



# Swiss Cricket Association

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The 2012 season had the Swiss National Team facing some exciting challenges and getting a chance to play against some top quality oppositions. The unfortunate suspension of the Swiss Cricket Association from the ICC prevented them from participating in the ICC European Division 3 Championship (T20) championship, which was held in Estonia. Although this was disappointing to everyone associated with cricket in Switzerland, we decided that the game must go on and the Swiss National Team should continue playing against other oppositions and be ready for the time when we are back in the ICC fold.

- 1) The season for the Swiss National Team began with the traditional David Barmes Trophy, which was played between the Swiss National Team and the winners of SCA League champions 2011, Berne CC. The SCA season opener was a closely contested game resulted in a good victory for the national team. The national team scored a competitive 188/8 in 40 overs on a difficult wicket. Some excellent bowling and fielding performance from the national team restricted Berne CC to 122 resulting in a 66 run victory for the national team.
- 2) The second destination for the national team was a tour of Amsterdam to play against VRA cricket club, one of the oldest cricket clubs in Holland, which is also the home for the Dutch National team. The club currently has 6 first team players who represent Holland. The tour started with a T20 game, which was played under difficult batting conditions because of the weather. The Swiss National Team batted first and scored 124/7 in tough batting conditions. What followed a decent batting performance was fantastic bowling and fielding performance which led to a rare overseas victory for the Swiss national team as the VRA folded for 82. The second game was a 40 over affair and the VRA, which were led in the field by Steve Lubbers (former captain of the Holland). Batting first VRA used all their experience and made 182/8 in 40 overs. The Swiss national team unfortunately could not make it through this time as they folded under pressure of some top class bowling and fielding performance of VRA and were eventually bowled out for 124. Players who went back home from this tour had a great experience of playing against top quality opposition and also hard lessons were learnt on how to build innings in face of high quality bowling.
- 3) The last assignment for the national team this year was to participate in the Mike Gatting charity tournament organized in La Manga. The national team was drawn into a tough pool containing hosts, national champions of UK and a top Norwegian team. The first game was played against the Norwegian team Kolsas CC and the national team played excellent cricket and thrashed the opposition by overhauling the target of 137 in 13 overs. In the next game they came up against the hosts La Manga CC, the previous year champions. The national team made 157 batting first, which was a decent score but the bowlers could not get going and unfortunately they could not defend the score owing to some quality stroke playing from the host batsmen. The final game was against York CC, which was the UK national T20 champion club. The Swiss team could not replicate their batting form shown in earlier games and could not overhaul the target of 167 set by York CC. Although the national team could not advance to the knock out phases, the experience gained by playing against tough oppositions should help the national team in the future.

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#### Swiss Cricket Association Executive Committee

A.Mackay (President), D.Milne (vice-President), K.McKeown (Honorary Secretary), N.Gandhi (Treasurer),

A.Koshy (Competitions' Chairman), A.Lakkaraju (International Manager), P.Vijayadas (Sponsorship & Publicity), P.Henderson (Youth Development)



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The performances in 2012 showed that the national team future is bright especially if they continue to work hard like they have done in 2012 and learn from the mistakes they made in the games when they played against good opposition. The plan for the 2013 is to build up a base of 25 players and organize regular coaching sessions with the help of qualified coaches. The plan is also to play against other European nations, which are above us in the rankings and for the national team to participate in at least three tours over the season.

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