



Western Junior Cricket Union

WDJCU Indoor Super Eights, 2018



4 days, 3 competitions, 124 participants from 12 clubs making up 19 teams, 30 matches, 5098 runs, 245 wickets, 1 hat-trick and 1 tied match! Just another quiet week for the Western District Junior Cricket Union (WDJCU), between Christmas and the New Year!

Hutchesons' Grammar School was the venue as the WDJCU hosted its Indoor Super 8s Tournament. The annual event, which was sponsored by Belt-Up Trophies (Lanarkshire's leading trophy specialist) for 2018, saw U12s compete in modified format (softball) matches and had U15 and U19 hardball competitions – during four busy days of cricket.



U12s

The six-team tournament saw Glasgow Accies CC and Clydesdale CC win their groups, with Uddingston CC progressing to Finals' Day as the best placed runners-up.

Finals' Day appeared to be starting slowly, with Glasgow Accies limiting Clydesdale to just 15/4 off 4 of their 10 overs. However, Clydesdale would get up to 74/4 – before Glasgow Accies were reduced to 12/4 off their first 4 overs. There was no recovery from that position – and 34 all out was the final score.

In game 2, Glasgow Accies posted a much higher total – 96/4. Although Uddingston gave the chase a good effort – they would finish 10 short on 86/3.

This meant that Uddingston needed to record a big victory over Clydesdale, in game 3 – a result which could have left any of the three teams as the winners! Batting first, Clydesdale scored at a fairly consistent rate and finished 91/5 off their 10 overs. Uddingston then scored at a very similar rate and left themselves needing just 7 to win, with 4 wickets in hand, off the final over. This became 3 off the last 3 deliveries – but a dot ball, a wicket and 2 resulted in a remarkable, and very rare, tie! This left Clydesdale, who had gone through the tournament unbeaten, as tournament winners.



Clydesdale's captain, Shlok Thaker, was the Player of the Tournament – with 85 runs in his 4 innings, without being dismissed, a highest score of 22* and overall bowling figures of 6-1-23-1.

U15s

The U15 tournament featured 7 teams. The four-team Group A was won by Glasgow Accies CC, who won all three of their 7-over contests. Clydesdale CC won the three-team Group B. As a result of chasing two targets quickly, Ferguslie CC were the best placed runners-up – and they also progressed to the Final Group.

Similarly to the U12 Finals, the U15 Finals appeared to be getting off to a slow start – with the Glasgow Accies bowlers putting some pressure on the Clydesdale top order. 18/2 off 3 overs would become 81 all out – but only thanks to a fantastic innings of 40 from Clydesdale skipper Owen Gould. Aided by 4 run outs, Clydesdale were then able to apply a lot of pressure to the Glasgow Accies batters – and they would finish 59/5 off their 10 overs.

Game 2 was probably the best match in the entire U15 tournament. Batting first, Glasgow Accies batted positively, kept wickets in hand and rotated the strike well – to finish on 88/5 off their 10 overs, thanks to 28 retired from John Greene. In reply, both Ferguslie openers (Uzair Ahmad and Aditya Mahapatra) set the chase up well – scoring 25 and retiring. However, a good fight back from Glasgow Accies saw three quick wickets fall – leaving Ferguslie needing 29 to win off 17 deliveries. The match would nearly go the full distance – but Ferguslie won with one delivery to spare!



The results meant that Ferguslie v Clydesdale was a winner takes all final. Batting first, Gould continued his remarkable tournament – and retired for the 4th time in 4 matches! Saifullah Ahmadzai added some power in the middle order (29, retired – off just 11 deliveries, including 3 sixes!). Clydesdale 107/4. In reply, at 54/6 off 7.1 overs, the game looked to be set up for a comfortable Clydesdale win. However, Mahapatra then hit 14 off three deliveries as the runs began to flow at the required rate. Clydesdale would, nevertheless, hold their nerve though – to finish the tournament unbeaten, and as winners.

The U15 Player of the Tournament was Clydesdale skipper Owen Gould. He had an excellent tournament with the bat – finishing with 117 runs from his 4 innings, retiring in all 4 innings, being dismissed only once, having a highest score of 40 and finishing with an average of 117.

U19s

The U19 tournament saw Poloc CC win Group A on net run rate – after all three teams (Poloc, a combined Ferguslie/Kelburne team and Clydesdale II) finished with one win and one loss in the round robin group. With 3 wins, Clydesdale CC won Group B – and it was the second team from Clydesdale who progressed to the Final Group, as the best placed runners up. The Group Stage also featured a remarkable 4 wickets in 4 deliveries (all clean bowled, with a wide thrown in, in between wickets three and four!) from U13 Ferguslie player Uzair Ahmad!

As has been the case at this age group for the last few years, the much-anticipated ‘Southside Derby’ (between Clydesdale and Poloc) was expected to be the pivotal match in the Final Group. Once again, this proved to be the case. Clydesdale won the toss, elected to bat and lost two quick wickets (both to the bowling of Calum James), to be 18/2 off 2 overs. However, Asad Khan, David Sturgess and Aliyan Qureshi all reached 25 and retired – before Clydesdale skipper Zain Muhammad launched an astonishing assault on the bowlers. All-time records went flying, as he retired 30* off just 6 deliveries (264666!) – with a strike rate of 500.00! With Khan returning to finish 49*, Clydesdale scored 153/4 off their 10 overs. A remarkable effort from Poloc in reply meant that they were still in touch with 2 overs to go. James, and Amaan Ali, had both retired – leaving Poloc 101/3 off 7 overs (24 runs ahead of where Clydesdale had been at the same stage) and then 115/5 off 8 overs (and still 12 runs ahead). However, given a match dominated by batting, the ninth over bowled by Tarun Koteeswaran remarkably conceded just one ‘2’ and one ‘3’! Poloc would finish 136/5 off their 10 overs – despite James finishing 38*.

The next two matches were both tough contests for a young Clydesdale II team. Poloc scored 152/4 off their 10 overs, before Clydesdale II could only finish 68/7 in reply. Clydesdale II then scored 82/4 against their older, more experienced club side – despite Imran Khan finishing 25* and Owen Gould scoring 25 and retiring. However, the total was never likely to be challenging enough and Sturgess, and Daniel Cairns, (both 25 retired) made quick work of the chase – as Clydesdale completed their third success of the day.

Although Amaan Ramzan (Poloc CC) scored 104 runs (@ 52.00), and U14 Owen Gould finished with 114 runs (at 38.00), the Player of the Tournament was David Sturgess who finished with 118 runs from his 4 innings, not being dismissed, retiring all 4 times and having a highest score of 40* which included hitting a very rare ‘9’ off one delivery!



Congratulations to Clydesdale CC on their clean-sweep of the competition and the Player of the Tournament awards.

Finally, as well as thanking all 124 players for putting on some entertaining and very closely-fought matches, the vital contribution of all coaches, parents, officials and volunteers must be recognised – and especially that of umpire David James who stood in all 9 matches on Finals' Day! Thanks must also go to Belt-Up Trophies for their sponsorship of the event and to two volunteers (Sean Le Blond of Uddingston CC and David Sturges of Clydesdale CC) who assisted with the running of the U12 and U15 tournament.

Tim Hart
West Regional Participation Manager, January 2019

