

Dark Side defeat [posted 09/08/16]

Crazy Horse writes, "On a lovely evening with lush outfield at Shawholm, the game started off with the *Dark Side* choosing to bat after winning the toss. Wajid and Z bowled well to begin with and kept the score in check. Both bowlers bowled with discipline and control and eventually got in the wickets, Wajid taking two off two balls.

"The first change bowlers were Abdullah and Hasan and, although they got a wicket each, some wayward bowling resulted in a few boundaries which summoned Hasseeb and Hunnain for control. [Ed: clearly some poetic licence being applied here!] The *Mighty Horse* [Ed: should that not be "Crazy"?!?) and his subordinate bowled well in tandem and kept the runs dry, with the *Horse* unlucky not to get a wicket (thanks to sloppy work by the 'keeper). Hunnain *did* get a "4-for" though, his wickets including an excellent catch at long-on by the skipper who, in doing so, also proved the point that you do not need gloves to catch the ball. And speaking of good catches there was a *very* good one in the deep by the *Mighty Stallion* and, believe it or not, one behind stumps by Usman Amin.

"The *Dark Side* eventually got to 120 which meant a run a ball was needed for the win. 'Not difficult of a task if you rotate the strike', Irfan said before he sent the openers out to bat.....and so of course that is exactly what *didn't* happen. *Dr Uzzi* tried to keep the runs going but found no support at the other end. He departed as the usual top scorer in the team. Hunnain followed after a scrappy 11 off seventeen balls. And speaking of scrappy innings, in fact no-one else got going at all. According to *The Professor* after the match - who made 24 off 34 balls - the reason was the poor light, it being difficult to see the fluorescent pink ball but some (actually the other ten) players disagreed.

"To conclude, hats off to the other team's bowlers. They bowled well and ensured the runs droed up, and the *Panthers* eventually lost by 10 runs. There were cameos for Z and the *Stallion* who tried their best to 'un-dot the dots', but it was all too little, too late. So much to learn from the game: fielding can still be improved and batting needs more fluency, especially when it comes to rotating the strike."

[Ed: a top report if we might say so, and it seems the *Horse* called *Crazy* may've discovered his real area of talent in the game! And, the politically astute omission of "toys", "pram", "run out" and "ejected" in the report is to be commended!]

Greenwood Trophy exit [posted 21/07/16]

The *Panthers* were knocked out of the Greenwood Trophy this evening at the quarter-final stage, losing by six wickets - with nine balls to go - to a strong Renfrew side that included no fewer than four of the Renfrew 1st XI that had recently taken on *the 'Loc*. So no shame on the *Panthers'* players for running their visitors close. In fact more frustration that a game that was certainly winnable,.....wasn't.

Dr Uzzi's unbeaten, better-than-a-run-a-ball 59 in the first innings has helped kick-start things after the openers had got a bit stuck. *The Professor* departed early (6 for 1), and opening partner *Mo* had scratched around a bit in getting to 17 off 38 deliveries before departing. Then with *Mushy* struggling to get, or clear the, boundaries having been put up the order with this in mind after *Mo's* exit, it was *Dr Uzzi's* knock that meant the *Panthers* managed to eventually post 115 for 3, with Hunnain scurrying a late 8 from four balls.

But in truth 115 always looked a few shy of a defendable score, and with the *Panthers* then gifting Renfrew 23 in wides and no balls, and few close decisions going their way, it was perhaps inevitable that Renfrew passed the finish line with balls to spare, and recorded what was an eventually comfortable six-wicket win. With the ball, Hasan returned the most economical figures (3-0-15-1), whilst the slow bowlers - *Mushy* (4-0-21-1) and *Crazy Horse* (4-0-22-0) - got pass marks. Unfortunately *Zee* had an eighteenth over to forget as it went for 18, including 7 in extras, and he, Hunnain and Irfan each went at more than 7.5-an-over. A few mis-fields didn't help [Ed: they never do in close games], but it was the failure to

rotate strike early on, then bowl with the necessary control and discipline - both "basics" - that ultimately cost the side the win in this one .

Panthers gain revenge over the Dark Side [posted 05/07/16]

After Sunday's mauling at the hands of Clydesdale's *Cavaliers* side, the *Panthers* were back in action against the *Dark Side* tonight, this time over at *Toytown* in the Evening League. And the good news is that, in a thriller, the *Panthers* sneaked home by just 1 run. Batting first the side's 121 for 7 was built around Hunnain's 40 not out, as he carried his bat. He was involved in a couple of good partnerships, with *Dr Uzzi* (30) and Ahmed (16). But really everyone chipped in with the bat, with some positive running between the wickets seeing invaluable runs scored, particularly given the eventual narrowest of winning margins. Then in defending their total it all came down to last over, Hasan - who had a "3-for" - being tossed the ball by the skipper. Hunnain had bowled the penultimate over, and having taken a wicket to add to his unbeaten 40, can perhaps lay claim to a MoTM award. And as nerves started to get a bit frayed, *that* last over played out as so many do: *Keystone Cops* and brilliance in equal measures. There was desperate running, overthrows and Ali' blinder of a catch! And it all came down to the last ball as an initial appeal for a run out was turned down, only for the home batters to then attempt a third - a tying - run. Smart thinking by the *Panthers* however saw a stump pulled out of the broken wicket and the ball pressed against it for *the* run out that counted. Exciting stuff, and a good bounce-back win. There are updated [statistics](#) online, along with the [scorecard](#).

