



Basel Dragons are one year old and what a great year it has been. Everyone associated with the club can be very proud with the progress we have made. I was one of those frustrated parents who stood up and said 'enough is enough' with Basel CC, tired of the shambles that was the junior section and tired of the fact that no one from the junior section had any say or influence on how the club was being run.

We have endeavored to ensure that Basel Dragons is a properly constituted, properly run members club in which all members have a full right to contribute. In this respect, I must say a huge thank you to Jacqueline who has ensured that the club has been established in a fully compliant manner with Swiss legislation which in itself has huge benefits when it comes to discussing our

needs with the Basel Sports Authorities.

One of our key concerns when we decided to establish Basel Dragons was having access to the wicket at Bachgraben. We thought that this had been agreed with Sportsamt but following objections from our friends at Basel CC, this was rescinded. However, following discussions with Sportsamt, they made Rankhof available to us for our summer requirements and frankly, this serves our needs better than Bachgraben.

With Sam then securing the facilities at ISB Aesch for winter training, we had everything



First cricket training at Bachgraben on Saturday, 14th May 2011

we needed to get going. We still have challenges going forward with the facilities, ISB is not big enough to host all the club at one time so ideally we need

another facility to supplement ISB and I am in discussions with Sportsamt on our requirements.

We also need to decide whether to make Rankhof our home and invest in mobile nets and bowling machines which will be the next step in the evolution of the club.

The finances of the club, under the able stewardship of Sam, are in good health but if we are to make these investments, this will require support from all members to raise the money required.

The greatest satisfaction that I take from the year is the fact that we have **40 children** fully signed in 2011. I would love to think that we can get this number to above 50 by the end of the year 2012. The best way to do this is to make it fun and enjoyable for the children which I would like to think we have done this year. Word of mouth is the best way to gain new recruits. The coaches will also endeavor to make training and matches as inclusive as possible, not always easy with the game itself and the varying ranges of ability but we do fully recognize that unless we can make it enjoyable for all the players, they will simply give up (and go to play football god forbid!).

I strongly believe that playing competitive matches against other clubs is the reason why we train and is essential to the whole experience of being part of a cricket club. It is also impossible to replicate the experience of batting and bowling in match conditions when we train, this is a totally different experience. We now have sufficient players to field sides at U9, U11 and U13 on a regular basis. At U15 level, we will either have to field some of the older U13's to make up the team or combine with other clubs such as Cossonay who are in a similar position. Nick is doing a great job also in combining with Zurich for U15 training and matches as they have the facilities to meet the needs of the older boys. However, I think that it is essential that Basel Dragons aim to meet these needs in the future so that traveling to Zurich is not essential.

As ever, our primary focus will be the **Zuoz festival**, effectively the Swiss Championships. This will be held between May 26-28 so please put the date in your diaries. I expect that we will field a side at all the 4 age



Zurich vs Dragons U11 – Sept 2011

levels. I will also arrange fixtures with Zurich and Geneva prior to Zuoz and throughout the playing season. I can only ask that you make every effort to prioritize these fixtures in your respective calendars; there is nothing more frustrating than to arrange these games only to find we have half a team on the evening before the game. If we are to play competitively, it does involve parental commitment as well as player commitment. I was hugely disappointed that we were only able to field 3 U13 players for the Swiss indoor tournament in Geneva in November for what was one of the highlights of the Swiss cricket year. Those 3 players, Will, Tom and Cameron performed brilliantly in a combined team with Cossonay but again, we should have had a Basel Dragons team at U13 level as we did at U11 level.

We will recommence training at ISB on Friday March 9th 2012 and build up for our own indoor tournament that will take place over the weekend of 31st March/1st April. It was a joint decision of all the coaches to have a break in Jan/Feb, primarily to focus on skiing rather than cricket for these 2 months. Please bear in mind that all the coaches give their time freely, all have jobs that extend well beyond a standard 40 hour week including significant amounts of international travel, and all have family commitments. I would therefore like to say a big thank you to Dave, Nick, Pete, Simon, James, Steve and Pete for their commitment to the club. I would also encourage all Dads and Mums to get involved, to take the level 1 coaching course and to help out, we will never have too many coaches.

I would also like to say a big thank you to Lee Howarth for setting up and administrating the club website which I hope will in time become the primary vehicle for communication within the club (and replace my frequent e-mails). Lee has also organized the ordering of the Basel Dragons team kit and I have to say that the boys look really impressive when they all turn out in the club colors for a game.

I am looking forward to another great year for Basel Dragons!

Chris Clayton (President)



Impressions from Zuoz festival 2011



Coaches Report

Going from strength to strength

Just as the Club itself has consolidated and grown, the past year has been a real turning point in terms of coaching and the development of the players with in the Club.

With a number of parents participating in coaching courses and an influx of new and keen parents we were able to make giant strides in terms of commitment from parents to get involved with the coaching which has made a huge differ-

ence to the standard of our players and the enjoyment they have playing the game. As the coaching has become more consistent and structured so have the skills and abilities of the boys.

