

### **Under 13s finish runners-up** [posted 16/09/17]

The Under 13s finished a good season, that saw them reach the Finals Day of both the Scottish Cup and League, this afternoon at Meikleriggs by finishing runners-up in the league after defeat to Clydesdale in the league Finals Day final. After beating Glasgow Accies by 11 runs in a closely-fought semi-final, the side then couldn't make it three wins in a row in 2017 against their near-neighbours from Crossmyloof, going down by four wickets in a low-scoring final. In both matches it's fair to say that the batters struggled, only Abdullah (32\* against Glasgow Accies) making a telling contribution with the bat. Momin - with two 6s - also made a cameo score in the final after the top order had failed, but these two aside it was a day for the bowlers. And there were some good bowling performances: *Jamesy* returned 3.2-0-14-4 in the semi-final and 2 for 12 in the final, whilst Ubaid-Raza's bowling in the final was the standout bowling performance in that match, *Raza* returning figures of 4-2-5-1. But the bowlers' efforts wouldn't quite be enough to get the batters out of jail twice and so the side had to be content with a runners-up spot. Plenty to be pleased with though over a long [Ed: a wet!] season, and still lots of potential in this group of young players. And, congratulations to Clydesdale on their win.

### **Scottish Cup disappointment** [posted 03/09/17]

The Under 18s will, likely, rue picking today as the day to individually and collectively under-perform, the consequence of which was a 44-run defeat to Carlton in the semi-final of this season's Scottish Cup. In the field first, too many bowlers failed to do the basics well - bowling consistent lines and length - and chances were passed up in the field, culminating in Carlton being able to post 144 for 7. However the "7" really flatters *the 'Loc* as three wickets fell in the last over. Carlton's 144 was based around Whittaker's 47 (37), a knock that saw him given a life on 25 when *Sobo* put down a caught and bowled chance. *Rambo*, 'keeping in the absence of *CJ*, also put down a sharp chance standing up, whilst misfields saw runs leaked. Throw in 11 runs conceded in wides and no balls, and it was a scrappy first half from the side, with only *Raza* (4-0-15-1) really being able to say he'd done his job. 144 it was then, Whittaker's contribution being added to by Beattie (34) and McIntyre (20), and so *the 'Loc* would need to score at more than 7-an-over to secure the win.

Discussion between innings centred on making sure as many of the top order as possible could face bowlers three, four and five; a reminder that the match didn't have to be won in over ten but in over nineteen; and that factoring in the extras that would likely come their way it was important batters had evolving plans as the innings progressed as to how the winning post would be reached. Hardly rocket science, granted, but sensible enough to focus minds. And so it was that, after much nodding of heads, the top order then went out,.....and got out! Four out of the top five: 30 for 4 in the seventh over. Owais (1) top-edged a full toss from the final ball of off-spinner Simpson's opening over; *Timmy* (0) was cleaned up second ball by Brown second-last ball of over two [Ed: an over that saw 7 wides conceded!]; *Rambo* (7) cut a wide half-tracker from Brown, in his third over [Ed: an over that saw 5 in wides conceded!], straight to point; and Amaan (0) pulled a Simpson half-tracker straight to the fielder at deep mid-wicket. Collective suicide, each batter collecting their brain from the umpire on their way off. 😞 It was then 36 for 5 quick enough too, as *Sobo* (3) was bowled by Beattie. Pre-innings plans well-and-truly scrapped.

*Uzzi* was still there however, and he'd bat with the rest of the order as, eventually, 100 all out was amassed, the final wicket falling on the penultimate delivery of the match. *Uzzi* had at least hung around, though his 33 amidst the carnage had seen him struggle to rotate strike, and saw him face 58, or nearly half the, deliveries. Aside him only Abdul (11) got into double figures. In fact the next best contributor to *the 'Loc*'s total was the Carlton bowling attack who, somehow, gifted 31 runs in wides! Factoring that in really does emphasise the scale of the batting failure.

So defeat, and a hefty one, Carlton deservedly winning - despite their wayward bowling - having simply performed better on the day, and done more of the basics consistently. Congratulations to them. For *the 'Loc* players there's hopefully frustration, and maybe just a

smidgeon of embarrassment, given the scale of the underperformance and choking. However only time will tell whether this acts as a catalyst to look to how performances "when it matters" can be delivered, or whether - if this old reporter's allowed a wee rant - today's post-match team discussion was no more than a ten-minute delay to putting baseball caps on backwards and getting back to smart 'phones!

