

2017 Cricket Factory BIG Blast!

West Regional Qualifying Tournament

Titwood (Clydesdale CC) hosted the west Qualifying Tournament in the 2017 Cricket Factory BIG Blast! on Tuesday 16th May 2017.

The competition, based around a modified (and shortened) version of the sport, was played using a softball and saw 79 pupils from eight different schools participate in great day of cricket.



The tournament format was round robin, with matches taking place on the cricket square and outfield and on a multi use games area (MUGA). In addition to the competition matches, and due to there being an odd number of teams participating, several friendly matches also took place.



Group A featured the 2016 National Champions: St Ninian's High School (East Renfrewshire). Perhaps unsurprisingly, as several of their players were still of age to compete in the 2017 competition, St Ninian's won their group in fine style – posting some big totals and making great use of the special 'scoring zones'. Despite winning all four matches they played, they would not win the contest to see which team could score the most runs in one over! That honour went to Park Mains High School (Renfrewshire) who scored 63 in one over, against St Ninian's!

It was Hermitage Academy (Argyll & Bute) who emerged as the winners of Group B, with the final outcome of the group coming down to a close game with one of the two teams from Kyle Academy (South Ayrshire). The margin of victory was just 3 runs. However, that would not be the closest result of the day – with the same Kyle Academy team beating Lomond School (Argyll & Bute) by just 1 run during the second round of matches of the day.

The final standings on the day were:

- 1) St Ninian's High School
- 2) Hermitage Academy
- 3) Kyle Academy (Team 2)
- 4) Kyle Academy (Team 1)
- 5) Barrhead High School
- 6) Castle Douglas High School
- 7) Lomond School
- 8) Park Mains High School
- 9) Holyrood Secondary School

The day would not have been possible without the support of Clydesdale CC (and particularly of Groundsman Cyril McLatchie), the staff from each school and the effort and enthusiasm from all the pupils. Thanks must go to all for ensuring such a successful day of cricket.



Finally, congratulations to Hermitage Academy and St Ninian's High School on their success – and good luck to both schools as they go on to represent the west region at National Finals' Day, during June.

Tim Hart
Cricket Scotland, West Regional Participation Manager
May 2017