

## The Eifion Jones Single Wicket Competition held at CERN on Sunday, July 4<sup>th</sup> 2010

On a very hot and humid day, a record number of participants (21) signed up for the Single Wicket competition, necessitating a morning start to complete a total of 82 overs.

In the preliminary round there were no surprises, but for the first time a tied match had to be decided by the toss of a coin. However, one of the 21 failed to turn up in time for the next round so Barrett was re-instated to play. Everything went more or less according to the bookmakers in the first round, apart from perhaps the defeat of J. Kumar by McNaught. The highest score in this round was 28 by Elvin. A seniority bonus of one run per year for players over 50 years old, with a maximum of 10 runs, helped the oldest player, Onions, to progress.

In the heat, players tended to wander off the field without ensuring that someone else replaced them, so much time was wasted counting the fielders and dragging players back onto the field every time a new batsman came to the crease.

In round 2, McNaught, Onions, Elvin and I. Ahmed progressed against M. Shah, Campbell, Curtis and Allen respectively, with Ahmed hitting the highest score of 31. The semi-final line-up was therefore McNaught v Onions and Elvin v I. Ahmed, three previous winners out of four! Ahmed and Onions won comfortably to reach the final, in which each player bowls three overs instead of two. Onions batted first and, knowing only a big score would beat Ahmed tried to hit out but lost his wicket four times (6 runs less each time) and only posted a total of 2, despite some help from a Sunderland supporter! Ahmed therefore had an easy task and had fun hitting 47 (in the two previous times he had won the competition, he scored 43 and 49)! Congratulations Imtiaz for another fine performance, a worthy winner.

Many thanks are due to Shahzad for organising the excellent BBQ after the match and to Tina, Debbie and Margaret for their help.