

## PATTAYA CRICKET CLUB BATTING COLLAPSE HANDS ASIAN STARS TOP SPOT

In the final league game of the season between the top two teams, Pattaya Cricket Club and Asian Stars faced each other at the Thai Polo Ground on Sunday.

The toss was vital and Asian Stars captain Dimple had no hesitation in bowling first with the wicket looking very green and juicy following the early morning downpour. And so it proved. Despite two early consecutive sixes from Wez Masterton (17) PCC crumbled in the face of some lively swing bowling led by the excellent Bilal (0/6). The PCC captain Simon Philbrook (21) could only stand at the non strikers end as partners came and went. PCC slumped to 57/5 at drinks after 15 overs and did not fair much better after the break as they were skittled out for a sub-par 93.

Not wanting to roll over the bowlers immediately applied the pressure as Mo Sheik (1/12) and Ian Liddell (2/14) made early inroads. Nishanth and Andy Emery each picked up a wicket and then a controversial moment. Mazhar, the opening batsman who was expertly anchoring the Asian Stars innings cut a ball to backward point where the PCC captain belied his years and picked up one handed and threw to the keeper. The quality of the fielding caused confusion between the batsmen as both were stranded mid wicket. PCC were certain they had not crossed and that they had the wicket they were after. But, after a lengthy debate the batsmen decided they had crossed and Mazhar survived....just. He continued until the final runs were scored to finish 53 not out and Asian Stars secured a hard fought 3 wicket victory at 97/7.

It was a somewhat disappointing finale for PCC but they should be proud of their achievements that included memorable victories and notable performances, in particular from Manik who had a magnificent season with the bat.

PCC would like to thank the club sponsors PSC, Amigo Group, Retox Outback Bar, Macallan Insurance and Aegis International and encourage anyone with a passion for the game to join the club by visiting the club website [www.pattayacricketclub.com](http://www.pattayacricketclub.com) or the Facebook page.