#### **Win at New Anniesland** [posted 31/08/17]

After what seemed like an eternity without any cricket matches getting started, far less finished, the Under 18s managed to get their rescheduled league match against Glasgow Accies played this evening over on the north side of the city. Batting first on a really good wicket given the recent monsoon-like weather that's blighted season 2017, the side posted 142 for 2 in their [reduced] eighteen-over allocation. All the batters made contributions, with only *Sobo* (15) not really managing to "kick on". *Sobo*, with *Uzzi* (42), did however blunt the Accies' opening attack, putting on 50 for the first wicket inside ten overs, the run-rate rising as the overs went by.

After *Sobo's* departure *Uzzi* was joined by skipper Taimoor and the two added another 37 runs in just under five overs as *Timmy* got up-and-running from the get-go. However their burgeoning partnership would be ended when *Uzzi* was bowled round his legs by Greene's leg-spin for a run-a-ball 42. This brought *Rambo* to the middle and his arrival was the catalyst for a really good last few overs as the three figures were passed, and an already good run-rate increased further. *Rambo* would score 38\* from just seventeen balls - including four 4s, and two 6s - and, with Taimoor a perfect foil (24\*), the side eventually posted 142 for 2.

In reply Accies lost an early wicket as Greene was caught by *Raza* at point off *Timmy's* bowling. However this would be *the 'Loc's* only success as Oliver (42\*) and Russell (55\*) batted through and, for a time, looked like they might get their side pretty close to the 143 needed for the win. Both were particularly harsh on Abdullah's bowling (3-0-32-0), with *Raza* also suffering some pain (3-0-25-0) as the slow bowling combo took some tap. *Timmy* however led from the front with the ball, his four overs returning 1 for 13, *Sobo's* 4-0-15-0 being almost as important in preventing the Glasgow Accies top order getting off to a flyer. However as it was - and in the gathering gloom - *the 'Loc* got home by 24 runs. A good win, and, as relevantly, just good to get a game in!

#### **Under 13s finish third** [posted 13/08/17]

The Under 13s took third place in today's Scottish Cup Finals Day, defeating Huntly in the third/fourth place play-off. The 5-run win came after the side had lost by seven wickets (albeit in the seventeenth over) to eventual winners Carlton. Congratulations to the Under 13s, and Coaches Jurie Snyman and David James, pictured below, on their good run in the competition. Tomorrow sees the youngsters back in league action, with a scheduled trip to New Cambusdoon to take on Ayr.

#### **Mixed fortunes** [posted 04/08/17]

The Under 11s went down to a narrow defeat against Weirs this evening at Albert Park, whilst - at the same time - the Under 15s were securing a win against a visiting Renfrew|West of Scotland combined side at Shawholm. The defeat at Albert Park in the mini-mini-minor southside derby did however see Musa Rana notch up a nice "3-for", but it would be in vain as the side lost by 12 runs in the run-chase. At Shawholm the Under 15s' win owed much to Abdul Malik's 43, the biggest component of the 90 for 4 that was recorded to secure a six-wicket win.

#### **The Under 13s make it to Finals Day** [posted 03/08/17]

The Under 13s booked themselves a date at inverleith on Sunday, and the Under 13 Scottish Cup Finals Day. Slated to take on Edinburgh club Carlton in the semi-final, the side booked their berth with a win over Ferguslie this evening in the "quarters". Batting first, a steady start was the foundation for eventually posting 83 for 7, Abdullah top-scoring with 22.

However the side would've hoped to post a bigger total, but the middle order struggled to keep the scoreboard ticking over, tight bowling and wickets falling at regular intervals preventing an acceleration towards the end of the innings. Defending 83 was always likely to need the side to bowl out their opponents, and so it was as Ferguslie were dismissed for 73, James with a "4-for". A good win then, and Sunday to look forward to. We've got the [scorecard](#) online, as well as updated [statistics and averages](#).

