

Big win on the north-side [posted 31/08/14]

A thumping 207-run first wicket partnership between Owais and Abid after Yash had won the toss and decided to bat first at Hamilton Crescent set up what would end up being a big win over West of Scotland in the Sunday League. Abid (92) was the man to go and break the partnership, caught off Cox's bowling, however Owais carried on to record another hundred for the club, reaching 115 before he became of six (yes, 6!) wickets for *West's* Farndale. In what must be one of the odder-looking bowling analysis, Farndale's 7-0-26-6 looks strangely out of place amidst the other carnage. With six home bowlers going at more than 6s, Farndale's efforts were all the more remarkable, albeit he was bowling sixth change and after the big-hitting openers had all but run out of steam. The rest of line-up then chipped in, with the ninth and last wicket to fall when "Time" was called, Usman getting run out trying to squeeze out just one more run. 278 for 9 was more than plenty however, and maybe looking for 279 would just have been greedy!

The reply from *West* was spear-headed by Farndale and Cox, with Usman and *Hollywood* given the new cherry for the *Panthers*. The breakthrough came quite quickly too, 24 being on the 'board when the first home wicket fell. Wickets then continued to fall on a regular basis as only three *West* batters got in to double figures - Cox (27), Clews (24) and Singh (24) - with Yash rotating his bowling options well. *Hollywood* was top wicket-taker with a "3-for", and *Gary* again impressed, returning figures of 5.2-1-15-2. There was also a brace of wickets for Rizwan who took 2 for 8 in just three overs. *West* - with only ten players - eventually lost their ninth wicket with the score on 108 and were, courtesy of being a player-short, effectively "all out". A win by 170 runs. Good stuff, and well batted Abid and Owais.

Defeat at Toytown [poasted 06/08/14]

Yash's skippering debut ended in defeat, but it was a tight game against the BBC Scotland side that saw his captaincy record start with 0-1. There'll be more opportunities no doubt, and certainly tonight's defeat to the tenants over-by was no one-sided romp. Batting first after winning the toss, the BBC boys sped out of the traps and raced to 70 in the first ten overs. Their fast start owed much to openers Mellis (36) and Jose (34), and once these two had been returned to the bar and changing room respectively, normal order was resumed in the middle. Two other batters reached double figures, but the second half saw no increase in the run-rate. 136 was eventually posted, five wickets having been lost *en route*. For the *Panthers* *Hollywood* took a "3-for".

In the run-chase it was all about *Uzzi* as he nearly single-handedly chased down the required runs. In at four, but in quickly after Rizwan's and Noaman's early exits, *Uzzi* blasted him way to 85 before being bowled by Leithead. It was a great knock that took full advantage of tiddly boundaries, however it wasn't quite enough as the side finished on 127 for 4. Agonisingly 10 short of the winning post.

Panthers see off Hillhead [posted 29/07/14]

The *Panthers* were again indebted to *Uzzi's* bat tonight as they beat visitors Hillhead in the Evening League at Shawholm. The good doctor made 51 of the *Panthers'* 130 runs batting first, a defendable total with the bowling attack that skipper *The Professor* had at his disposal. Around *Uzzi's* half century there were lesser contributions from Motassim (24), Abid (18) and Noaman (14), all of which helped post a decent score after a shaky start that had seen openers Saurav and Rizwan both go cheaply. There was then another wobble in the middle order when the skipper and Irfan were also dismissed in quick succession, but as it was *Uzzi's* knock was sufficient. Sufficient, after that is the bowlers also did their job.

Opening the attack were Motassim and *Abi* and they'd return combined figures of 8-0-24-2, an economic spell that left the visitors needing to plunder runs from the other bowlers. In all *The Professor* used seven bowlers, Hillhead opener Ali proving to be the near immovable object - he'd make 73, the match's top score, before that man *Uzzi* stepped in and had him caught by Noaman. This effectively ended Hillhead's chances of the win, the *Panthers* eventually restricting them to 111 for 4 to secure a 19-run win.