Sunday League thumping [posted 03/07/16]

On a day that started with rain, continued with the Under 15s being comprehensively beaten in the Scottish Cup, and ended with more horizontal rain driving across the old ground, it's perhaps appropriate that squeezed in between the 15s' humbling and the early evening rain, there was just time for the *Panthers* to be thrashed by the *Dark Side's Cavaliers* side. 187 all out was a hefty total to post by the *Cavaliers*, and it proved many more than enough as the *Panthers* mustered just 55 in reply. Berryman, the opposing skipper, helped himself to a "5-for" in to the bargain, as *the 'Loc* boys were outplayed in almost every department. True, the energy, if not the skill, in the fielding department was good, and some of the bowling got pass-marks, however too many dropped catches and fumbled run out attempts cost the side runs in the first half. Then in the run-chase, only *Sobo* (drafted in as a late replacement for *Dr Uzzi*, and Gulfam (batting at nine) got in to double figures. In fact, of the other nine batters none got past 5. Another ouch! Still, as ever, a learning experience, and the side's first 40 overs-a-side outing of the season. Next up there's a chance for near instant revenge as the *Panthers* go to *Toytown* on Tuesday night in the Evening League. We've the [scorecard](#) online, along with updated [statistics](#).

Panthers lose on the north side [posted 07/06/15]

The *Panthers* were at New Anniesland this evening, in Evening League action. The hosts batted first on an all-weather wicket and bunted an impressive 190 for 6. Irfan top-scored with 55 before Hasan cleaned him up, with Shields ending unbeaten on 49 batting at six. For the *Panthers* Ahmed took a "3-for" on his '*Loc* competitive debut, dealing with the *Accies'* middle order virtually all by himself. Six bowlers were used by skipper Irfan, a couple ending up with pretty expensive spells, as is often the case "playing on plastic". 190 for 6 then, a tough ask to chase down.

And though the *Panthers* couldn't get to the 191 they'd have needed for the win, they certainly didn't cave in. And eventual 129 for 9 was far from an embarrassment, and there were a couple of really useful contributions thrown in. Hunnain, who'd kept wicket pretty tidily in the absence of *The Professor* made 31 opening the batting, hitting six 4s along the way. And Ahmed completed a pretty decent all-round performance with 39 batting at four, his innings including four maximums. When their twenty over allocation was done the *Panthers* were 61 runs short of their hosts' total, with Ali and Shaan the not out batters. Defeat, but far from a thrashing, and a couple of decent individual performances on the night.

The *Panthers* come up just 4 runs short [posted 24/05/16]

4 runs were the difference between the *Panthers* winning Evening League matchday one, and coming back up the M77 from Prestwick with nothing. Chasing 120 for the win, the *Panthers* finished on 115 for 7, *The Professor's* 60 at the top of the order being a battling knock that'd ultimately be in a losing cause. His innings included a maximum and five 4s, Salman chipping in a cameo 20 by way of support. However their combined efforts just wouldn't be enough to see the side across the finish line, Prestwick holding on for the win.

The home side's 119 for 6 had been built on Stafford's 50, with three other batters getting in to double figures. And in a generally disciplined bowling performance, the wickets were shared around, Zaeem and Hasan getting a brace each. In fact the latter's bowling figures of 4-0-10-2 was the stand out return on the night.

Opening day defeat to *West* [posted 10/05/16]

The *Panthers* very nearly snatched victory from the jaws of defeat this evening in their opening Evening League T20. Having been set 155 to beat northside visitors West of Scotland, the *Panthers'* top order collapsed horribly, with three of the top five recording ducks. Only *Jimmy B*, who'd opened with Muneeb, looked unconcerned as Hillyard ripped through his team-mates' defences. 155 was a stiff target, and the start to the run-chase had made this even stiffer. However the stiffness of said task was matched by the stiffness of *Jimmy B's* resolve. What he needed was a partner who could hang around a while. And eventually that man appeared! In the shape of Salman. Coming in at eight Salman bunted his way, in a gloriously uninhibited manner, to a half-century, only eventually being dismissed as the *Panthers* were starting to think that a win was maybe, just maybe, possible. However it wasn't to be, and with *Jimmy B* having to settle for a sheriff's badge, the side ran out of overs and finishe 16 runs shy of their opponent's total. *West* the winners by that margin.

Their 154 had been based around Williamson's 54 and Gibb's 48, with cameos from the omnipresent Farndale (22*) and Greene (10*). With the ball for the *Panthers*, Shaan returned 3 for 25, whilst skipper Irfan gave eight bowlers the opportunity to roll their arm over.