#### **Under 18s beat Glasgow Accies** [posted 31/07/17]

The Under 18s entertained Glasgow Accies this evening, and ran out out 74-run winners over the northside club. Batting first *the 'Loc* posted 139 for 4, with the two Amaans top-scoring: *Rambo* with 44, and Amaan Ali with 38. Then in the second innings, after early breakthroughs by skipper *Timmy* [Ed: both with slower deliveries!] Ahmed-Raza cleaned up the tail in double-quick time, taking an extraordinary "4 in 4" to see the visitors bowled out for 65.

#### **The Under 13s progress in the Scottish Cup** [posted 27/07/17]

The *Dark Side* was defeated this evening at *Toytown* as the Under 13s completed a rare double of their nearest rivals in the Scottish Cup. Batting first the Under 13s posted 125 with Hassaan Mehmood leading the way at the top of the order with a retiral-inducing 30 not out. There were cameos from others in the top and middle orders too, before the side capitalised on some *Keystone Caps* running between the wickets by their hosts to secure the win. No fewer than four run outs were executed in the Clydesdale reply, this after the Titwood youngsters had generously gifted two lots of 4-run overthrows during *the 'Loc's* innings. That sort of thing usually happens to us! Anyway, the win was secured, and Ferguslie - it's believed - await the side in the next round. We've got the [scorecard](#) online, as well as updated [statistics and averages](#).

#### **Two straight-forward wins** [posted 24/07/17]

Both the Under 13s and Under 18s recorded straight-forward wins over the East Renfrewshire|Renfrew combined sides this evening, the Under 13s winning by 64 runs at home, and the Under 18s by ten wicketsw away, in Renfrew. The Under 13s' total of 166 for 1 saw four batters - Hassaan, Abdullah, Samee and James - all score 28 not out or more, three retiring. Whilst at King George V Playing Fields, Amaan and *Uzzi* saw the Under 18s home in under eight overs, chasing the 66 needed for the win.

#### **Big win for 15s, but the 11s go down** [posted 21/07/17]

The Under 11s lost out in a close match to East Renfrewshire this evening at Shawholm, the club's youngest side performing really well. In the pairs match where the side matched their opponents in terms of runs scored off the bat, and bowled fewer wides and no balls, it was only because of losing four more wickets that the Under 11s went down to defeat. Standout performances, with bat and ball respectively, came from Abhay (15\*) and Musa (3-1-2-1).

Meanwhile over at New Anniesland the Under 15s were winning easily against their Glasgow Accies hosts. And this game will be remembered for Sohaib Shah's 133 (65 balls). *Sobd's* innings takes him to the top of the [Junior honours board](#) rankings, and means that he joins big brother Owais as a Poloc junior centurion. Well batted. In the Glasgow Accies' reply Zakir took a "3-for". We've got the [scorecards](#) online, as well as updated [statistics and averages](#).

#### **Under 13 win in Ayrshire** [posted 17/07/17]

The Under 13s were in league action this evening in Kilmarnock, and four retirals from the batters saw them post 151 for 1 batting first against the Irvone|Kilmarnock combined side. This proved more than enough as they then restricted their hosts to 74 for 6. The batters retiring were Samee (30\*), Hassaan (34\*), Hasan (31\*) and Abdullah (30\*). Then in the second innings there were braces of wickets for Momin, Moiz and Ubaid-Raza.

#### **Double defeat** [posted 07/07/17]

Both the Under 11s and Under 15s slipped to league defeats this evening, as Clydesdale saw off both sides in southside derbies. The Under 11s featured two debutants which was pleasing, Abhay picking up a wicket in his first game, and Muntaha becoming the latest Poloc junior cricketer to come off the Maqsood production line! The Under 11s would, however, lose out by 38 runs, as losing seven wickets (-35 runs) to Clydesdale's one (-5 runs) proved decisive.

Over at *Toytown* meanwhile the Under 15s were going down to another heavy defeat at the hands of their nearest rivals, last night's ten-wicket cup loss being followed by tonight's seven wicket reversal. Batting first the Under 15s could muster just 58, with only Abdul getting in to double figures. Their hosts then chased down their target inside thirteen overs, Zakir grabbing a couple of wickets, and *Jamesy* returning the impressive figures of 2-0-2-0 opening the bowling. We've got the [scorecards](#) online, as well as updated [statistics and averages](#).