Drama! [posted 22/07/14]

Forget the "Thriller in Manila" or the "Rumble in the Jungle", it was Shawholm for drama tonight as the *Panthers* won their top-of-the-table Evening League clash with Helensburgh. Played on another cracking night, and generally in good spirit, the game lived up to its match of day billing [Ed: okay, okay, poetic licence!] But dramatic it would be. Yet little of what would transpire was foreseen as the *Panthers* posted 116 for 7 batting first. *Uzzi* continued his good form with the bat scoring 37 from just 34 balls, and there were double figure contributions from *Irfan* (10), *Yash* (10), *Motassim* (14*) and *Zee* (11*). 116 for 7. Defendable if not "out of sight". But the bowlers would have to bowl well, and the fielding would have to be up-to-standard.

As the Helensburgh reply got under way it was clear the bowling was what was needed, *Abi* and *Zee* bowling economically, and as importantly taking wickets. Barnett was first to go, top-edging a big *yahoo* attempt and being neatly caught by *Abid* who made the necessary ground. The other opener, *Chambers*, was bowled when *Motassim* came on, this after a smart caught-and-bowled from *Abi*. But Helensburgh *Arachchi* wasn't for budging and he dug in and started to manage his side's steady accumulation of the runs needed. He was continually finding himself with new partners however as the guys at the other struggled to stay with him. In fact aside *Chambers* who'd made 19 before *Motassim* got rid of him, none of the visitors' batters would get past 8. But *Arachchi* was still looking like he believed a win was possible. His cause was assisted by some instances of poor fielding along the way too it has to be said. The spin defeated *Motassim* on the deep extra cover boundary, *Abi* found his *footy* skills weren't as good as he'd hoped at fine leg, whilst *Piercey* inexplicably threw one over the long off boundary for 4 overthrows when there wasn't even a single on! 😞 Blind panic! The required run-rate was climbing however, such that 28 were needed from the last three overs. 28 from 18. 7 were scored from the third last bowled by *Zee* meaning the equation with twelve balls left was 21 from 12. *Noaman* was bowling over nineteen. Balls one, two and three then went for 4s, and before you could say "Pierce, tell me again why you threw that ball for 4?", the pendulum had swung firmly in Helensburgh's favour. *Arachchi* was seeing it like a beach ball whereas in the gathering gloom the *Panthers* were seeing it,.....well, actually, they weren't seeing it at all as the sun set behind *CJ's* tree! And so it was the last over was to bowled and 10 were needed by the visitors for the win. *Piercey* was the bowler. 1s were scored from the first three deliveries, then a 4 as *Irfan* ran under the ball at long-on, the dark red sphere bouncing near the spot he'd been standing before rolling over the rope! 7 scored from four balls, 3 needed from two. *Arachchi* on strike. "Money on the *'burgh!*" Then more drama. Ball five is defended back to the bowler but *Arachchi*, who'd been on strike, sets off for a single! What's he doing!?! *Piercey*, calm as you like, simply fields the ball and jogs across and removes the bails at the non-striker's end. *Arachchi* out by a distance. Madness! He'd played brilliantly, done all the hard bits, then a rush of blood and it's all undone. Celebrations. However, hold on, there's still the small matter of a ball to be bowled, and it's still only 3 to win, or 2 to tie. Game still very much on for the Helensburgh side. *Lambert* was on strike and *Piercey* was the still the man with the ball in hand. Thinking is simple: full and straight, fielders don't panic. However what actually transpired was short and wide.....cut shot.....catch by *Motassim* at point! Cue proper celebrations! 😊 An exciting end to a good game, and commiserations in particular to *Arachchi* who'd played so well.....until that penultimate ball!

Groundhog Day! [posted 15/07/14]

"Can we play you every day!" was the song ringing round after the *Panthers* had followed up the Academy's derby win just 48 hours earlier over at the *Death Star*. Sunday's win was in the that day's league, tonight's T20 win was an Evening League skirmish with the *Dark Side*. And it was a good game, exciting as Sunday's had been, and - at least from this side of Pollokshaws Road - another great finish. After winning the toss, *Panthers'* skipper *Zee* decided to bowl first. This seemed a decent decision as the hosts were quickly reduced to 26 for 3, with *Abi* and *Zee* bowling well in tandem first up. But then consolidation. *Tariq* and *Pirzada* dug in and the runs started to flow as the *Panthers* change bowlers took some tap.

