Contributed by
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Berne Cricket Club

Discovering Twenty20 Cricket.

Most people know the game involves a bat and a ball. But many of you from non-cricket playing nations might be unaware that a Test match, the yardstick by which top-class international teams are measured, takes three and five days. A game of "limited overs" cricket, however, played at local level, lasts around six hours.

What to think of cricket matches lasting only around three-and-a-half hours (plus, perhaps, a break for lunch in the middle)? Quite a lot, judging from my experience at last year's opening of the third Swiss Twenty20 Tournament. Twenty20 is a cricket format specifically d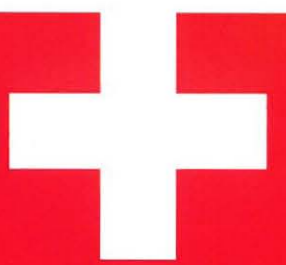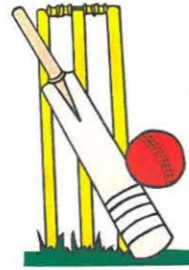evised to attract younger players and spectators to the sport. It was invented in England in 2003, and brought to Switzerland three years ago in the form of the Swiss Twenty20 Association, which runs the tournament.

The third season got off with a bang with the official opening ceremony on 4 September, and the official announcement of Lloyds TSB as a new sponsor. The game was played, as was every game in the tournament, at Berne Cricket Club's beautiful grounds in the shadow of the Bundeshaus. The game, between Zurich United and the Swiss Colts, was fast paced and enjoyable – the eventual winners being United. The winner of the whole tournament was Winterthur Cricket Club, one of two teams taking part from this city, who despite the home advantage beat Berne Cricket Club in a nail-biting final.

The atmosphere among the spectators was relaxed and convivial; particularly excellent was the lunch of curry available between innings. We were also invited to try our hand at bowling or batting. For those who miss the gentle thwack of leather on willow, or who are curious to get to know the sport for the first time, the Twenty20 Tournament provides a thoroughly pleasing cricket experience.

www.t20.ch

HELLO SWITZERLAND