One of the biggest challenges we faced was to find appropriate facilities to train and play on. The move to Rankhof was a very good first step. With enough space for all the players to train in the one area on a surface that was safe and forgiving provided the opportunity to begin to put some structure around the training sessions. Also being able to set up makeshift nets was very helpful in getting the boys to practice their batting and bowling in a more realistic cricket setting.

The move to the ISB in the colder months did provide a useful and cost-effective solution which was particularly important at the stage the Club was at. But moving to the ISB and encouraging ISB families to participate meant an increase in players which pushed the facilities to the limit. Having to train the boys on alternate weeks was workable but far from optimal, particularly in terms of preparing for matches against other clubs.

Following the intake of many new players from the ISB the numbers of younger players swelled requiring some creative thinking to cater for the broad range of abilities. It was decided to split the indoor training sessions into separate U9's and U11's. The U9's training sessions consisted of up to a dozen players who were the least experienced of the total group. They were mostly 8 or under, but included a couple of boys who had already played for the U11's and a couple of older players who were just starting up.

Having a more homogeneous group allowed the coaches to focus on the basics: bowling with a straight arm, batting and throwing and catching. Huge progress was made with the bowling as nearly everyone has moved on from throwing and we have some good batsmen in the making. However the fielding and running between wickets is slow to progress and this is certainly an area that can only improve with practice and match situations and something that we will need to continue to focus on.



The highlight for the U9's was their first match against a far more experienced Zurich Crickets team. So although we were outplayed, most of our players stepped up to the pressure of a match and performed well with either the bat and or ball and the gelling and team spirit of our group of 8 and 9 year olds into a team so quickly was quite inspiring.

At an Under 11 and Under 13 level the value of training became very clear to both coaches and players. While many of the younger and new players still had to be taught the very basic fundamentals some of the better and older ones need to be coached in some more technical aspects. We were able to meet this challenge to some degree as the coaches course in 2010 provided structure and confidence in running sessions.

Both age groups had players ranging in abilities but throughout the year players did make big improvements in fielding technique, bowling and running between wickets as demonstrated in matches played.

While most of the players have a good foundation of the basic skills, we need to further hone in on and focus

on individual skills. We need to find ways to further develop and consolidate batting technique and there are a number of players that do have different talents namely spin bowling and wicket keeping and we need to find ways of developing skills in these areas. During the course of the year the structure and content of training sessions continued to improve and this was reflected in the level of enjoyment for both players and coaches. The coaching sessions worked particularly well when split between drills and actual game like situations.

The Under 15 group probably proved the most challenging in terms of providing the most appropriate coaching and highlighted our deficiency in being able to give the necessary technical coaching. There are some very talented players in this group - reflected in the fact that four players were involved with the Swiss team in various overseas tours - and it is vital that we look to address the needs of these players moving forward

Also the fact that the number of players in this group is very small it is difficult to pull together a team and give them match practice against other clubs. And while the training at ISB did attract some new players in this age bracket no new permanent Under 15 players resulted

It has proven very beneficial for some of our Under 15 players to travel to Zurich on Saturday mornings to train as this has not only given them a chance to train regularly but has also been helpful in keeping them enthused. To help bolster the Under 15 ranks we will need to focus and develop those older Under 13 players who will be U15s next year.

Overall, moving forward, finding the most suitable facilities to cater for the number and range of ability of the players and providing consistent and more technical coaching for the older boys will be our biggest hurdle.

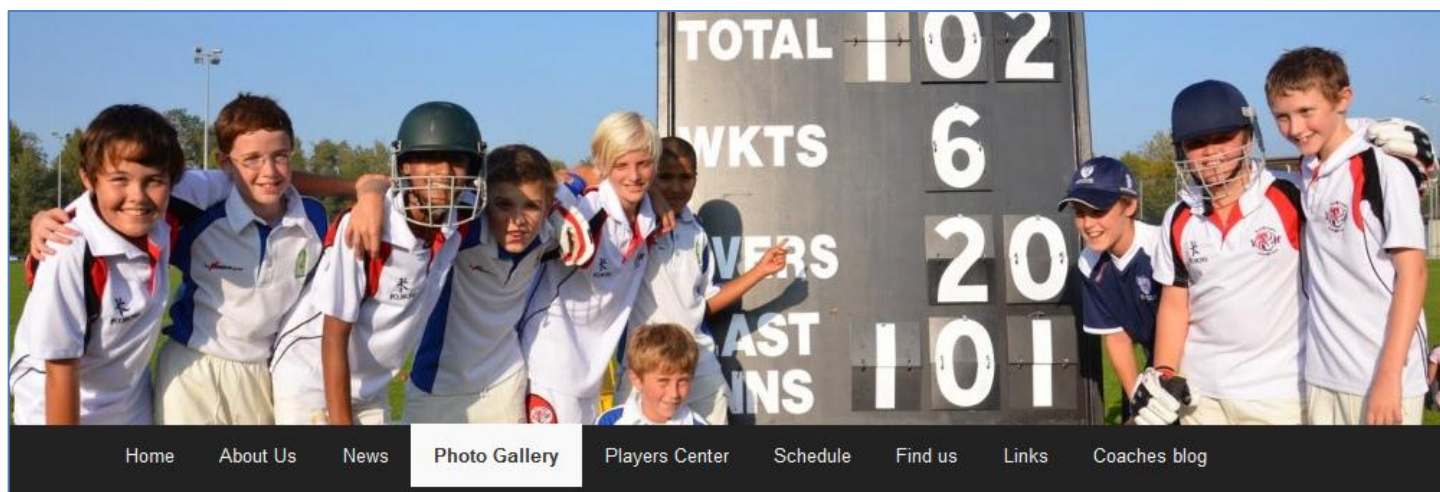
As well as the week-to-week coaching we need to be playing more matches and need to be committed to this. We have been able to build good relationships with coaches from other clubs and need to work with them to co-ordinate regular games outside of organised tournaments.