Crazy Horse was expensive, his three overs going for 25, Usman Malik's three even more so, costing 31. And even the *Professor* couldn't stem the flow of runs as his four-over spell went for 43. He did take a wicket however, as did Noaman who, bowling fourth change, eventually brought some control back to proceedings and took a "3-for", as - in fact - *Abi* had done too. So an odd bowling analysis section of the 'book: three bowlers' figures were 10-0-47-7, whilst the other three rolling their arms over returned 10-0-99-1! 😊 Talking about chalk and cheese! 149 for 7 was the final scoreboard total then, Tariq's 40 the best of the *Stormtrooper* effort, with Pirzada's 37 running it close. 150 exactly to win.

The run-chase was headed up by Irfan and Rizwan. The former doesn't hang around, and makes Abid look conservative with the blade. The former was involved in last week's great run-chase against the city's second-best club in the same competition. And the two didn't hang around tonight either. A whopping 95 were amassed for the first wicket, and in good time, to give the side the perfect base from which to go on a win this one. And win it they did, as *the 'Dale* skipper rotated his bowlers to no avail. Both Irfan (66) and Rizwan (39) would be dismissed, as was Noaman (9) and *Uzzi* (8), but Abid (14*) and the *Professor* (7) saw the *Panthers* across the finishing line to complete a really good chase, and secure the win. So another good game against the neighbours, and another competitive fixture played in good spirit.

Same opposition, same result [posted 08/07/14]

West of Scotland were back at Shawholm tonight again, just the two days since losing to the *Panthers* in the Sunday League. This time their visit was on Evening League business. There were a good few changes to both XIs, with *Rusty* taking charge of the *Panthers*. After the toss it was the visitors who were batting. And after a slow start that saw them stutter to 15 for 0 after four, the runs started to flow a bit. After ten overs the score was 54 for 1, the solitary wicket seeing Leckey depart for 18. Wickets then started falling regularly, however rather than slow the run-rate the revolving batter door seemed to only increase it! This was mainly due to the batter who wasn't getting out: number seven Dhillon, who was bunting away. He'd eventually hole out to give *Uzzi* his third catch of the night, for a quick-fire 47 from just 32 balls. And along the way *West* had accumulated a more-than-competitive 144 for 7. 145 to win would be a decent run-chase. Only really Noaman (4-1-14-0) had bowled really well, with the other bowlers all going at at least "5s". And Usman Malik and *Rusty* will likely want to forget their bowling, as both went at more than "10s", albeit picking up five wickets between them. 145 to win then.

To say the *Panthers* reply started poorly would be an understatement: 14 for 3 in the fourth over! Someone in the middle order was going to have to play a pretty decent innings to win this game now. Luckily the *Panthers* had two guys up to the challenge. *Uzzi* and *Rusty* were those guys, and their 65-run partnership really kick-started the innings, and placed just a shadow of doubt in *West* minds. *Rusty* would eventually depart having scored 27 from just the 23 balls, but *Uzzi* wasn't for departing. He went past 50, and - though he'd started pretty slowly in fact - he batted right through to the end for 72 off just 47 deliveries, finishing things with two big 6s off Clews' bowling. Boom, boom, thank you and good-night! With him at the end was *The Professor*, who'd made it to the middle after Rizwan selflessly ran himself out to save *Uzzi* after a cameo 12 from fourteen balls. So a good win - and back-to-back wins at that - after a really goodf, and entertaining, run-chase. Well batted *Uzzi*.

