

## The Eifion Jones Single Wicket Competition at Preveessin on Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup> 2014

The Single Wicket Competition, which had been postponed due to CERN reaching the CricketSwitzerland semi-final, was held on what turned out to be one of the hottest days of the year. There were 13 participants, with four players who had won it more than once previously (I. Ahmed 4, Onions 3, Allen 2 and Chaudhuri 2) but Chaudhuri was the bookie's favourite, having won in the last 2 years.

The luck of the draw gave Chaudhuri and I. Ahmed byes into the second round, where they played against each other! In the first round, newcomer Nawaz (29) won against Martin (6) and looked in fine form. The closest game was Onions against Muzaffar, the scores being tied at 19 (thanks to the 10 bonus runs for Onions for being well over 50) and Onions progressed on the toss of a coin! H. Jafari (30+5) won comfortably against S. Ahmed (10+1), hitting a couple of sixes. Allen (26+7), winning against Cookman (13), hit two of the biggest sixes of the day. Young Irsalan Ahmed (1+7) lost to Z. Jafari (10), having been out caught after hitting a powerful shot to mid-wicket.

In the second round, Allen (11+7) was beaten by one run by Nawaz (19). A comment was made that, with Onions as his running partner, the combined age at the wicket was 123! Father H. Jafari (8+5) versus son Z. Jafari (-2) ended in victory to Jafari senior. Onions (-2) played D. Ahmed for the third time in four years but this time D. Ahmed (21) won comfortably, although a catch which was headed for 4, thus costing 10 runs, would have made it closer. Fortunately the fielder concerned was not seriously injured and was able to continue. The much awaited clash of the giants. I. Ahmed versus Chaudhuri was not as close as expected. Chaudhuri batted first, making 20, but I. Ahmed was unable to hit his usual boundaries against tight bowling, hitting only one 4 and being out twice, ending with a score of 0.

In the semi-finals, Nawaz versus D. Ahmed was a very close game, Nawaz batting first made 31 (2 sixes and 3 fours) but D. Ahmed, after making 8 in the first over, then hit 4,4,2,2,6 in the first 5 balls and needed 6 to win off the last ball but only managed a 4 and lost by 1 run. H. Jafari batted first in the other semi-final and scored 12 (+5), having been out once. Chaudhuri paced his innings very well, hitting two sixes in the first over and then 5 singles in the second over to score 19 and win by 2 runs.

As happened last year, a newcomer to the club, Nawaz, made it to the final versus Chaudhuri. Batting first, Nawaz made 18 in the 3 overs, hitting a six in the final over to cancel out losing his wicket 2 balls before. Chaudhuri again paced his innings well, in the 2<sup>nd</sup> over hitting 3 sixes and a four, which put him well ahead with one over to go. This allowed him to keep his cool after being given out lbw in the final over, ending up with 35 and thus winning the trophy for the third consecutive year!

Congratulations, Sayan, your presence will be missed next year!

Many thanks are due to Colin Carter (winner of the second competition in 1993), who umpired all day and made the presentation at the end of a great day.