Overseas club tours are a good aspiration but we are not there yet. A first step towards that would be to bring in more qualified coaches and conduct weekend camps for our players here in Basel. This would provide more intense training and experience which would better prepare them for tournaments within Switzerland and lay the ground work for possible tours overseas.

But as a Club that is only a year old we can be very proud of the progress we have made. The improvement in the children is a reflection of the hard work and dedication of many people and I would like to thank everyone one who has been involved.

We must always remember that as well as teaching the players the obvious skills of cricket – batting, bowling and fielding – we need to also focus on promoting good sportsmanship and a love of the game that they can enjoy whether they win or lose and that they can carry into later life as they play at a more senior level.

Pete Bayliss (Coaching coordinator) and Coaches James Harper and Nick Creba-Wright



Financial report and CASH balance 2011

INCOME (chf)	
	4,690.00
Membership fees 2011	10.00
Fund Raising	<u>545.95</u>
Club Uniform	
	<u>5,245.95</u>
Total Income 2011	

EXPENSES (chf)	
Equipment	1,750.94
(320= cricket uniform; 1430.94 = cricket kit)	
Ground Rental (ISB)	440.00
Match Expenses (Zuoz)	300.00
Club Insurance	265.40
Post Office Charges	19.50
(monthly statements and counter charges)	
Miscellaneous (postage)	<u>24.40</u>
Total Expenditure 2011	<u>2,800.24</u>

Our biggest expenditure this year has been on equipment to enable us to get the club up and running. We now have two full kit bags at U9/U11 and U13/U15 level.

Total Income 2011	5,245.95
Total Expenditure 2011	<u>-2,800.24</u>
Net income 2011	<u>2,445.71</u>

CASH POSITION (End Dec 2011)

Opening Balance (6 June 2011) on Post account	2,360.00
Total Income	2,885.95
Membership Subs 2012 already received	5,100.00
Total Expenditure	-2,800.24
Closing balance (31 Dec 2011) on Post account	7,545.71

2360 CHF are subs 2011 transferred from Basel Cricket Club BCC to BDJ after the closing of BCC Junior Wing.

Samantha "Sam" Russell (Treasurer)



Audit report 2011

I have audited the accounts for 2011 and found them to be in order, with a healthy balance from subscriptions and well organised documentation.

I am happy to recommend to the committee that the accounts are accepted and that thanks are due to Sam Russell for her work as treasurer on behalf of the club.

Kind regards,

David Benzies (Auditor BDJ)



www.baseldragonsjcc.com

Miscellaneous statistics

BDJ registered players 2011

- Players situation at constitutional meeting **May 6th = 14**
- Players situation at EGM **June 24th = 24**
Players situation by **Sept 9th = 29** BDJ players, 22 ISB kids (**total 51**)
(from September to December BDJ offered cricket facilities for kids from the International School Basel ISB)
- Players situation by **December 31st = 40**
(on the last training in December the cricket introduction for the 22 ISB kids ended, but 9 of them wanted to continue and became BDJ member. And BDJ had in addition another 2 arrivals from Basel area)
- BDJ subs 2011: 150 CHF for first child and 100 CHF for every following child of the same family

BDJ Committee

Members: Chris Clayton (President), Samantha "Sam" Russell (Treasurer), Pete Bayliss (Coaching Coordinator), Lyn Rowley (Ground/Equipment Responsible), Jacqueline D. Jayakody (Secretary).

The committee held 5 meetings in 2011. Lyn Rowley left the committee in September as he moved to India in November. After an appeal to the club members to settle a succession Kaushik Kothari volunteered to join the committee. He participated on the Committee-meeting in December and his nomination will be brought to the next Assembly General Meeting AGM on 23rd February 2012.

BDJ website www.baseldragonsjcc.com

Start per 27th June. Visits per 31st December 2011 = 5539

*Report issued by BDJ committee. Pictures by BDJ Cricket Club.
Download available for our cricket friends around the world: www.baseldragonsjcc.com*



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