Bounce-back win [posted 06/07/14]

After the disappointment of last Sunday, when *Stouty's* ton wasn't quite enough to get a win, the *Panthers* bounced back in style this afternoon with a convincing win over West of Scotland in the Sunday League. The game was played in beautiful sunshine, on another glorious summer day. The toss was won by visiting skipper Clews, who chose to bat first. And opening for the Hamilton Crescent side was none other than Gopi Nair, formerly of this Parish. It was good too see Gopi back at Shawholm,.....and even better to see him back on the spectator benches in the third over as his stumps were rearranged by a genuinely "good nut" from *Abi*. 8 for 1. It was then 8 for 2 as Leckey nicked *Abi* to first slip where Sajal held

on. A good low grab. 17 for 3 then followed just eleven deliveries later when the same *Abi:Sajal* combo resulted in Sangapu taking the long walk back having not disturbed the scorers. 17 for 3 then, and *Abi* with all three. And as impressively, Sajal with two catches at first slip! Noaman was bowling from the Burrell End and though he'd eventually finish wicket'less, he kept thing tight and helped build the pressure, his figures of 8-4-17-0 accurately reflecting this.

The fourth wicket to fall was Dickson's, the *West* opener being sold down the river by partner Farndale after a double-play attempt involving *Pasty* and Rizwan. Farndale was on strike and cut the ball to point. *Pasty* collected the ball and shelled it at the non-striker's end where Dickson was out of the crease. His run out attempt missed but Farndale then decided a run was on and started off towards the River End. However Rizwan had been backing up and had the ball in his hands. Dickson, likely startled by the on-rushing Farndale then belatedly fell on the proverbial sword by crossing with Farndale, to end up the run out batter back at the striker's end. Double-play. Dickson out for 11, Farndale likely with some penance to pay. Farndale, however, would be the only *West* batter to really make an impression, runs-wise, in the innings. His 35 was slowly accumulated, and he did survive five chances - four grassed catches and one big stumping appeal - but he hung around and was the not out batter come the last wicket. [Ed: being harsh, we might suggest that *West* might've ended up 103 for 9, but Farndale himself was 39 for 5!] And 103 for 9 it was in the end. Aside Farndale and Dickson, only Singh, with 15, got in to double figures. 104 to win.

Abi's "3-for" had been matched by *Blue Knee*, and *Pasty* bowled eight overs for just 15 runs. The other bowler called in to action was *Matty* and his 1 for 25 was perfectly respectable too. The run-chase was pretty routine after tea, with *Stiffy* (32*) and *Pasty* (54) all-but seeing their side home without loss, however, after gitting a couple of 6s in his 54, *Pasty* tried to win it with one more and was bowled by Clews, leaving Rizwan to get to the middle on debut and see the side across the finish line with Elliott. Eleven overs were all that were needed.

On the wrong end of 559 runs! [posted 29/06/14]

I wonder who was the last Poloc player to score a ton, see their side post 277 in 40 overs along the way, and end up on the losing side! Extraordinary really, but it happened today, and *Stouty* was the unfortunate player. The game was the Sunday League clash with Kilmarnock, the side from down the M77 making their first senior visit to Shawholm for many years. Batting first the *Panthers* started briskly,.....and then accelerated. *Stiffy* scored a cameo 30 at the top of the order, before Saurav - in his farewell innings for the club - notched a 77 and *Stouty* smote his 75-ball 108. 277 for 8 was the final damage, a total aided it has to be said by some pretty sluggish fielding on the part of the visitors. And *Stouty* - en route to his maiden ton - was a beneficiary of grassed chances at least twice. *Killie* were to rue those drops as *Stouty* went past three figures. His 75-ball innings included fourteen 4s and a maximum. 278 to win.

Unlikely? Well maybe. But the coach's instruction to guard the boundaries from the start to get the already high run-rate higher still and bowl the oppo' out of the game were ignored, *Disk* instead preferring to set a really attacking field from the off. Ten overs in and some loose bowling allied to decent shot-making and the fast outfield saw the Killie 59 for 0. Twenty overs in and though three wickets had fallen, the visitors were now 135 for 3. And still the skipper thought the answer might be to do without sweepers. This said, to be fair, the fielding itself wasn't helping much as there was a Kilmarnock-like feel to some of the bio-mechanics on show! Jawad had come-and-gone for a 39-ball 59, and it was young Azeem who was holding the innings together. He didn't give a sniff of a chance until he was well past 100, a stumping chance when it did come being bungled by Yash. Unfortunate that, because Yash had had a good stay behind the sticks with three good grabs, and only the one bye being conceded. It's a pity the rest of the extras weren't as frugal: 19 wides didn't help in the final analysis as Azeem powered on to score an unbeaten 153 and see his side home -

eight wickets down - with over three overs to spare. The *Panthers'* bowling figures should be left to rest in peace, buried as they have been somewhere on the policies!

