

August 2016

**Sharks beat Foxes** [posted 22/08/16]



## 2016 Challenge Series

Tim Hart writes, "Sunday the 21st of August saw the latest Under 14 Challenge Series match take place. The venue was Titwood (Clydesdale CC), with the *Sharks* hosting the *Foxes* in a game which was only made possible thanks to the fantastic effort groundsman Cyril McLatchie who spent upwards of three hours moving sheets, draining water and preparing the wicket.

"*Sharks* skipper Daniel Cairns (Clydesdale CC) won the toss and had no hesitation in asking the *Foxes* to bat first. It was Cairns who struck first and, with a run out following immediately afterwards, the *Foxes* were on the backfoot at 4 for 2. Ayub Khan (Hillhead CC) led the fightback with 27 and he was given good support by Cameron MacLean (Kelburne CC) and skipper Sohaib Shah (Poloc CC). However, when all three were dismissed in quick succession (for 27, 12 and 20 respectively), it was suddenly 88 for 7 after 30 overs. Humza Zulfikar (Clydesdale CC) made the most of being dropped in single figures to go to score 39 and lead the *Foxes* to 134 for 9 off their 40 overs. For the *Sharks*, Tristan Kiely (East Kilbride CC) and Fletcher Rao (Prestwick CC) both took two wickets and there was a smart, delayed stumping from wicket-keeper David Sturgess (Clydesdale CC).

"In reply, the *Sharks* got exactly what they were after – with the openers putting together the highest partnership of the match. Sturgess made 30 and Zakir Siddiqui (Poloc CC) 25. However, 72 for 0 became 73 for 2 when Zulfikar dismissed both batters in one over. The *Foxes* might have expected the double-breakthrough to 'open the door'. However, all it did was allow Cairns to play a true 'skipper's knock'. His 46, off 30 deliveries which included six 4s, took his side right to the brink of victory – as he dominated a 57-run partnership with John Greene (West of Scotland CC). Despite Cairns being caught just short of what would have been a much deserved half century, Greene saw his side home. The seven-wicket margin of victory leaves the standings very intriguingly poised. Having completed their four fixtures, the *Sharks* lead the way with 28 points. However, both the *Eagles* (20) and *Foxes* (18) could still top the table – but only if other fixtures and the weather allows their previously abandoned match to be replayed before the end of the season!"

July 2016

**Rain the winner at Ardencaple** [posted 24/07/16]



## 2016 Challenge Series

Tim Hart writes, "The rain was the only winner in today's Under 14 Challenge Series match. When the players and officials arrived at Ardencaple (Helensburgh CC), the wicket and run-ups were in good condition – although the outfield was a little damp. However, the light drizzle turned to rain and then it just rained and rained!"

"A warm-up was completed but that was as far as things got – with the match being abandoned after a one hour delay. Every effort will be made to replay the match – but it may depend on other fixtures. An update on the Challenge Series fixtures, results, squads and standings can be found at the foot of the 'Challenge Series' page."

**Eagles beat Sharks** [posted 21/07/16]



## 2016 Challenge Series

Tim Hart writes, "Thursday the 21st of July saw the latest Under 14 Challenge Series fixture take place – with the *Eagles* hosting the *Sharks*. The fact that a game was possible, without a delayed start time, bordered on the miraculous – and special thanks must go to Clydesdale CC groundsman Cyril McLatchie for his efforts to get the game on.

"*Eagles* skipper Ross Heginbottom (Clydesdale CC) won the toss and elected to bowl first. Struan Walker (Clydesdale CC) got the *Sharks* effort off to a flyer – with a typically hard-hitting 20 (off just thirteen deliveries). However, the only other batter to pass 20 in the innings would be skipper Daniel Cairns (Clydesdale CC) who made 25. Following the early breakthroughs by Shahzad Ahmad (Ferguslie CC) and Taha Khan (Clydesdale CC), it then became the Tarun Koteeswaran (Clydesdale CC) show. Bowling split across two different spells, he finished with figures of 6.2-4-5-5. Despite six different batters making double figures, no one could go on. *Sharks* 138 all out, in just 29.2 overs.

