

### **Evening League win at Ayr** [posted 11/08/15]

Ayr were the Academy XI's opponents this evening, down in Alloway. And with a slightly later start time agreed because New Cambusdoon was hosting the Scotland versus Ireland Under 17 match, it was eighteen-overs-a-side. *Youngy* was in charge and, after forgetting to say anything the first time the coin was tossed, then guessed "heads" second time and was right, so had a bat. [Ed: or in his case, didn't!] The Academy batters that made it to the middle then capitalised on a decent surface and good outfield to plunder 144 for 5 in their innings. Chris' top-scored, at three, benefitting from being dropped twice, and ended up with 58, whilst Shankar chipped in with 22, with cameos from Aliyan (16) and *Flanners* (17\*). Ayr then never really got going in their run-chase, slipping to 13 for 4 at one stage, as disciplined bowling (only 2 in extras gifted in the innings) and tight, energetic, fielding saw no easy runs on offer. As pressure was created and maintained the wickets came. There were braces for Abhi', Aliyan and *Pasty*. 67 for 6 was the Ayr reply, and with it a 77-run for the Academy that sees them remain undefeated in the Evening League this year. Updated Statistics and the scorecard are online.

### **Academy continue unbeaten** [posted 08/08/15]

Almost unbelievably, the Academy side played their first Sunday League match of season 2015 today! The Tryst was the venue, Stenhousemuir the opposition. In the field first, the Academy side restricted their hosts to 162 for 9 in their innings with *Roberto* taking 4 for 32 in his eight overs. There were a brace of wickets each for *Disk* and *Pasty* too, and Ahmed-Raza returned impressively economical figures of 8-1-26-0 opening the bowling with his slow left armers. Then in the Academy's reply, *Stouty* (60) and Shankar (32) were the main contributors as - in an exciting finish - the side sneaked home by one wicket, the last pair of Bilal and Ahmed-Raza holding their nerves to see the side home. [Ed: there are also rumours of Shankar breaking *yet* another bat!] Updated Statistics and the scorecard are online.

### **Academy still unbeaten in the Evening League** [posted 21/07/15]

The Academy side was over on the north-side this evening, taking on Hillhead at Hughenden. The match, played on the astro-turf wicket, was a low-scoring affair, and was reduced to eighteen overs-a-side, the evening being more akin to April or September, than mid-July! Batting first, the academy poasted 94 all out, being dismissed in the last over, and their total owing much to 21 from *CJ* and 34 from Chris'. Then in their reply, the home side were restricted to 84 for 6 in their eighteen overs, the Academy successfully tying down the Hillhead batters often enough, for long enough, to secure a 10-run win. Seven bowlers were used, with *Beast* being the pick of the bunch, returning figures of 4-0-10-2. He ably backed-up by Aliyan who, sharing the new ball with *Roberto* took 1 for 12 in his four overs. There were also a couple of run outs, *Ihty* executing both. So another win, accepted not as close as last week's tied-score win against Prestwick, but close enough for the result to be in the balance for long enough, and in particular early on in the Hillhead reply when Foster (30) was putting on a bunting demonstration. Luckily his wicket was snaffled courtesy of a *CJ* grab of *Beast's* bowling. Statistics and the scorecard are online.

### **Academy remain unbeaten in the Evening League** [posted 14/07/15]

Tonight's Academy win in the Evening League was a thriller, as their game against Prestwick went down to the wire. In the field first, the Academy managed to restrict the visitors from Ayrshire to just 99 for 8 in their innings, this after they'd raced out to 34 for 0 in the first five overs. But there was no panic, and the first wicket went down with the score on 36. And from there-on-in, wickets fell at regular intervals. *Beast*, skippering the side, had made the breakthrough and would go on to take a "3-for", taking the wickets of Carlyle, Egerton and Rafiq. His economy rate of 6.25 was a tad on the high side, but taking the wickets he had it likely wasn't too costly for the side. And with Amaan's four overs costing just 6 runs, and both *Roberto* and *Gary* returning economy rates of 5 or less, Lewis's strike-rate more than offset the fact his overs had "cost a few". Bilal's - with a brace of wickets - was the next best bowler in terms of wickets. [Ed: though his attempted catch at mid-off should surely have seen him involved in another dismissal! 😊] 99 for 8 it was then, a round ton to win. The run-chase started well enough with *CJ* and *Rosco* putting on 19 for the first wicket, and

though the run-rate wasn't electric, it was satisfactory as the Prestwick skipper used up the allocations of his more experienced bowlers. *Rosco*, with 25, would be the third batter out, with the score on 49, and by then Aliyan was out in the middle. And it'd be Aliyan who'd grab the game by the scruff of its neck and drag it toward's the Academy's winning circle. Just 36 for 2 at the halfway point, became 61 five overs later, with another two wickets having fallen. But Aliyan was still in and he managed to drive the side towards the finish line with a mixture of good bunting and scurrying between the wickets. The last over started with 9 runs needed for the win. The first two balls then saw Aliyan hit a 4 and run 2. 3 runs to win. Ball three was a drag-down-hit-me-for-4 ball that Aliyan.....smacked straight to long off, who held on to a good catch. 3 from three needed now, and it was the *Shah Boys* together. Uzzair scored 1 on ball four, and *Sobo* 1 on ball five. Scores tied. The last ball.....dot! A tie. But, wait, a quick read of the playing conditions confirms an Academy win! #Toffee Statistics and the scorecard are online.

#### **Academy record back-to-back Evening League wins** [posted 07/07/15]

The Academy side were back in T20 Evening League action this evening, East Kilbride's midweek XI being the visitors. And Matt Stout's charges carried on from where they left off last week at Weirs with another win. Batting first as they'd done seven days previously, the Academy racked up 165 for 3 in their twenty overs, with *Stiffy* and Owais both notching up half centuries at rates of better than a-run-a-ball. Then in the East Kilbride reply, the visitors were restricted to just 54 for 5, with good tight bowling and decent fielding tying down the Torrance House side's batters. Two run outs reflect the scoreboard pressure that got to some of the batters in the second innings, and such was the comfort that the skipper felt as the innings progressed, *CJ* rolled his arm over! 2-1-4-0 was a perfectly respectable return too! Statistics and the scorecard are online.

#### **Academy win in belated season opener** [posted 30/06/15]

The Academy side finally got their competitive season up-and-running, and secured an Evening League over at Albert Park first up. Defending just 91 for 7, the Academy bowlers managed to bowl out their opponents for just 68, thanks in the main to a "4-for" for Ahmed-Raza, and a "3-for" for *Beast*. In the first innings, only *Beast* had made it to 20, though no more, as he was bowled by Sarfraz. 15 extras [Ed: remembering the total was just 91] certainly helped too. And if commending the bowlers on securing the win, it's also maybe worth suggesting that Weirs were actually 68 for 14, four catches being grassed by the Academy side, this part of their game being lacking as regards the required skills level. Stuff to work on. Statistics and the scorecard are online.