#### **The Under 13s beat East Ren' | Renfrew** [posted 26/06/17]

The Under 13s beat the combined East Renfrewshire|Renfrew side this evening at Woodfarm Pavilion. Their 20-run win saw them defend 125, and had looked a pretty unlikely end result after they'd slumped to 1 for 4 in the second over! However an unbeaten 30 from Nabeel, 27 not out from *Jamesy* and 18 from Ubaid-Raza saw the ship steadied and enough runs put on the 'board to secure the win. We've got the [scorecard](#) online.

#### **Heavy defeat for the Under 15s** [posted 23/06/17]

The Under 15s went down to a heavy defeat this evening at Shawholm, losing by 53 runs to the Ferguslie|Kelburne combined team. After being set 153 to win, *the 'Loc* mustered 99 for 5, a "funny" score that reflect an apparent lack of appetite to "give it a go" chasing down the big score they leaked in the first innings. *Sobo* batted through for an unbeaten 54, which, on the night, look lite-weight compared to the visitors' McLean's unbeaten knock of 101 (64).

#### **Under 16s defeat Prestwick** [posted 21/06/17]

The Under 16s recorded a league win over Prestwick this evening at Shawholm, chasing 141 to beat their Ayrshire visitors. Amaan's unbeaten 72 was the standout knock in the run-chase, albeit he was ably supported by *Sobo*, whose 43 was just as important. We've got the [scorecard](#) online, and updated [statistics and averages](#).

#### **Cup win for Under 13s** [posted 20/06/17]

The Under 13s won through in both the League Cup and Scottish Cup this evening at Hamilton Crescent, beating hosts West of Scotland in a cup double-header. Batting first the side posted 113 for 6, before then skittling *West* for just 23 to win by 90 runs. There were contributions in the "teens" from Moiz (13), Abdullah (12) and Ubaid (11\*), however it was extras that really boosted *the 'Loc's* total, all 58 of them! In bowling out *West* for just 23, Momin and Devraj both picked up a couple of wickets.

#### **Big win for the Under 13s** [posted 19/06/17]

The Under 13s won again this evening, last wekk's cliffhanger against Clydesdale being followed by an altogether more relaxing 108-run win over the East Kilbride|Uddingston combined side. On a glorious night at Shawholm the youngsters posted 154 for 1 thanks to the Mehmood brothers - Samee and Hassaan - both scoring unbeaten 30s, and Abdullah making 24 not out. A "3-for" for Nabeel was then the highlight of the second innings, the combined side being bowled out for just 46.

#### **Friday night double for 'Loc junior sides** [posted 16/06/17]

The Under 11s and Under 15s were both victorious in their respective league matches tonight, the Under 11s beating Weirs in a southside derby, and the Under 15s winning over at Hamilton Crescent against West of Scotland. The Under 11s' win was based on losing no wickets as their four pairs batted first, the Under 15s' win saw an unbeaten 82 from *Sobo* with Abdul chipping in with 47. We've got the [scorecards](#) online.

### **Under 13 derby win** [posted 12/06/17]

Well readers [Ed: plural, that's optimistic!] this was a strange one. On a dreich night, where arguably any fuse lit would likely have simply either shivered and gone out, or quickly been extinguished by the dampness under foot, this game was, nevertheless, a slow-burner, with an explosive end. Fizzling along - kind of - for 36 or so overs, the match suddenly, and from nowhere, suddenly became watchable as the end neared. But to the end later. Let's, as they say, start at the beginning. Batting first, *the 'Loc* lost their first wicket in just the second over as Hasan was caught and bowled by Raja without scoring to notch an entry on this season's [Webbed Feet Award](#) table. 6 for 1. Things then settled down in to what would become the pattern for much of the rest of the game in fact: slow scoring, cheap dismissals, and the bowlers holding sway on a wicket tricky after the very wet weather there's been over the last two weeks. In fact aside Abdullah, who made an unbeaten 30, none of the other batters [Ed: on *either* side!] would score more than 16, and only two others would reach double figures! Four other *'Loc* batters joined Hasan on the Webbed Feet Award table, whilst five *'Dale* batters wouldn't get beyond 3. As you'd have imagined the bowlers' figures were generally impressive as a result, *Jamesy's* 4-3-5-2 being ridiculously so. More of his bowling to come. Amidst the grinding of the slow run-rate, there were also some slightly comical dismissals, maybe Momin being stumped after dozily wandering out of his crease being a particular favourite. And this after he'd pulled the only 6 of the evening over backward square-leg!

