



PCC Match Report – Koh Chang 5th International Beach Cricket Tournament 2019

The Tournament was conducted at Koh Chang from 23–26 Aug 2019 at the Shambhala Beach Bar and Siam Royal Apartments. A great setting for a great event. Any PCC member who has not attended ought to add it to their Bucket List and tick it off before they die.

At some point on the third day of the Tournament I became aware of my appointment as the new PCC Match Reporter when I overheard an unidentified PCC member asking Simon, “Who was going to write the Match Report?” Simon said, “Clive”. So, this is my first report. If anyone has any comments or issues, please keep them to yourselves or I’ll write lies about you in the next report (whether you played or not).

The Tour Team consisted of Simon Philbrook, Dave Samways (Experienced Beach Cricketers), Clive Rogerson, Trevor Moolman, Bernie Lamprecht, John Harvey, Ian Liddell (Reds), Wez Masterton and Gavin Perfect (vocal and drinking support), all beach cricket virgins.

There were 12 teams from various parts of Thailand and 2 from Malaysia: Koh Chang Buffalos, Koh Chang Barmy Army, PCC, Phuket, British Club A & B, Black Parrots, Pangolin A & B from Malaysia whose apparel consisted of songkoks and budgie smugglers (a distressing sight for children and adults without a strong constitution), Lanna from Chiang Mai, Lanna Kids, and Lamphun kids. The 12 teams were divided into 2 divisions so each team played 5 divisional games. Their final position in their division dictated which team they were competing against from the other division and which of the 6 prizes – Toothpick, Chopstick, Spoon, Tea cup, Plate and Winner’s Cup, they would challenge for.

There were 4 divisional games on 23rd but these did not involve PCC. Our first game was on Saturday 24th against British Club B at 0830. Clive was the first-up bowler and took a wicket on his 3rd delivery. Wickets continued to fall and they were skittled for a low 40’s score. Clive, the first-up batsman decided to see if he could run himself out on almost every ball. He didn’t. This set the tone for an easy victory. Trevor dropped a catch which I think was the only one from PCC. Simon rotated the available players and our next game was at 1150 against Pangolin A. Again, this was an easy victory with our star bowlers keeping things tight and our star batsmen (Bernie and Wez) lashing out. The third game of Saturday was against Phuket. Again, this did not prove to be a difficult contest and PCC was on a roll. Our final game of Saturday was at 1800 against The Black Parrots - a Bangkok team with a solid reputation for being very capable. Bangkok Parrots set us a difficult total of 75 to chase. Wickets were hard to come by and their bowling was hard to score against so we came second in that one. Hardly surprising as we had been drinking at a furious pace all day and managed to completely fill a dustbin with empties. There is photographic evidence of Simon and John being unable to keep up and having a midday snooze.

Sunday saw PCC with a late morning start against Lana with Clive (Sick Note) ruled out due to a defective right knee – it seems his advancing years make him a one-day only specialist. Lanna was 3 & 1 at that point and looking for second place. It was not to be. PCC took another win and finished the day 4-1 and second place in the Division.

Therefore, we would be playing Lamphun Kids in the play-off for 3rd place and The Plate Trophy. The game against Lamphun Kids was fiercely contested. The kids were not to be underestimated as they had a similar record to PCC and it was evident that they were extremely well-coached, highly-skilled, very competitive and super-fast around the beach. These guys are the future of Thai cricket. PCC bowled first and kept things tight. Reds managed a wicket maiden, the only one of the Tournament, and then Wez took the last over. Wez was trying too hard and started with a no-ball, a dot and then 4 consecutive wides, scoring 2-4-6-6 and a final dot. Thus 20 extras without bat on ball. Lamphun finished on 65. PCC started their batting slowly but surely and by the 3rd over were on track for a close

finish and waiting for our big hitters to pull it out of the bag. It was not to be. Lamphun's bowlers were quick and accurate. Runs were not easy and to make matters worse Wez was given run out – a highly dubious decision. We lost by 17 runs and came 4th.

It was a great weekend. The organisation and conduct of the tournament was superb. Our drinking abilities were supreme and our cricket was noteworthy – only one dropped catch, several catches taken by the various wicket keepers, no over throws, no fumbled fielding, tidy bowling and some big hitting batsmen.

The event was concluded with the prize giving ceremony where the winners were The Black Parrots, runners-up were British Club A, Plate winners were Lamphun Kids, the best bowlers was Stromsky from The Black Parrot, the best batsman was Saleem from Pangolin A and the Best Player went to a young Thai lad of about 10 years old who bowled and batted like a little demon. Prize giving was followed by a sumptuous BBQ and more beer.