So a day to remember for two juniors: *Stouty* and *Azeem* were the dominant players on the day, and it's just a pity the former couldn't have ended up on the winning side.

Big win for the *Black Cats* [posted 24/06/14]

The *Panthers* were in action again this evening - a fourth game in eight days. [Ed: surely even *Saurav* is happy with this volume of matches! 😊] And the action concerned was the Evening League match against BBC Scotland, at Shawholm. With two other sides in action this evening, and a few invitees unavailable due to work or other commitments, the *Panthers* side saw 1st XI skipper *Pasty* make an appearance, along with The President! Also in the side again was *Blue Knee* as his recovery from injury nears completion. After the toss it was the *Panthers* that were batting and *Noaman* and *Irfan* opened. However the latter would get a first-baller and was back in the clubhouse almost immediately, leaving *Noaman* with *Blue Knee* for company. These two put on 81 for the second wicket, *Euan* departing for a brisk 37 at more than a run-a-ball. *Noaman*, too, was striking the wee red cherry well and would eventually just miss out on a half century, making 44 from just 37 deliveries. *Saurav* and *Adnan* were the other two batters who'd be dismissed as the *Panthers* racked up a really big total. *Euan's* and *Noaman's* knocks had been, together, a great base for the side, a base that *Pasty* - batting at five - built upon. He'd hit a 28-ball 61 that included four 4s and five 6s, as the total accelerated upwards, finally ending up 190 for 5.

A big score. 191 is a big ask too, chasing. And when three of the opposition's top five batters recorded ducks, *Motassim* and *Abhishek* running riot, it was well-nigh an impossible ask. Seven bowlers would be used in the 15.4 overs eventually bowled, with *Motassim's* "3-for" the pick of the opening spells. Others getting in on the wicket-taking act were *Abhishek* (as noted), *Irfan*, *Adnan* and *Rusty*. *Rusty*, in fact, would pip *Motassim* for the MVP bowling prize, grabbing a "4-for"! #YouNeverLoseIt A win by 133 runs in the end.

Third game in six days [posted 22/06/14]

The *Panthers* were in action today in the Sunday League over at Whitehaugh against *Kelburne*, who'd been the side's opponents on Thursday at Shawholm in the Greenwood Trophy. And given the *Panthers* were also in action against *GHK* on Tuesday, today's game was their third in six days. And again the sun shone! But unfortunately the fiery ball in the sky was the only real bright spot of the afternoon as a horrible batting collapse saw the side lose by 57 runs. And when the end came in the second innings, it came in a hurry as *Kelburne* youngster, *Wylie*, took four wickets in his first over to see the *Panthers* skittled for just 105. Watching the carnage at the non-striker's end in the final over was skipper *Blue Knee* who'd end up unbeaten on 26. The only other *Panther* to get into the 20s was *Usman Zakir* at the top of the innings, with 27. And aside *Saurav's* 16, none of the other batters got past 7! And there were five ducks to boot! 😞

The target being - unsuccessfully - chased when *that* collapse happened was 162, set by *Kelburne* batting first and owing much to opener *O'Connell's* 43. *Gilmour* (29), *Ogilvie* (23*) and *Allan* (21) also chipped in with cameos, and with ball in hand there was a "3-for" for *Saqi'*. But that's really all there is to write home about as the club "disease" of failing to bat the overs, and the infectious trait that is.....getting out, both reared their heads again. Never mind though, tomorrow's another day as they say. Or, more accurately, Tuesday's another game! Yup, the *Panthers* are back in action again in a couple of days, when hopefully the ailing batting will be a little better!

Greenwood Trophy exit [posted 19/06/14]

Only 48 hours after last playing, a much-changed *Panthers* side took to the field this evening on another gloriously warm summer's night. The opposition were *Kelburne* at the quarter-final stage of this competition. And it was a strong side that'd had travelled from

Whitehaugh, the eleven featuring three of the players who'd played in the CSL match at the same ground between the sides about a month previously.