In fact had it not been for extras (38), and Clydesdale using ten bowlers, *the 'Loc* might not have posted anything like the 85 for 9 they ended up on. 86 to win then.

But as trailed, scoring runs proved no easier for the home side batters than it had for *the 'Loc*. And wickets similarly fell at all too regular intervals for *the 'Dale* coach's liking likely too. Ten overs in, the home side were 39 for 3 chasing the 86 they had been set to win. Wickets four, five and six then fell as the last four overs got underway. In fact with four overs to go, despite generously reciprocating on the extras front, *the 'Loc* had bowled and fielded sufficiently well that their opponents still needed 26 to win, from just 24 balls. But then over seventeen from Hasan cost 10, 6 in wides! Abdullah, bowling next up, then conceded 8 in over eighteen, including 2 in no balls, meaning that only 8 were needed from the last two overs. Cue damp and dispirited spectators to sit up and pay attention. Maybe the fizzle might yet sizzle. Hasan bowled the penultimate over and it cost 6 runs. Only 2 to win now. Six balls to bowl. *Jamesy* the bowler. Surely they couldn't lose it from here? Cue the skipper to make the evening's most telling contribution. *Jamesy's* over went as follows: . . W . W W The lit fuse had reached the dynamite, and - bang! - *the 'Loc* had somehow snatched victory from not so much the jaws of defeat, but from somewhere down the esophagus near the stomach! What a great over under pressure! Every ball straight, and three wickets resulting, the final one seeing Hassaan running out Bacon off the last ball as the single that would have seen a tie was attempted to be run by *the 'Dale* batters.

So an exciting end to an otherwise - it has to be said - pretty dreary affair. Abdullah's 30\* was *the* standout batting performance, and *Jamesy's* bowling, including *that* final over, matched Abdullah's knock in its importance in securing the unlikely win.

### **Two wins in Monday night junior action** [posted 05/06/17]

The Under 13s and Under 18s were both in action this evening, the younger side entertaining Ayr at Shawholm, the older team taking on the Ferguslie|Hillhead combined side at Meikleriggs. Pleasingly both sides recorded wins too, the Under 13s winning by over 100 runs and the Under 18s seeing off their opponents by five wickets.

For the Under 13s there was an unbeaten 33 from Hassaan, with a couple of cameo contributions from Hasan (22) and Samee (21), whilst *Rambo* (38\*), Taimoor (3-2-1-1), *Sobo* (4-0-6-2) and Abdullah (3-0-13-3) stood out in the game in Paisley. We've got the [scorecards](#) online.

### **A tie and a defeat in Friday night juniors action** [posted 02/06/17]

After a couple of weeks washed out, the Under 11s and Under 15s returned to action tonight, the Under 11s at Woodfarm Pavilion, and the Under 15s entertaining Glasgow Accies. The club's youngest hardball side succumbed to an older East Renfrewshire side in the match in Giffnock, losing by 43 runs, whilst the Under 15s tied their match with their visitors from the West End. We've got the [scorecards](#) online.

### **Frank Smith Trophy progression** [posted 26/05/17]

The Under 16s were in action for the first time this season, taking on West of Scotland in the Frank Smith Trophy over at Hamilton Crescent, the trophy being played at Under 16 this season. On another glorious night, perfect for cricket, and in front of a large crowd, the Under 16s romped to a convincing 95-run win. After posting 180 for 3 batting first in what must've been the longest innings of T20 cricket ever - it took two hours! - the side then [literally!] ran through their overs, incentivised by the offer of a free post-match drink if they could get the game finished by 9pm. With the second innings starting at 8.16pm this was a decent challenge. But rise to the challenge they did, with the last *West* wicket falling at,.....wait for it.....exactly 9.01pm! Unlucky guys! Fortunately peer group pressure prevailed and the Coach's wallet was opened. 14.3 overs bowled, and eight wickets taken, in 45 minutes - take a bow.