"In reply, there was an early run out and a wicket for Tristan Kiely (East Kilbride CC) with the new ball – as the *Eagles* crept to 13 for 2 off seven overs. However, Ross Heginbottom then took the attack to the *Sharks* – as he destroyed anything which was fractionally over-pitched. His 69 included nine 4s and two 6s – and he played the aggressor in useful partnerships of 31 with Ahmad and 65 with Jamie Nowell (Greenock CC). Although two wickets fell with the score on 109, the *Eagles* always had the chase in control – and they won with almost five overs to spare.

"The win has moved the *Eagles* to the top of the standings. However, a tough test awaits them on Sunday as they travel to Helensburgh to face the *Foxes*" The [scorecard](#) is online.

### May 2016

#### Challenge Series update [posted 29/05/16]



## 2016 Challenge Series

Tim Hart writes, "Sunday saw Titwood (Clydesdale CC) play host to the third Under 14 Challenge Series match of the season. *Sharks* skipper Daniel Cairns (Clydesdale CC) won the toss, had no hesitation in electing to bat first, and then top scored for his side, and in the match, with 33. He was involved in a 45-run partnership with Ethan Duncanson-Ward (Glasgow Accies CC) for the third wicket.

"However, the biggest partnership in the innings and match was the 50-run seventh wicket partnership between Abhishek Sinha (Clydesdale CC) and Andrew Robinson (Glasgow Accies CC). The *Sharks* would finish 172 for 7 off their 40 overs, with Cairns 33, Sinha 24, Robinson 20\*, wicket-keeper David Sturgess (Clydesdale CC) 20 and Duncanson-Ward 18 all making useful contributions. For the *Eagles*, Asad Khan (Clydesdale CC) finished with 7-2-12-1 and there were two wickets each for spinner Hamza Gardee (Glasgow Accies), with 2 for 23, and Johnny Faulkner (Ayr CC), with 2 for 32.

"An injury to Adam Malik (Dumfries CC) in the warm-up meant that the *Eagles* top order had to change just before the resumption – and they never really recovered from the sudden change in plans. Only skipper Ross Heginbottom (Clydesdale CC) made double-figures, as the *Eagles* were skittled for just 53. The main damage was done by the spinners – Fletcher Rao (Prestwick CC) taking 2 for 7 and John Greene (West of Scotland CC) taking 4 for 1. The result means that after the first full round of matches each team has one win and one loss. The *Foxes* currently lead the standings by three points – but all is still to play for as the series progress." The [scorecard](#) is online.

#### *Foxes* defeat *Sharks* [posted 22/05/16]



Tim Hart writes, "The second match of the Challenge Series of the season survived a torrential downpour at 11am to take place in glorious sunshine at Titwood (Clydesdale CC). Today saw the *Sharks* enter the competition - and they found the early going tough, as the *Foxes* raced to 36 for 0 off four overs. By the time a second chance was missed in the thirteenth over, the score had progressed to 70 for 0 – and openers Sohaib Shah (Poloc CC) and Cameron MacLean (Kelburne CC) were looking very comfortable.

"The score progressed to 121 for 0 at drinks, at twenty overs. Skipper Shah then brought up his 50, with MacLean following shortly after the 100 partnership was brought up. The desperately-needed breakthrough arrived in the 25th over, as skipper Daniel Cairns (Clydesdale CC) held on to a good catch off of the bowling of Fletcher Rao (Prestwick CC) to dismiss MacLean for 61. Humza Zulfiqar (Clydesdale CC) then joined Shah and the pair continued to build towards an imposing total, despite Zakki Tariq (Clydesdale CC) offering some control with 6-1-20-0.

"With three overs to go the score was 225 for 1 and Shah was on 98 not out. Such can be the quick momentum shifts in youth cricket that only 9 runs and four wickets would come off those final few overs. Shah, who had batted superbly and with a good mix of power and control (including twelve 4s and one 6), was caught at deep square leg off the bowling of Abhishek Sinha (Clydesdale CC) – and Sinha would go on to pick up two further wickets in a really impressive death spell. *Foxes* 234 for 5, Shah 98, MacLean 61, Sinha 3 for 39.

