

## ONE RUN VICTORY KEEPS PATTAYA CRICKET CLUB'S LEAGUE TITLE HOPES ALIVE

It was a sultry, steamy morning at the Thai Polo Ground where Pattaya CC hosted Kerala CC in the latest round of the Bangkok Cricket League. Only a victory would keep PCC in the title race against a side sat on top of the league. PCC captain Simon Philbrook called correctly and had no hesitation in batting first especially as the home side only had 10 players. Bobby 'Not So' Young, the club's secretary and scorer, who always brings his whites just in case of such a scenario could not get changed quick enough, despite a few expletives in the process.

Venky (5)perished early but Manik (55) and Tiz (19) grafted hard in the face of the best bowling attack in the league. Excellent line and length bowling with significant pace kept the run rate in check as the PCC batsmen struggled to find the boundary. Johnny (3/24) was the pick of the attack that restricted PCC to just 118/9, an innings underpinned by the superb Manik and capped by a beautifully crafted inside edge for a single and 1 not out from the effervescent Bobby Young. How crucial would that turn out to be!

It was a score that demanded the PCC bowlers to be at their very best. However, the Kerala openers started in positive fashion by taking on the batting power play and finding the boundary early. 32 runs were on the board before Tiz (2/17) and Peter Gangur (2/18) started making inroads. Wickets tumbled regularly and supported by some excellent catching the pressure slowly but surely mounted as the chase progressed. Bernard Lamprecht (3/14) was the game changer as his height (6'9") and bounce proved too challenging for the lower order. But it still came down to the wire with Kerala needing one for the tie and 2 for the win with one wicket remaining. In an attempt for glory the batsman tried to clear long on but didn't quite get it all and was caught on the run by 'The Bucket', formerly known as 'The Sieve', Venky. Whilst acknowledging the bowlers were very good Bobby Young pointed out to his fellow teammates that he had in fact won the game with his textbook single run, a hypothesis no one dared to contradict.

Manik was awarded the man of the match trophy for the third time this season, much to Bobby's annoyance and PCC are back level on points at the top of the league table.

PCC welcome anyone wanting to join the club to visit the club website [www.pattayacricketclub.com](http://www.pattayacricketclub.com) or the Facebook page and thanks are extended to our two sponsors PSC and Outback Bar.