After the toss it was the *Panthers* who would bat first. *Muscles* and Davie Armour opened, but unfortunately it'd be neither's night as the side slumped to 2 for 0. And the runs wouldn't ever, in fact, really start to flow. *Stouty* and *Blue Knee* did stick on 18 together for the biggest (!) partnership of the innings, and they could say they were unlucky to an extent in that a lot of good shots simply hit fielders. Sensing the need to get on with things, Euan was nipped out when he was beaten by a Campbell delivery. This brought *Stiffy* to the middle, but 13 runs later his and *Stouty's* partnership was ended too. And from there on in it was the rotating door effect, with *Panthers* batters coming-and-going from the middle regularly. None would get beyond 13, though four got in to double figures. The visiting bowlers weren't in generous mood as regards extras either, only 3 of the eventual 59 runs that were eventually amassed coming via this route. 59 for 9. Hmmm.

The second innings was a formality. Aside getting rid of Miller for 13, the Kelburne top order never looked to be in much danger. O'Connell Snr. *was* given a life when Usman Malik dropped an easy return catch, but that was a bout it. 61 for 1 in exactly nine overs. Thank you and good-night. The only real bonus we guess was that this one was over so quickly everyone got to retire to the clubhouse to watch the *Engerlanders* lose!

Back in the mix [posted 17/06/14]

The *Panthers* were back in Glasgow Cup group stage action tonight, making their cross-river trip to take on GHK. The game was at GHK's temporary residence for season 2014, Garscube, erstwhile home ground of now -defunct Glasgow University Staff CC. Batting first on a glorious night, the *Panthers* opened with Abid and Sajal. But only 15 were put on by this pair before the first wicket fell; Abid getting cleaned up. Sajal then departed another 15 runs or so later - for 5 - with the scoreboard now reading 33 for 2. The openers' departures resulted in Saurav (at four) and Usman Zakir (at five) being together, and their ensuing partnership would define the innings, and set up the ultimate win. They added 54 in double-quick time, respectively finding or passing over the top of the boundary rope no fewer than thirteen times. It was Saurav's wicket that split up the pairing, going for 31. Usman continued on however and would bat through until the end, finishing unbeaten on 65, eventually with *Rusty* as partner. 125 for 6.

In their reply, a number of GHK's players got "starts", with five getting in to double-figures. However unfortunately for them, none of those batters then went on, the top-score in the second innings being just the 23 that two of them scored. For the *Panthers* [Ed: though some of the details are a little sketchy from the 'book!] there were two wickets each for Zaeem, playing his first game of the season, and Adnan. Adnan's 4-0-14-2 was an important spell, his restricting of the GHK lower order, being one of the main reasons the home side ended up 13 runs shy of the *Panthers'* total. Next up in the Glasgow Cup is Kilmarnock in the last of the group stage matches, however before that the side's in Greenwood Trophy action on Thursday against Kelburne.

Helensburgh match report [posted 29/05/14]

The morning after the night before, and with scorebook now to hand, your intrepid reporter will try and recount the goings on at Ardencaple in the Evening League match between hosts Helensburgh and the *Panthers*. The *Panthers* were in the field first, and opening bowlers Noaman and *Abi* got the side off to a good start, restricting the run-rate, and as importantly making early breakthroughs. *Abi* nipped out both openers, before Usman Zakir ran out Lang, Helensburgh's number three, without scoring. 15 for 3! Good start. But far from being the start of a march to a crushing victory, this would turn out to be the high watermark of the evening. Dropped catches and loose bowling - 35 were leaked in extras! - allowed Helensburgh to somehow post 151 for 5 come the end of their innings. Not a bad come back from 15 for 3 methinks. The change bowlers all took tap, and gifting 25 in wides is verging on the criminal! 😬 Only really Abhishek and Noaman can hold their bowling heads up at

practice tonight. For Helensburgh, Curtis's 62 was the stand-out knock, with cameos from Chambers (18) and Birrell (21*).

