' well! 😊 Only two batters had made it to the heady heights of double figures - Abid (12) and *The Professor* (10) - and there were two first game entrants to the *Panthers* Webbed Feet Award table in the shapes of Hari' and Stuart. 87 to win.

Any chance of winning depended - as it always does defending low scores - in that lethal combination of tight bowling and taking wickets. Neither happened in the second innings however! The end came quickly - inside thirteen overs - as the *Panthers'* bowlers struggled not to bowl one or two loose balls each over. Five were used, and only *Disk* (1-0-3-0) who opened could say his figures weren't Certificate 18. Somewhat ironically however this was Cammy's only over, the skipper deciding he'd bring himself on instead, over four, and promptly went for 12! Ouch. Still, it's safe to say he wasn't ducking taking responsibility..... Qayyum bunted a top-scoring - and quick-fire - 28 before being trapped LBW, and Bond was the other wicket to fall, run out. Qayyum's 28 include three 6s and two 4s. *Buntalicious!* 87 for 2 was the score in the thirteenth over when the winning line was crossed, and it was defeat for the *Panthers* by eight wickets.