

Panthers win the return T20 [posted 01/09/15]

The *Panthers* were in midweek T20 action again this evening, playing West of Scotland in the return leg of their somewhat grandiosely titled "bi-series"! Winning the toss, the side were in the field first and quickly got in amongst the wickets. The total had reached just 6 when *Ihty* made the breakthrough, cleaning up Greene. Another 6 were then added by Choudri and Ashworth before the latter became *Ihty's* second scalp, *Beast* holding on to the catch at short extra cover. And so it continued: wickets falling at regular intervals as eight bowlers were used. No fewer than four others grabbed a wicket, with the seventh coming courtesy of a run out, a smart pick up and direct hit at the striker's end, from mid-on, by Ali. Top stuff. It was fifteen-overs-a-side and when the last ball had been bowled the *Panthers'* hosts had made 62 for 7. 63 to win. Abid and *CJ* opened, but were soon parted, the former being adjudged LBW despite his front pad being nearer the bowler's end than the striker's end! *Ouchay!* This brought Ali in, but he departed ball one to get Mckechnie on a hat-trick. And Shankar would face the hat-trick ball, calmly defending it back down the track. 8 for 2 at this stage. 33 were added for the third *Panthers* wicket between Shankar and *CJ*, only a run out seeing them separated, and *CJ* back "in the hutch". Shankar however was still in, and going well. He'd end up not out at the end having bunted 33 from just 21 deliveries. At the other end Abdullah (10) was a partner for Shankar for a bit, before *Beast* (8*) came in and hit a 2 followed by a straight maximum to see the side over the line in just the eighth over. A win by six wickets, and good fun in the gathering gloom. Updated statistics and the scorecard are online.

Panthers win the first back-to-back T20 [posted 25/08/15]

The *Panthers* hosted West of Scotland this evening in the first of two T20 friendlies - the return match at Hamilton Crescent is next Wednesday. The game was keenly contested and, with *West* needing a 6 from the last ball to win, went down to the wire. Fortunately - for the *Panthers* at least - the last ball wasn't despatched in to the trees and the *Panthers* recorded the win. However though ball 240 wasn't bunted for 6 there had been plenty maximums earlier on, with *CJ* smacking four of them in his 35, and Aliyan, Amaan and Irfan striking one a-piece. *Buntalicious!* In their second innings defence of 114, *Beast* took a "3-for", and there were braces of wickets each for Aliyan, Shaan and *Stiffy*. Updated statistics and the scorecard are online.

Home win over Renfrew [posted 18/08/15]

After nearly a month without any action because of the weather the *Panthers* were finally back on the paddock tonight, Renfrew the opposition at home in the Evening League. After winning the toss the visiting skipper elected to bat first and so the *Panthers* were in the field. Abhi' and Shaan took the "new" ball for the *Panthers*, Abhi' exercising seniority in coming in from the Cart End. And after a cautious start by the visiting batters, the breakthrough was secured, the Renfrew skipper's wicket being the first to fall. Bowled by Shaan. And this'd just be the start of the re-arrangement of furniture by the *Panthers* bowlers as no fewer than eight wickets would be taken by the same mode. In fact Jawad was so keen that no-one should depart in any other way that he insisted on dropping any catching chances that came his way! And Abid, similarly, produced a "refusal" when Shankar's throw to him was fumbled when it seemed easier to execute the run out! Okay, we jest, but it's still pretty unusual to see so many batters cleaned up. The two non-bowled dismissals saw *Pasty* execute a caught and bowled to dismiss Haider, and Abid stump Mahmood. The latter gave Irfan his wicket, the former was the first of three for *Pasty*. Shaan and *Anjji* each took two wickets, with one a-piece for Abhi' and Uzzair. So all six bowlers used were in the wickets, and generally it was a pretty decent fielding display would good energy form all the players. And special word for Jawad: though teased for his drops, he did a sterling job "in the ring" at square-leg and "45". Great effort shown.

To the run-chase then after just 70 was the target for the win. Abid opened with Uzzair, but the former stayed just the one ball as he chipped the first delivery of the innings straight to Wilson at mid-off who clung on at the second attempt. 0 for 1. Shankar then joined Uzzair and the two added 46 for the second wicket, in decent time, reaching that mark in the ninth

