



Dreary Start but bright finish for Pattaya Cricket Club

The heavens opened up and things looked rather bleak weather wise as the troops arrived early morning for Sunday's league match at the beautiful new Thai Polo Cricket Ground. Pattaya Cricket Club were looking for a win with bonus points if possible, to climb to the second position on the table after half their pool matches were played. Lady luck smiled and the sun came out 5 minutes before the start time of 10.30am and with the use of the Thai version of the Super Sopper (a leaf blowing machine) the match started at 10.45am just a 15 minute delay. Earlier the PCC Captain had once again won the toss (4 out of 5 league matches) and put Indorama in to bat.

The ball was not bouncing and there was some skid in the surface but the Indorama batsman gave some good resistance to Salman & Thomas who opened the attack for PCC. Salman bowled one of the openers in his second over but this time around there was no sudden collapse and the batsmen were progressing. Andy took over from Thomas and bowled fairly well but was wicket less. The game changer came when Hamza took over from Salman and bowled a lethal line & length picking up 4 top order wickets in his spell of 5 overs while just conceding 11 runs. It was then an uphill task for the Indorama batsman to reach a respectable score and it was an out and out effort by the PCC bowlers and fielders to get Indorama bowled out before a 100 to get the 2 bonus points. Indorama did not let that happen and ended their innings at a 114 for 8 in 25 overs. Salman came back for another spell & picked up his second wicket and Mithu & Bobby both took a wicket each.

PCC went in for Richard Holt as opening partner for John G. It can be said that the other regular opener John Spiers was in the runs without having faced a single ball. I think it was the squid that he had the evening before. Poor chap, never has a man had to make 20 odd long trips to the toilet on a cricket field. Richard was out in the first over and Sensible Dan went in at 3. With Dan it's always the toss of a coin and this time around it landed on tails and he was out caught & balled first ball. PCC were in trouble with 2 gone for just a few on the board. That's when Salman the skipper joined John G and they decided that they would try and get the job done themselves. Some great stroke play, good defense and clever running saw them achieve what they had set out to do and PCC crossed the winning line in 17 odd overs with John G at an aggressive 51 not out and Salman with a solid 39 not out. PCC won by 8 wickets and Hamza was awarded the man of the match for his excellent bowling performance.