And if the larger part of the first innings was poor, this trend continued in the *Panthers'* dig. None of the top five batters got past 7, and only Usman Zakir (24*), Motasim (21*) and - maybe - Noaman (13) avoid criticism. 78 for 7 was all that the side could muster, the generosity of their dishing out of extras being brought in to sharp focus by Helensburgh's frugality in this department - only 4 extras came the way of the *Panthers*. So a thumping 73-run thrashing, and much to ponder for guys on the long road back from along the coast.

Evening League news [posted 28/05/14]

The scorebook's still to make it back from darkest Ardencaple, but the news on the wires is that the *Panthers* lost out to Helensburgh in their Evening League match this evening. Though details are less than sketchy, the suggestion is that the hosts batted first and - encouraged by some dropped catches - posted 150-odd, after being 15 for 3 (!), a total the *Panthers* didn't manage to chase. More details, as well as the full scorecard, and updated stat's and a brief match report, will follow as soon as possible.

Quarter-final berth secured [posted 22/05/14]

It was another close game, and - pleasingly - another Poloc win! This time there were three balls to go when the winning runs were scored and the *Panthers* passed their target of 131 to beat BBC Scotland in this first round Greenwood Trophy match. Batting first the *Toytown* tenants' 130 owed much to 49 from Qayyum, and a couple of cameos from Edwards (25) and Blane (17). For the *Panthers* Noaman and Usman Malik bowled well up-top, the former grabbing three wickets in his four overs, whilst Usman returned figures of 4-0-22-2. At one stage, in fact, the BBC were 14 for 3, but a 57-run partnership between Edwards and Qayyum, and then a 46-run partnership between Quayyum and Blane, saw them recover to post a really competitive score, notwithstanding the *totey wee* boundaries.

The reply was spearheaded by Usman - "I hit 6s" - Zakir and *Muscles*. However at 16 for 3 there'd be no 6s, and *Muscles* had muscled just the 1 run and back discussing range hitting with Usman in the changing room. The other batter out was Sajal, who'd come and gone for just the 1 in his five-ball stay in the middle. But just as in the first innings, there was then a partnership put together - between *Stouty* and *the Professor*, the latter making his 2014 playing debut - and the score moved on to 48. The fourth wicket fell on this score, Usman departing. Irfan came-and-went without scoring shortly thereafter to bring the skipper to the crease. This would be the key partnership: *Disk* and *Stouty* racing along at a-run-a-ball and adding 49 before Cammy was bowled by Edwards for 23. 97 for 6, and so still some work to do. *Stouty* was still there though, and - again after another wicket fell immediately after another - he and Noaman batted together to see the side across the finish line in the twentieth over. Noaman's 16 from nine balls was crucial late on, as was *Stouty* batting to the end for his 49 not out.

A good win, and either Kelburne or Vale of Leven are the side's quarter-final opponents in a home tie.

***Panthers* start with a win** [posted 27/04/14]

The *Panthers'* Sunday League campaign is off-and-running. And the good news is it started with a big win. Skipper *Muscles* was in charge, and there were *Panthers* debuts for almost half the side, including professional *Nofs* who was getting a Sunday afternoon run out. The visitors, Prestwick, also had their professional in their line-up, in addition to their other overseas player. Batting first the Ayrshire club lost wickets right from the start. Only Jake Stafford (25) of the top order managed to score at all heavily, Shazad Rafiq (6), *Aussie* overseas player Thomas Fleet (1) and skipper Kevin Lawler (16) all going cheaply at the other end. The wickets were being shared around with all bar Usman Minhas grabbing at least one. *Aussie* "Overseas Amateur" Blake Emblem, with 35, held things together a bit, batting with the tail, and it was his knock that meant 127 for 9 was eventually posted.

The run-chase was a formality as it turned out, with Abid and *Muscles* both remaining unbeaten and seeing their side to a ten-wicket win. Abid (74*) was particularly destructive, hitting seven 4s and three 6s as he and Aamir passed the finish line inside just seventeen overs. As you'd imagine the Prestwick bowling figures weren't pretty, none really being spared in Abid's onslaught. So a big win, and at the double for good measure.