over. However Shankar departed on the last ball of the ninth over, trapped LBW by Muzaffar for 24 (33 balls). Jawad was the new man in, but he'd not trouble the scorers and so Uzzair then had Ali for company. He'd last ten balls, but departed after scoring 2 to bring Irfan in. And Irfan's partner was *Pasty*, who'd got to the middle after Uzzair had been fourth out having scored 17 (36 balls). So from 46 for 1 it was not 51 for 5, and as importantly in the context of the game, Renfrew had dramatically cut the run-rate, overs ten through fifteen seeing the *Panthers* - effectively - 6 for 4! Interesting. And remember it was an eighteen-overs-a-side match so with fifteen overs bowled, and 70 the target, the equation was 19 needed from eighteen balls. Interesting indeed. However there was no panic. Irfan sensibly got bat on ball and would progress to 4 not out from five balls face - ideal - and *Pasty* scored a run-a-ball 17, finishing things with consecutive 4s off the first two balls of the final over, to see the side home with four balls to spare. 73 for 5. A good game, made the more exciting by the events of overs ten through fifteen in the second innings. A good first half too, where the *Panthers* players demonstrated good effort and decent application with the ball and in the field. And as pleasing: a match played in good spirit, on a pleasantly balmy night!

Greenwood Trophy loss to Drumpellier [posted 16/07/15]

The Greenwood Trophy was tonight's cup competition, and the *Panthers* - after winning their first group stage match seven days ago - were in confident mood going in to the match, at home, against Drumpellier. And judging by the strength of side the Langloan club sent along the M74 it seems they're as keen on winning this trophy as they were the Western Cup! 🍌 Batting first the *Panthers* batters struggled to 74 all out, with no-one really getting themselves in. Three batters got in to double figures - Shankar, Uzzair and Amaan - but aside them the 'card was binary code'esque. In fact extras, totalling, 16 were second-highest scorer to Amaan with 16. Not that the low score had seen a collapse, nope, the last wicket - when it came - didn't fall until the final over, Shaan being stranded with the sheriff's badge. And 74 wasn't ever likely to be defendable given the strength of side *Drumps* were fielding, and so it turned out as only one wicket - *Flanners* taking a neat grab standing up to Abhi' to get rid of Sabri - was taken. McLaren finished 45 not, with Sajjad (11*) for company, and the winning post was reached with nine overs to spare. So a comprehensive win, but still everything to play for in these group stages, Clydesdale the next opponents next Thursday. Updated statistics and the scorecard are online.

Panthers just lose out [posted 14/07/15]

The *Panthers'* improvement in form continued this evening in the Evening League at Renfrew. Batting second, the side just failed to chase the 129 needed to beat their hosts, finishing 8 shy of their target, seven down. Renfrew's 128 for 6 had centred on Hussain's 48 at the top of the order, with Kalash's 20, batting at four, being a meaningful cameo. For the *Panthers* the six wickets taken were shared around, with only Shaan and *Crazy Horse* going wicket-less. 129 to win it was. 5 for 1 wasn't the best start in their run-chase, however Mirza and Joe put on 27 for the second wicket, and by halfway it was 51 for 2. Shankar (24) continued his good run of form with the bat in adding 40 with Joe for the third wicket, but when this fell with the score on 72 the *Panthers* still needed 57 runs, with just seven overs left. *Anjii*, in at five, wasn't going to give up the fight however, and - hitting three 4s along the way - scored a quick-fire 22 from just fourteen balls to bring his side back into it. But he couldn't hang around and holed out off the bowling of Hussain. 115 for 7. And just the last over to bowl. 6 *were* scored off over twenty but this wasn't quite enough, and Renfrew got home by 8 runs. So another Evening League defeat, but - again - improvement. That first league win can't be too far away. Updated statistics and the scorecard are online.

Panthers lose again in the Evening League, but signs of improvement are there

[posted 07/07/15]

Another Evening League match and another heavy defeat for the *Panthers*, as life in Division 1 proves tough. Tonight's opponents were Uddingston, who chased 89 to record the win, using less than half their allotted overs to do so. *But*, it's not all doom and gloom. Batting first the *Panthers* again scored more runs than they'd done on their immediately previous outing, and this week used their entire 20-over allocation. Progress. Shankar was again the

top-scorer, with 21, the form that saw him selected for last weekend's Shawholm side continuing. Aside his 21 there were two other batters who got in to double figures, *The Professor* with 14, and Joe Scott on debut with 13. In the second innings, *Uddy's* openers Macleod and Rai made light work of the chase, finishing 52 and 35 not out respectively and needing only eight overs to reach the winning post. Updated statistics and the scorecard are online.

***Panthers* in more Evening League woes** [posted 30/06/15]

The Poloc *Panthers* suffered more batting woes this evening as they slumped to 59 all out chasing opponents Weirs' first innings total of 132. Aside Shankar's 23 at the top of the order there really wasn't much to be too pleased about in the run-chase, this after 132 for 9 had been posted by the visitors from Newlands, batting first. Updated statistics and the scorecard are online.

