

Match Report PCC v Bangkok Strikers

On Friday 1st May, Pattaya Cricket Club travelled to the Thailand Cricket Ground, to play their last League game of the Season against bottom side, Bangkok Strikers.

It was a game with much riding on it. Win and they could finish top of the League, lose and they could finish 5th.

Bangkok won the toss and decided to bat, which was an immediate problem for PCC Captain, Simon Philbrook, as only 7 players had arrived for the scheduled start. When the latecomers, finally joined the field, with the score at 12 for 1 it looked like PCC had dodged a bullet. Indeed, after six overs, the PCC opening Bowlers had Bangkok at 28 for 4, with Salman and Thomas taking 2 wickets each. The Bangkok middle order fought back and contributions from Deepak with 32, and Balaji with an excellent 56, steadied the ship. Some late wickets from Khalid, who finished with 3 for 25, helped to keep the score down and after their 25 Overs Bangkok Strikers had posted 138 for 8, which many thought was about 20 short.

It is an old adage in Cricket that you should never judge a pitch, until both sides have batted on it and so it proved when PCC began their Innings. The top order struggled on the Turf wicket and found scoring difficult. Fine Bowling from Selva had the PCC top three back in the hutch with only 18 on the Board. Scoring was so slow that PCC had struggled to 32 for 3 after 10 overs. This left the middle order with a lot to do and despite 37 from Paul Hack, 24 from Colin Clark and 20 from Captain Simon Philbrook, they were always up against it. It came down to PCC needing to score 11 off the last over to win and they could only manage 7, which meant Bangkok Strikers won by 3 runs. With fine bowling from Selva who took 3 for 29. However, Yuvraj with 1 for 14 and Bobby with 1 for 16 in their 5 overs each, did much to keep the runs to a minimum.

Balaji won Man of the Match for his 56 and 1 for 22 and PCC finished the league Season in 4th place. The top four qualify for the end of season play-offs and so PCC will play old friends Indorama on Sunday 3rd May in the Elimination Game.