"The *Foxes* pressed home their advantage quickly into the reply as Zulfiqar ripped through the top order with 3 for 8, which left the *Sharks* 16 for 3. From there, it was always going to be a very tough task for the *Sharks*. Wicket-keeper David Sturgess (Clydesdale CC) and Sinha, 22, did put on 43 for the sixth wicket – and Sturgess and Tariq, 20, added 42 for the eighth wicket. However, Reiss Wylie (Kelburne CC) picked up 2 for 11 to keep the pressure firmly on. Sturgess would finish 62\*, as the *Sharks* finished 165 for 9 off their 40 overs – with Zulfiqar having figures of 8-1-29-4. Next Sunday will see the *Sharks* aim to pick up their first win of the series as they host the *Eagles*." The [scorecard](#) is online.

**Regional Development Centre (West) Under 14 Challenge Series, 2016** [posted 18/05/16]



Tim Hart writes, "The Regional Development centre (West) Under 14 Challenge Series, 2016 continues this Sunday, at Titwood (Clydesdale CC) – with the *Sharks* up against the *Foxes*. The team selections are available [online](#)."

**Regional Development Centre (West) Under 14 Challenge Series, 2016** [posted 15/05/16]



Tim Hart writes, "The Under 14 Challenge Series got underway with a very close match between the *Eagles* and *Foxes*, at a sun-drenched Hamilton Crescent (West of Scotland CC) today. Having won the toss, *Eagles* skipper Ross Heginbottom (Clydesdale CC) had no hesitation in electing to bat first. He may have been questioning that decision slightly as his side was reduced to 45 for 5.

"However, a resolute innings of 45 from Adam Malik (Dumfries CC) would prove to be the backbone of the *Eagles* innings. The fireworks were then provided by Shahzad Ahmad (Ferguslie CC) who scored 70\* from just 52 deliveries, including eleven boundaries and one 6 – and saw an ultimately-crucial 42 runs added during the final four overs. *Eagles* 180 for 7, despite the best efforts of Humza Zulfiqar (Clydesdale CC) with 8-1-20-1 and Rafay Khan (Renfrew CC) with 8-2-18-2.

"In reply, a direct hit run out from Tarun Koteeswaran (Clydesdale CC) and two wickets from his club teammate Uzair Khan left the *Foxes* 36 for 3. However, as with the first innings, two batters and two different batting styles,

brought the batting side back into the match. Dilina Loku-Yaddehige (Poloc CC) made a brisk 36, with his club teammate Sohaib Shah playing the 'anchor' role. With nine overs to go the *Foxes* needed 38 runs, with five wickets in hand. The returning Khan made an important breakthrough before Shah (59 off 83 deliveries) was runout coming back for the second off the very next delivery. With 11 needed off the final four overs, the *Foxes* would have still backed their batters. However, Asad Khan (Clydesdale CC) held his nerve to pick up the final two wickets. *Foxes* 173 all out, with Uzair Khan finishing with 6-1-13-3.

"A very competitive match to start the 2016 Challenge Series. Thanks must go to West of Scotland CC for hosting the match, to Willie Russell for umpiring, and to Team Managers Jameel Gardee and Ihtesham UI Haq." The [scorecard](#) is online.

#### Regional Development Centre (West) Under 14 Challenge Series, 2016 [posted 11/05/16]



Tim Hart writes, "The Regional Development centre (West) Under 14 Challenge Series, 2016 will begin this Sunday, at Hamilton Crescent (West of Scotland CC) – with the *Eagles* hosting the *Foxes*. The team selections are available [online](#). Players who have been selected for the series have been split into three teams (*Eagles*, *Foxes* and *Sharks*), for the six match competition

"It is possible for other players to be added to the squads and therefore the squads available [online](#) may be amended as the series progresses. The series will enable players aged Under 14, from throughout the west region, to come together to play competitive cricket against their peers – and, hopefully, to have fun and develop their skills and game awareness. The series will also play an important role in the identification, and selection, of players for the Regional Development Centre (West) ("RDC") winter training squad 2016-17. The RDC management will be present at matches and we are also delighted to announce that Jameel Gardee (Glasgow Accies CC) and Mitchell Rao (Prestwick CC and Scotland A) have agreed to help out with the series – and we are hopeful of being able to confirm some additional support staff over the next few days. If anyone has any queries about the series, they should get in contact with me. Finally, I would like to congratulate the players who have been selected so far – and to thank Clydesdale CC and West of Scotland CC for agreeing to host the first few matches in the series."