



*Pattaya Cricket
Club*

PATTAYA CRICKET CLUB PHUKET TOUR IS A HUGE SUCCESS

Pattaya Cricket Club embarked last week on the club's inaugural overseas cricket tour to Phuket with a cast list made up of 1st team and Thoroughbred (over 50's) members.

With all 14 of the touring party and club mascot Pat-sy arriving on the Friday it meant serious and meaningful team bonding was possible, whilst wearing our kindly sponsored evening shirts from Joe Cox of Defence International Security Services, prior to the first game on Saturday against a strong Patong Cricket XI in a 35 over match to be played at the marvelous Alan Cooke Cricket Ground.

Having lost the toss PCC were asked to field, a decision that was made by the opposition captain after he had assessed the look of the PCC grey and ashen faces, a result of the scenic up-hill down dale journey to the ground and categorically nothing to do with the team bonding the night before.

Sporting the new club shirts, PCC toiled in hot and humid conditions for the first 12 overs before drinks were taken and Patong had accumulated an impressive 86 runs for the loss of 1 wicket. Then Rob 'Zimmer' Young began a 7 over bowling spell that belied his 60 plus years and frequent morning calls with the porcelain telephone. His slow left arm guile immediately posed problems and despite two dropped catches, one an absolute sitter by Andy Emery, he single handedly hauled PCC back into the game with figures of 2 for 39. Aply supported by Richard Holt and some improved fielding, most notably from Brian Wilkings with some athletic tumbling stops which he blamed on his slick soled shoes, Patong were restricted to 236 for 9.

In reply PCC lost John G early trying to pull a ball that appeared short to him and lost his middle stump. The club captain Simon Philbrook and Dan Nicholson took the score to 38 before Dan departed to be replaced by Salman. Gradually PCC accumulated runs against an aggressive and accurate bowling attack that seemed to be made up of entirely left arm quicks. Their pressure told as Salman and Holty were removed in quick succession and PCC were 131 for 4. With hopes of the captain playing the captains innings Simon passed the half century mark but was undone by a ball that stopped a little on the artificial wicket and was caught on the long off boundary for 54. Earl Brown strode to the crease intent on making up for his buffet bowling over and inept fielding display. As the bowlers tired Earl became inspired as he found the boundary with unerring accuracy and PCC had Patong questioning the outcome. Eventually Earl played a shot too many and was caught at mid wicket. The tail wagged but not hard enough and PCC finished on 219 for 9 to claim a dubious losing draw (it was a loss really). PCC man of the



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match was gratefully received by Zimmer for his match changing bowling spell until he was informed a yard of ale needed to be consumed (well it was only a foot but a yard sounds better). He was then back on the porcelain telephone!

The following day the tour party arrived at the same ground via the same route so the players were their customary ashen white but this time a T20 game against Patong CC was scheduled.

Fortunately PCC won the toss and elected to bat on what was a sizzlingly hot day. John G, playing on the front foot and Dan made a positive start and after 10 overs PCC were 58 for 2. The run rate increased as Salman started to find the boundary and with contributions from the lower order PCC posted a defensible 136 for 7.

Andy Emery and Salman opened the bowling and each had the Patong batsmen struggling to assert themselves. Wickets fell at regular intervals and at half way PCC had the edge as Patong CC reached 56 for 4. The pressure continued despite an unexpected bolt of lightning striking the electricity pylon immediately over the player's heads which made all the PCC fielders run to the pavilion faster than at any time on tour. Holty made the match changing contribution with 3 wickets in an over to finish Patong CC off as they were finally all out in the final over for 120. Man of the match was awarded to Salman for his 42 not out and miserly bowling figures of 2 for 17. He was awarded a shot of tequila, much to the dismay of Zimmer.

Throughout all the shenanigans that took place one person needs a special mention. It is not the fines master Joe Grunwell who was outstanding in his ability to administer and collect fines, or Clarke McKeown as the ever dependable kitty master, or even birthday boy Mark 'I hate everything' Thomson but the one and only club mascot Pat-sy. She was ever present and always had a toothy smile on her face regardless of the circumstances and was a credit to the club, unlike some members - Richard Grunwell!