Oh dear... [posted 23/06/15]

This was really a shocker! Bowling first in tonight's Evening League Division 1 match with GHK, the *Panthers* somehow managed to concede 33 runs in wides - bowling an additional 21 deliveries to boot - and let slip a decent start (GHK were 52 for 6 at one point) to allow their opponents to post 138 for 9, setting the *Panthers* 139 to win. Bhaal Hussain, batting at five, top-scored for GHK with 40, whilst number ten Newman struck an unbeaten 25. The bowling figures meanwhile, aside Shaan's 4-0-17-4 were pretty horrid, in particular Jawad's and Irfan's two overs that cost 12 each. Rizwan didn't quite match these two, but his solitary over *did* cost 9 too. Ouch!

But, believe it or not, the bowling performance wasn't the worst part! Oh, no, that was still to come after the innings break. Here's the *Panthers'* 'card: 2, 1, 0, 1, 2, 1, 0, 4, 6, 1, 0. 🤔 True! 30 all out, with 12 of these coming in extras! [Ed: and only a died-in-the-wool optimist would say that at least the extras conceded by the *Panthers* represented a smaller proportion of their opponents' total than *vice versa*!] Yup, 30 all out, and a whopping 108-run defeat. At least the weather was good.....

Damp end, but a win under D/L [posted 21/06/15]

Today's first Sunday League match against West of Scotland for the *Panthers* ended in heavy rain, with the visitors to Shawholm 128 for 9 chasing the *Panthers'* mammoth first innings score of 285 7. And as you'd expect, after consulting the D/L tables, the *Panthers* had done more than enough to secure the win, the second innings having progressed beyond the point that allows a determination of a result by this means. For the interested, the tables indicated it was a 127-run win.

The big *Panthers* total owed much to the top four batters who, between them, scored 234 of the eventual total of 285. *Rosco* (88), *Stouty* (76), Rizwan (38) and Shankar - on competitive debut - (32) all made useful contributions. All the visiting bowlers took a bit of punishment, though Green's four-wicket haul improved the look of his figures: 4 for 26. And his "4-for" was matched by *Izzy* after tea when he dealt with much of the *West* top order. He was actually playing to have a bat, but after not troubling the scorers 🤔 he took the new ball and had his revenge! Also in the wickets with a brace each were Bilal and *The Professor*.

The rain, when it eventually reached a persistence that drove the players back inside, came in the 27th over, and with no chance of further play the skippers shook hands and passed responsibility to Messrs. *Duckworth* and *Lewis*...

***Panthers* versus Victoria - Part 2!** [posted 17/06/15]

With thanks to Victoria for supplying the "lost" part of last night's scorebook [Ed: *Yashy*?!?!] we can now report on the match secure in the knowledge that - if not before - our reader knows that these reports are commonly written from absolutely no first-hand experience of the game in question! Last night's match was the Evening League opener for the *Panthers* and saw club debuts for Mirza Baig and Jawad Butt. Under the *skipperage* of Yash, the side

took to the Bellahouston field to try and restrict their hosts to a manageable total, no mean feat given the game was being played on an astro-turf wicket. Opening for the *Panthers'* attack was *Disk* and *Shaan*, for Victoria it was *Quddoos* and *Raja*. As would happen in the *Panthers'* innings later, wickets would prove hard to come by as batters swung through the line on the batter-friendly astro-turf deck. *Quddoos* would top-score for his side with 47, a score nearly matched by number six *Iqbal* (42). Whilst for the *Panthers* there was a wicket a-piece for *Uzzair*, *Rizwan* and *Usman Minhas*. 194 was, however, the cost of the three dismissals as Victoria posted a "big one". 195 to win!

Whilst the loss was also a "big one" - 62 runs - there were some pluses for the *Panthers*. *Disk* (44) and *Rizwan* (44) both batted positively and - in effect - cancelled out *Quddoos*'s and *Iqbal*'s contributions, however the rest of the batting line up struggled to match their Victoria counterparts. 132 for 4 was the final score when the innings closed, resulting in the 62-run loss. Good to get the Evening League up-and-running though, and from now-on-in the games come thick-and-fast.

***Panthers* lose in league opener** [posted 16/06/15]

The Poloc *Panthers* were in Evening League action this evening over at Bellahouston Park [Ed: the Academy side's Evening League match with Kelburne was postponed as Kelburne indicated they couldn't get two sides out on a midweek evening] but returned back to the policies having lost out to opponents Victoria. The details are a little sketchy as only half the scorebook made it back with the team! 🤔 However what details we do have suggest the *Panthers'* hosts posted almost 200 batting first on the astro-turf wicket, a total the *Panthers* fell well short of. There were however runs for *Disk* (44) and *Rizwan* (44) in the run-chase. Hopefully we'll get the other half of the scorebook soon and can then produce the first scorecard and statistics for the *Panthers* as they get their season up-and-running.