But back to the first innings. *Rambo's* 75 not out (50 balls) was the standout performance, *Uzzi* being maybe a tad unlucky as he drained a hip-high full toss straight to mid-on to depart for 25 (14) when he looked in really good nick. Zakir's 23\* is also worthy of mention in despatches. *Rambo's* 75\* included eight 4s, and a couple of big maximums. And in the fast-forward second innings, the eight wickets to fall were shared around, Hassaan taking a brace, and *Jamesy*, Nabeel, Samee and Zakir one each. There were also two run outs, a direct hit from *Uzzi* the better of the two.

So the Under 16s progress in the trophy and now have a home tie against either Prestwick or Ayr.

### **Under 15s lose a tight one** [posted 12/05/17]

If the Under 11s (see below) were frustrated at their match with Ayr being abandoned, the Under 15s similarly found themselves feeling miffed this evening. Also up against Ayr, *the 'Loc* posted a whopping 149 for 2 batting first, only to find themselves on the end of a defeat when their visitors snuk home with two balls to spare having, themselves, lost just the three wickets. In a match where clearly the batters were on top, *Sobo* (75\*) and *Rafay* (54) both scored half centuries as that target of 150 was set. However 150 would ultimately prove chaseable for the New Cambusdoon youngsters, losing just those three wickets *en route*, their target being reached in the final over. Disappointing maybe, but perhaps silver linings being the two *'Loc* batters' knocks, and the fact that even though the match was a competitive league encounter, no fewer than eight *'Loc* bowlers bowled.

### **Under 11s frustrated** [posted 12/05/17]

The Under 11s got their 2017 season under way tonight down at New Cambusdoon,.....kind of. "Kind of" because in the end the game started but didn't finish, persistent rain falling early in *the 'Loc's* reply that saw the players and umpires return to the clubhouse in search of cover. However there had been some action before the abandonment came, including Ayr's complete innings. And in that innings there were wickets for Devraj (three), Musa (two), Abdullsubhan (one) and Nitin (one, on debut). There was also a good direct-hit run out executed by Abdullsubhan which contributed to the home side losing the eight wickets that went down in their innings. Net 69 (under the pairs cricket scoring system) was Ayr's final score, leaving the Under 11s with a target of net 70 to win.

But *the 'Loc's* run-chase would be cut short by the rain, interrupting Abdullsubhan's and Nitin's overs at the crease. Prior to these two, Musa and Zeeshan had managed their four

overs, with Devraj, Adam, Mazin and Abhay all unable to get their pads on and get out in to the middle. Hopefully we'll re-arrange the match for later in the summer.

**Under 13s lose narrowly** [posted 08/05/17]

The Under 13s exited this year's ECB Cup this evening, losing to Ferguslie by just 9 runs. The match, yet another played in glorious weather, was keenly contested and went nearly all the way with *the 'Loc* youngsters still in the hunt in a second innings run-chase until the last couple of overs. For the visitors two batters dominated, scoring 30 not out each, with the other six batters getting to the middle mustering just 8 between them. *The 'Loc* Under 13s also managed to give each of the players - other than Kshitij who was 'keeping - a bowl, and it was a decent effort with the ball that saw Ferguslie restricted to 93 for 5 in their innings. However despite 30 not out from Hasan Malik on debut, 20 from Hassaan and 14 from Abdullah, *the 'Loc* run-chase just didn't ever have enough momentum and the side would finish 9 runs shy of their opponent's score to see the Paisley club progress in the competition. The [scorecard](#) of the game's online.

**Under 15s win on opening day** [posted 05/05/17]

The Under 15s kicked off another junior league season for the club's junior sides, travelling to The Tryst to take on Stenhousemuir this evening. And on a beautifully crisp early summer evening the youngsters defended 94 to secure a 14-run win. Batting first the Under 15s posted 94, with 32 from *Sobo* and an unbeaten 30 from Abdul. Then in a closely-fought second innings, the tide was turned for *the 'Loc* when Hassaan opened his spell in the middle overs by returning 2-2-0-2.

And then as the required run-rate rose the home side suffered a middle order collapse, four wickets falling in consecutive deliveries, Nabeel the bowler. We've the [scorecard](#) online, and the first Under 15s [averages and statistics](#).