



Western Junior Cricket Union

U11 League Finals' Day Review

Sunday 17th September saw the 2017 youth season come to a conclusion in the west of Scotland, with U11 League Finals' Day taking place at Meikleriggs (Ferguslie CC).

Finals' Day saw U11 League Region A winners Clydesdale CC play League Region B runners-up Uddingston CC in the first semi-final, with Region B winners Ferguslie CC then playing Region A runners-up East Renfrewshire CC in the second semi-final – before a winner takes all grand final.

Semi-Final 1: Clydesdale v Uddingston

Uddingston batted first in their semi-final, with each of their four pairs making a positive contribution to their team's total – taking into account that 5 runs are subtracted from the batting side's score for each wicket lost. The top performer with the bat was Dhruv Shenoy who scored 14/0 (NET 14), as his side posted 92/7 (NET 257), despite Fizain Rashid taking 3/11 from his 4 overs.



In reply, Clydesdale got off to the worst possible start – losing a wicket to the first ball! From there, the Uddingston bowlers and fielders kept the pressure on – and the 11 wickets they took left the chasing side with too much to do. Shenoy continued his fine effort by being the pick of the bowlers with 3-1-8-2 and, despite Shlok Thaker scoring 26/1 (NET 21), Clydesdale finished 275/11 (NET 220).

Semi-Final 2: Ferguslie v East Renfrewshire

East Renfrewshire batted first in the second semi-final and scored 60/5 (NET 235) – the highlight of the innings being Ferguslie's skipper Uzair Ahmad taking two wickets in two balls.



It is very rare for one batsman to score 50 in an U11 game – but the Ferguslie reply nearly saw two make it to the milestone! Skipper Ahmad ended up just short, with a very impressive 47/0 (NET 47) – but Bahadar Ezekhiel did make it to his half-century, with some vicious and clean striking of the ball, in his 52/0 (NET 52). Shami De Silva took 3/27 for East Renfrewshire - but it wasn't enough to stop Ferguslie amassing 158/9 (NET 313).



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Grand Final: Uddingston v Ferguslie

The grand final was contested by the winners and runners-up from League Region B – being the third time the sides had met during the season.

Batting first, the Uddingston batters couldn't find the same fluency they had displayed in their semi-final win – with a flurry of early wickets leaving them on the back foot. With Qasim Khan finishing with 4-1-8-3, Uddingston would only post 47/8 (NET 207).

After 12 overs, and with three of Ferguslie's five pairs having batted, the scores were level! However, another onslaught from Ezekhiel (36/0, NET 36), effectively ended the game as a contest – before Adam Tahir (21/0, NET 21) added to the margin of victory. Ferguslie would finish 127/7 (NET 288), despite Samuel Hargie bowling his three overs for the cost of just three runs.

Ferguslie 81-run winners and very much deserved 2017 WDJCU U11 League Champions.



Congratulations to Ferguslie CC, their players and their team coach/manager Sam Scott on a great performance on the day and throughout their league campaign. Special thanks also need to go to Sam for all his hard work to make Finals' Day possible – and for creating a welcoming and enjoyable atmosphere for all the teams and their supporters. Thanks, too, to all the players and coaches, officials and other volunteers involved on the day – and to all at Ferguslie CC, and especially their groundsman, for their help.