

The Eifion Jones Single Wicket Competition at Preveissin on Sunday, August 19th, 2012

On a baking hot afternoon (36 degrees!) with not a cloud in sight, 17 players turned out for the Eifion Jones Single Wicket Competition. The draw paired two of the favourites together in the first round, Imtiaz Ahmed against Claston D'Mello. D'Mello batting first posted a competitive score of 21 but Ahmed started the chase with a six off the first ball (a leg-side full toss!). A couple more leg-side deliveries went for 6 and 4, leaving Ahmed just needing a few singles to win the game. Two other first round matches ended level, Mark Smith progressing at the expense of Shahzad Muzaffar as he had been out fewer times, having been dropped off the last ball, and Haroon Rafique eliminating Saud Ahmed. Last year's finalist Sayan Chaudhuri won through in a close match against Zain Jafiri. Nine-year old Irsalan Ahmed (having +9 runs because of his age) did well to not get out and beat Alex Cookman by 1 run.

In the quarter finals, Saby Siddhanta beat Chris Onions, who was out off the last ball needing a 6 to win. Sayan, getting out twice, beat Haroon who was out three times and Dave Allen beat young Irsalan. Imtiaz Ahmed again hit the first ball for 6 on his way to making 38 in his two overs, with Mark only managing 17.

In his semi-final against Dave, Imtiaz again tried to hit the first ball, a leg-side full toss, for 6 but was caught on the boundary by Pascal Badan, practising his new career as a juggler! Imtiaz was convinced it was a no ball but it was not signalled! In previous years Imtiaz had rarely got out in this competition, so it was a big surprise that he was out 4 more times, three times caught on the boundary and once by the wicket keeper from a skier, giving him a total of -3 runs! Needless to say, Dave got the runs easily, ending up with 22, thus eliminating the winner of the previous three seasons, a shock result! Sayan beat Saby in the other semi-final, Saby having made 7, not a big enough target.

The final was a rather one-sided affair with Sayan batting first and amassing 44 in his three overs, hitting 3 sixes. Dave, feeling the effects of a long day in the field, hit a couple of big sixes but got out 4 times, ending up with 9.

Congratulations to Sayan on winning the competition after having been beaten in the final last year. Following the presentation of the trophy a BBQ was enjoyed by all, thanks to Shahzad and his wife Uzma for organising it, Raheela Imtiaz and Helen Carter, Margaret Onions, Aaliya and Zainab Hamid, Michelle D'Mello and Minty Chaudhuri for all their help in preparation and cooking.