

## Challenge Series news, 2017

### **Under 14 Challenge Series review** (25th September 2017)

**Tim Hart** reports, "The rain was the real winner in the 2017 Under 14 Challenge Series with three of the six scheduled matches, plus two re-arranged matches, plus a planned T20 day, all being postponed! However, three matches were completed, with each team (the *Eagles*, the *Foxes* and the *Sharks*) winning one match. This has resulted in the *Eagles* and *Sharks* finishing on 11 points – and both teams will share the title. Congratulations to the players in both squads. Congratulations, too, to Humza Zulfiqar (Clydesdale CC) who finished as the leading run scorer, with 112 runs at an average of 37.33 (including two 50s), to Sohaib Shah (Poloc CC) who had the highest individual score of 74 and to Saifullah Ahmadzai, Uzair Khan and Anne Sturgess (all Clydesdale CC) who finished as the joint leading wicket-takers, with four wickets. Finally, many thanks to all the umpires, coaches and club groundstaff who have helped to make the matches possible during the season."

[Challenge Series statistics.](#)

### **Challenge Series update** (3rd August 2017)

**Tim Hart** writes, "Unfortunately, the weather was once again the big winner in the Under 14 Challenge Series. The proposed game at Titwood (Clydesdale CC), was called off following the persistent overnight rain. The planned match on Sunday (6th of August) has also been cancelled – due to ground and player availability issues. It is hoped that the postponed matches will be re-arranged."

### **Challenge Series update** (6th July 2017)

**Tim Hart** report, "Wednesday the 5th of July saw Titwood (Clydesdale CC) play host to the latest 2017 Under 14 Challenge Series match – a match which saw the *Eagles* play the *Sharks* for the second time in the series.

"*Eagles* skipper Humza Zulfiqar (Clydesdale CC) would have been pleased with the start his side made, as openers Zakir Siddiqui (Poloc CC) and Lukas Fischer-Keogh (Greenock CC) put on 23 for the first wicket – with almost no alarms. However, 23 for 0 then became 45 for 4 – before Zulfiqar dug in to drag his side back into the match. At 113 for 5, he might have hoped that his side would be able to push on to around the 200 mark. But, shortly after reaching a well-deserved half century, he was well caught by Cameron MacLean (Kelburne CC) off the bowling of Anne Sturgess (Clydesdale CC) for 53. From there, the innings quickly subsided – with the *Eagles* finishing 129 all out. The wickets were well-spread – with two each for Nabeel Khan (Poloc CC), Ibrahim Sarwar (Clydesdale CC) and Zakki Tariq (Clydesdale CC), two run outs and one each for Anne Sturgess and Hamza Irfan (Glasgow Accies CC).

"In reply, 23 was again the magic number for the first wicket – that being the total put on by skipper David Sturgess (Clydesdale CC) and wicket-keeper Owen Gould (Clydesdale CC). With a further 23 being added for the second wicket, the *Sharks* were 45 for 2 and, although two wickets ahead of where the *Eagles* had been, the match was well-poised. However, the third wicket partnership would prove to be the defining one of the match – with Sturgess and MacLean adding 70 runs, with almost even split of the partnership. Although Sturgess (46) was well caught by Uzair Ahmad (Ferguslie CC) off the bowling of Saifullah Ahmadzai (Clydesdale CC), MacLean (38\*) saw the *Sharks* home to victory, by seven wickets.

"The result saw the *Sharks* pick up the 10 win points and the *Eagles* 1 bonus point – to leave both sides on 11 points after their two matches! Hopefully the weather will allow the *Foxes* to get their campaign underway over the next few weeks."

The latest tournament standings are available [here](#).

### **Challenge Series update** (25th May 2017)

**Tim Hart** writes, "Unfortunately, the Under 14 Challenge Series match scheduled for this Sunday (28 May) has had to be cancelled due to ground availability issues. Every effort will be made to re-arrange the match later on in the season."

### **Under 14 Challenge Series** (10th May 2017)

The planned *Foxes* versus *Eagles* match scheduled for Sunday, 14 May 2017 has been postponed. Every effort will be made to re-arrange the match for a date later on in the season.

### **Under 14 Challenge Series** (30th April 2017)

**Tim Hart** reports, "The 2017 Under 14 Challenge Series got underway with the *Eagles* hosting the *Sharks*, at Whitehaugh (home of Kelburne CC) today. Batting first, the *Eagles* scored 212 for 9 from their 40 overs. Skipper Sohaib Shah (Poloc CC) top-scored with 74 before he was dismissed thanks to an outstanding diving catch from Zakki Tariq (Clydesdale CC). Humza Zulfiqar (Clydesdale CC) provided good support with 55. For the *Sharks*, leg-spinner John Greene (West of Scotland CC) bowled with great control early on and finished with 2 for 21 – but it was Anne Sturgess (Clydesdale CC) who was the pick of the bowlers with 3 for 3 from her three overs.

"In reply, the Eagles quickly completed a routine victory. The Sharks were bowled out for just 87 – with seven of nine bowlers used taking wickets. Thanks must go Kelburne CC for hosting the fixture and providing an excellent tea, to the umpires (Ronnie Gilliland and Brian Reid) and to Ahmad Chaudhry for assisting with coaching on the day."

The match [scorecard](#) is online, as is an updated Challenge Series [table](#).

#### **Under 14 Challenge Series** (28th April 2017)

[Tim Hart](#) writes, "The Under 14 Challenge Series 2017 gets underway this Sunday. The competition will, again, feature three squads – the *Eagles*, the *Foxes* and the *Sharks*. Initially, the players involved are Under 13 or Under 14, with a couple of exceptions – a player who is still Under 12 and was involved in the 2016 Challenge Series, or anyone who is required to fulfill, a 'specialist' role, for example a wicket-keeper. It is, however, expected that other players will be added as the series progresses. Preferred [match dates](#) have been set – and this is where we are looking for some help from clubs please. If a club is willing, and able, to host a match on any of the following dates could it please let me know:

Sunday, 14 May;  
Sunday, 28 May;  
Tuesday, 4 July;  
Thursday, 20 July; and/or  
Sunday, 6 August.

"The matches are 40 overs-a-side, with midweek matches starting at 10.45am and Sunday matches at 12 noon. There is a small budget for teas – but the WRDC is also happy to arrange teas if this makes things easier for any host club. As with previous competitions, the plan is that the WDJCU website and Twitter feed will be kept updated with squads, venues, results, reports, etc."

#### **Under 14 Challenge Series** (7th April 2017)

[Tim Hart](#) writes, "I have sent a [letter](#) to club's Junior Convenors for players about the Under 14 Challenge Series. If convenors know of any players at their clubs who they think might be interested in taking part in the series please could they forward this [letter](#) on to them."